

The Morehouse Parish School Board met in regular monthly session on January 10, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. at Morehouse Student Services Center, with the following members present Karen Diel, Louis Melton, Robert Johnson, Rick Hixon, Debbie Wilson – President, Veronica Loche-Tappin and Adrin Williams Vice-President. Also, present David Gray, Superintendent and Steve Katz, Attorney.

Mrs. Tiffani S. Thomas. Morehouse Parish Clerk of Court, conducted the swearing in of School Board Members, Karen Diel, Louis Melton, Robert Johnson, Rick Hixon, Debbie Wilson, Veronica Loche-Tappin and Adrin Williams

Mr. David Gray, Superintendent called the meeting to order.

The next item on the agenda was the invocation led by Mr. Louis Melton.

Mr. David Gray led the pledge of allegiance.

Roll call to Establish a Quorum: Present - Karen Diel, Louis Melton, Robert Johnson, Rick Hixon, Debbie Wilson, Veronica Loche-Tappin and Adrin Williams

None- Absent

The next item on the agenda was the election of President of Morehouse Parish School Board.

Nominations were taken for Morehouse Parish School Board President. Mr. Louis Melton nominated Ms. Adrin Williams for President of Morehouse Parish School Board for 2023

Roll call vote:

Karen Diel- No

Louis Melton – Yes

Robert Johnson – No

Rick Hixon – No

Debbie Wilson – No

Veronica Loche-Tappin – Yes

Adrin Williams - Yes

The nominee did not receive the necessary 4 votes.

Mr. Rick Hixon nominated Mr. Louis Melton for President of Morehouse Parish School Board for 2023. Mr. Louis Melton declined the nomination. Mr. Rick Hixon nominated Ms. Karen Diel for President of Morehouse Parish School Board for 2023, seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson,

Roll call vote:

Karen Diel- Yes

Louis Melton – No

Robert Johnson – Yes

Rick Hixon – Yes

Debbie Wilson – Yes

Veronica Loche-Tappin – No

Adrin Williams - No

Ms. Karen Diel was elected President of Morehouse Parish School Board for 2023 year. At this time, Ms. Karen Diel took control of the Board meeting as Board President.

There was much discussion and Ms. Adrin Williams wanted to go on record that she will be filing a complaint.

The next item on the agenda was the election of Vice-President of Morehouse Parish School Board. ***Mrs. Debbie Wilson nominated Mr. Louis Melton for Vice-President of Morehouse Parish School Board 2023, Mr. Rick Hixon motioned for the nominations to be closed.***

Roll call vote:

Karen Diel- Yes

Louis Melton – Yes

Robert Johnson – Yes

Rick Hixon – Yes

Debbie Wilson – Yes

Veronica Loche-Tappin – Abstained

Adrin Williams - Abstained

Mr. Louis Melton was elected Vice-President of Morehouse Parish School Board for 2023 year.

The next item on the agenda was to approve the agenda. *On a motion of Mr. Rick Hixon to approve the agenda, seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson, none opposed the motion passed.*

The next item on the agenda was recognitions: *Employee of the month will be presented at the February monthly board meeting.*

LHSSA Academic Composite Football Team Recipient – *Bastrop High Principal, Marilyn Taylor and Athletic Director Joe Bradshaw presented Jalen Kennedy as a member of the LHSSA Academic Composite Football Team Recipient.*

****2022-2023 Elementary Students of the year ****

- *Emmalyn Ellingburg – Beekman Charter School*
- *Tyler Morrinson – Delta Elementary School*
- *Addison Nash – Morehouse Elementary School*
- *Geordan Coleman – Morehouse Magnet School*

Addison Nash will be representing Morehouse Parish School System as Elementary Student of the year.

****2022-2023 Middle School Students of the year ****

- *Jada Anderson – Bastrop Jr. High School*
- *Gracie Kilcrease – Beekman Charter School*
- *Jayde McCoy – Morehouse Magnet School*

Jayde McCoy will be representing Morehouse Parish School System as Middle School Student of the year.

****2022-2023 High School Students of the year ****

- *Anastasia Williams – Morehouse Magnet School*
- *Abby Johnson – Beekman Charter School*
- *Jalen Kennedu – Bastrop High School*

Abby Johnson will be representing Morehouse Parish School System as High School Student of the year.

Karen Diel – President allowed for Two minute recess.

The next item on the agenda was Superintendent's Announcements – *Mr. Gray thanked all board members for their service to our community, and we will have something for them at the February board meeting. Mr. Gray gave updates on the Morehouse Magnet school damaged over the Christmas Break. The employees did a great job of transition everything for the students. Dryers are in the school attempting to dry out the building at Morehouse Magnet School. We will have to declare an emergency due to termite damage. Carbon Credits and Environmental Credits - Mr. Mark Brown will meet with Mr. Gray and he will come back with more information regarding the trees that can be used.*

The next item on the agenda was Approval of Minutes - Regular School Board Meeting held on December 6, 2022. ***On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon, none opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was Approval of monthly Travel Requests – ***On a motion of Mr. Rick Hixon to approve the monthly Travel Requests, seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson, none opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was Approval of monthly Bus Requests- ***On a motion of Mrs. Debbie Wilson to approve the monthly Bus Request, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon, none opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to receive the Discipline Report (Presented by Mr. Ralph Davenport) ***This was presentation only.***

The next item on the agenda was to receive the report from the Finance and Advisory Committee meeting held on December 20, 2022.

The Finance and Advisory Committee met on Tuesday, December 20, 2022 at 5:30 pm. **Rick Hixon-Chairperson** called the meeting to order. In attendance were the following: **Louis Melton and Adrin Williams.** Absent- **Karen Diel and Debbie Wilson.** Also present were **Mrs. Veronica Tappin, David Gray, Superintendent and Stephen Katz, Attorney.**

1. Ms. Ersula Downs presented the report regarding the Sales Tax Funds update for November 2022. On a motion by Mr. Louis Melton to approve Sales Tax Funds report for November 2022, seconded by Ms. Adrin Williams. None opposed, the motion carried unanimously. ***Madam President, I so move, seconded by Mr. Louis Melton, none opposed the motion passed unanimously***
2. Ms. Ersula Downs presented the report regarding the General Fund for November 2022. On a motion by Mr. Louis Melton to approve General Fund report for November 2022, seconded by Ms. Adrin Williams. None opposed, the motion carried unanimously. ***Madam President, I so move, seconded by Mr. Louis Melton, none opposed the motion passed unanimously***
3. Ms. Ersula Downs presented the report regarding the School Lunch Fund for November 2022. On a motion by Ms. Adrin Williams to approve the School Lunch Fund report for November 2022, seconded by Mr. Louis Melton. None opposed, the motion carried unanimously. ***Madam President, I so move, seconded by Mr. Louis Melton, none opposed the motion passed unanimously***
4. To receive a report from the East Morehouse Tax Fund Report. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) On a motion by Ms. Adrin Williams to approve the East Morehouse Tax Fund Report for November 2022, seconded by Mr. Louis Melton. None opposed, the motion carried unanimously. ***Madam President, I so move, seconded by Mr. Louis Melton, none opposed the motion passed unanimously***

5. MEETING ADJOURNED.

The next item on the agenda was to approve the Louisiana Audit Questionnaire. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion of Mrs. Debbie Wilson, to approve the Louisiana Audit Questionnaire, seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson, none opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

*The next item on the agenda was to discuss and take necessary actions “Due to expressed interest for portable buildings to be leased by Bastrop Police Jury from H. V. Adams Elementary School.” (Requested by Mr. Terry Mathews, Presented by Mr. Terry Mathews.) **On a motion of Mrs. Debbie Wilson to lease a portable building to Bastrop Police Jury from H.V. Adams Elementary School, with Mr. Katz drafting an agreement to include among other items, stipulations of moving and expenses for a lease payment of one dollar per year for 99 years, seconded by Mr. Louis Melton, none opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was “Consideration of a resolution giving preliminary approval to the issuance of Revenue Bonds of the Parish School Board of the Parish of Morehouse, State of Louisiana; making application to the State Bond Commission; and providing for other matters in connection therewith”. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs & Foley and Judell L.L.P) ***On a motion of Mrs. Debbie Wilson to grant approval of a resolution giving preliminary approval to the issuance of Revenue Bonds of the Parish School Board of the Parish of Morehouse, State of Louisiana; making application to the State Bond Commission; and providing for other matters in connection therewith”, seconded by Mr. Louis Melton. The motion passed unanimously. This will be on the ballot in April. Foley and Judell L.L.P. will verify if anything else will be on the ballot.***

The next item on the agenda was to declare an emergency for Morehouse Magnet School reconstruction of the MPR. (Presented by Mr. Tony Roberts) ***On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to declare an emergency for Morehouse Magnet School reconstruction of the MPR to obtain quotes therefore, seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson, none opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was Notice of Public Meeting Announcement. *This was read by Ms. Karen Diel – President.*

The next item on the agenda was to discuss and approve the 2022-2023 Pupil Progression Plan Addendum. (Presented by Ms. Katie Henderson) ***On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton, seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson, none opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to receive and adopt the amended policy F-9.12b, Time Keeping Policy for Nonexempt Employees, subparagraph G and C (Regarding running extra routes) as a “**First Reading**”. (Presented by Mr. Ralph Davenport) ***On a motion of Mrs. Debbie Wilson to adopt the amended policy F-9.12b, Time Keeping Policy for Nonexempt Employees, subparagraph G and C (Regarding running extra routes) as a “First Reading”, seconded by Mr. Louis Melton, none opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to consider and take necessary action regarding rescheduling the Morehouse Parish School Board regular scheduled monthly board meeting set for Tuesday, March 7, 2023 to Tuesday, March 14, 2023. The Louisiana School Board Association Annual Conference is March 7-9, 2023. (Requested by Mr. David Gray) ***On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton, to approve rescheduling the Morehouse Parish School Board regular scheduled monthly board meeting set for Tuesday, March 7, 2023 to Tuesday, March 14, 2023. The Louisiana School Board Association***

Annual Conference is March 7-9, 2023, seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson, none opposed the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Karen Diel asked for the agenda to be amended inserting item #23 To approve a proposal to approve Orkin to do termite treatment at Morehouse Magnet School. On a motion of Mrs. Debbie Wilson, seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson, none opposed motion passed unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was *to approve a proposal to approve Orkin to do termite treatment at Morehouse Magnet School. The Orkin representative explained the damage at Morehouse Magnet School. On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to approve Orkin to do termite treatment at Morehouse Magnet School, seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson, none opposed, the motion passed unanimously.*

The next item on the agenda was “To discuss and take the necessary action needed to receive a report from the Superintendent, on a monthly basis, on the status of repairs submitted and when completed.” (Requested by Mr. Louis Melton) (Presented by Mr. Louis Melton) *This was discussion only.*

The next item on the agenda was to “Submit to the Board the names on the Screening Committee for new hires, how they are chosen, and how long do they serve. Is there Public representation?” (Requested by Mr. Louis Melton) (Presented by Mr. Louis Melton) *This presentation was given by Mrs. Teresa Merritt.*

The next item on the agenda was to “Submit to the Board the total amount allocated for having a high school at Morehouse Magnet School including, but not limited to:

- A. Administrative allocation
- B. Athletic cost (# of sports and
- C. Counselor responsible for 9-12 students and their required Carnegie units, TOPS, and scholarships.
- D. Certified Foreign language teacher.

(Requested by Mr. Louis Melton) (Presented by Mr. Louis Melton)

This was discussion only.

The next item on the agenda was to “Discuss and take the necessary action to inform the Board of how many judgements have been filed against and paid by the Morehouse Parish School District since 2019.” (Requested by Mrs. Veronica Tappin, Presented by Mrs. Veronica Tappin) *This was discussion only.*

The next item on the agenda was to “Are local qualified personnel considered for employment prior to hiring personnel from outside the parish?” (Requested by Mrs. Veronica Tappin, Presented by Mrs. Veronica Tappin) *This was discussion only.*

The next item on the agenda was “Requesting updates from all principals or any new information pertaining to each school.” (Requested by Ms. Adrin Williams, presented by School Principals) *This was discussion only from each school principal.*

The next item on the list was Public Comment: None submitted for this meeting

The next item on the agenda was Personnel

- a. Personnel Report (See Attachment)

The next item on the agenda was to enter into Executive Session to discuss the Superintendent David Gray's professional competence and contract. (Presented by Ms. Karen Diel) *On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to enter into Executive Session to discuss the Superintendent David Gray's professional competence and contract, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin, none opposed, the motion passed unanimously.*

The next item on the agenda was to exit from Executive Session. (Presented by Ms. Karen Diel) *On a motion of Mrs. Debbie Wilson to exit from Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Louis Melton, none opposed the motion passed unanimously.*

The next item on the agenda was to place the superintendent's evaluation in his personnel file. *On a motion of Mrs. Debbie Wilson, seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson to place the superintendent's evaluation in his personnel file, none opposed the motion passed unanimously.*

The meeting was adjourned by Ms. Karen Diel, President

Ms. Karen Diel, President

Mr. David Gray, Superintendent