

The Morehouse Parish School Board met in regular monthly session on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. at Morehouse Student Services Center, with the following members present Karen Diel, Louis Melton – President, Robert Johnson - Vice President, Debbie Wilson, Veronica Loche-Tappin and Adrin Williams. Also, present David Gray, Superintendent.

Absent- Rick Hixon

Robert Johnson exited the meeting at 6:20, and Karen Diel exited the meeting at 7:10.

President Louis Melton called the meeting to order.

The next item on the agenda was the invocation led by Mr. Robert Johnson.

Mr. Louis Melton led the pledge of allegiance.

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

Absent- Rick Hixon

The next item on the agenda was the approval of the agenda. ***On a motion of Mrs. Debbie Wilson approve the agenda, seconded by Ms. Adrin Williams. None opposed the motion passed.***

The next item on the agenda was recognitions:

- Employee of the month – SpEd Department- District SPED Secondary Facilitator Crystal Brandon was recognized and received a plaque along with a gift card from EBI.
- Recognize achievements of Newly Certified Mentor Teachers
  - A. Ashley Graves
  - B. Misty Rea
  - C. Ann FisherEach newly certified mentor teacher from Delta Elementary was presented with a plaque for the 2023-2024 school year.

The next item on the agenda was Superintendent’s Announcements –

- Mr. Lyn Kenley- Gave updates on the ESSER III and Running Track projects for the district. Restroom renovations continue on schedule, and the expected completion is March 29, 2024. Modular classrooms’ raised walkways are complete, and walkway canopies are beginning installation, expected completion March 22, 2024. Updates were given on the running track shot-put circle. Hellas has requested that the location be marked by coaching staff. The install is to be scheduled soon.

The next item on the agenda was the approval of minutes from The Regular School Board Meeting held on February 6, 2024 at 5:30 pm. ***On a motion of Ms. Adrin Williams to approve the minutes from The Regular School Board Meeting held on February 6, 2024 at 5:30 pm, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was Approval of monthly Travel Requests – *On a motion of Mrs. Debbie Wilson to approve the monthly Travel Requests, seconded by Ms. Karen Diel. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.*

The next item on the agenda was Approval of monthly Bus Requests- *On a motion of Ms. Adrin Williams to approve the monthly bus request, seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.*

The next item on the agenda was to take the necessary actions for the board to accept the bid for Phase 2 of the ESSER III Construction Project. (Presented by Mr. Lyn Kenley) On a motion of Ms. Karen Diel to accept the lowest bid of \$1,515,000 from Gentry Construction for Phase 2 of the ESSER III Construction Project, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin. *None opposed the motion passed unanimously.*

The next item on the agenda was to receive the report from the Finance and Advisory Committee meeting held on February 27, 2024.

The Finance and Advisory Committee met on Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at 5:30 pm. **Robert Johnson-Chairperson** called the meeting to order. In attendance were the following: Louis Melton, Debbie Wilson, Veronica Tappin and Adrin Williams. Also present were Ms. Karen Diel, David Gray, Superintendent, and Stephen Katz, Attorney.

The following agenda items were presented to the Finance and Advisory Committee:

1. Discussion regarding renovations at Beekman Charter School. (Presented by Mr. David Gray) *Mr. Huntsman and Ms. Mann presented ideas for building a classroom building on their campus, instead of having so many small portable buildings. This was presentation only.*
2. To receive the Sales Tax Funds report for January 2024. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) *On a motion by Mrs. Veronica Tapin to approve the Sales Tax Funds report for January 2024, seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson. None opposed, the motion passed unanimously.*  
**Mr. President, I so move, seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson. None opposed the motion passed.**
3. To receive the General Fund report for January 2024. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) *On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to approve the General Fund report for January 2024, seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson. None opposed, the motion passed unanimously.*  
**Mr. President, I so move, seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson. None opposed the motion passed.**
4. To receive the School Lunch Fund report for January 2024. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) *On a motion of Mrs. Veronica Tappin to approve the School Lunch Fund report for January 2024, seconded by Mr. Louis Melton. None opposed, the motion passed unanimously.*

**Mr. President, I so move, seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson. None opposed the motion passed.**

5. To receive the East Morehouse Tax Fund report for January 2024. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to approve the East Morehouse Tax Fund report for January 2024, seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson .None opposed, the motion passed unanimously.***

**Mr. President, I so move, seconded by Ms. Adrin Williams. None opposed the motion passed.**

6. To receive the ESSER Funds report for January 2024. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion by Mrs. Veronica Tappin to approve the ESSER Funds report for January 2024, seconded by Mr. Louis Melton. None opposed, the motion passed unanimously.***

**Mr. President, I so move, seconded by Ms. Adrin Williams. None opposed the motion passed.**

7. "To discuss and take necessary action to bring elementary principals to the current 12 months pay scale the same as other principals. To compensate them for including athletics to their schools program." (Presented by Ms. Adrin Williams) ***Ms. Williams asked that the second part of her item be postponed to another time. Also, agenda item 8 is now the same as agenda item 7, they both were discussed together. On a motion of Mrs. Debbie Wilson to change elementary principals from eleven month employees to twelve month employees effective July 2024, seconded by Ms. Adrin Williams. None opposed, the motion passed unanimously.***

**Mr. President, I so move, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin. None opposed the motion passed.**

8. "To consider changing elementary principals from eleven month employees to twelve month employees." (Presented by Mrs. Debbie Wilson) ***This item was merged with agenda item 7.***

## **MEETING ADJOURNED**

The next item on the agenda was to receive the Discipline Report (February 2024). (Presented by Mr. Ralph Davenport) ***This was presentation only.***

The next item on the agenda was the Presentation of the February 2023-2024 student count. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs and Mr. Ralph Davenport) ***This was presentation only.***

The next item on the agenda was to consider changing March 19, 2024 Finance and Advisory Committee meeting to be combined with April 9, 2024 monthly board meeting. Staff members will be attending the Annual LASBO Convention. (Presented by Mr. Louis Melton) ***On a motion of Ms. Adrin Williams to change March 19, 2024 Finance and Advisory Committee meeting to be combined with April 9, 2024***

*monthly board meeting. Staff members will be attending the Annual LASBO Convention, seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.*

The next item on the agenda was to amend section A.(b)(i)(aa) of policy F-28 to substitute the words “crime listed in R.S. 15:587.1(C)” for the term “felony offense” in order to follow current state law as a **“Second Reading”**. (Attachment is in your board packet to include the current policy and revised policy.) (Presented by Mr. Steve Katz) *On a motion of Mrs. Debbie Wilson to amend section A.(b)(i)(aa) of policy F-28 to substitute the words “crime listed in R.S. 15:587.1(C)” for the term “felony offense as a “Second Reading”, seconded by Ms. Karen Diel. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.*

The next item on the agenda was to utilize the use of Sales Tax Funds received from Oak Ridge Solar Development Project for restricted use to replace roofs as possible, and if any excess funds are available to repair foundations. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) *On a motion of Mrs. Debbie Wilson to utilize the use of Sales Tax Funds received from Oak Ridge Solar Development Project for restricted use to replace roofs as possible, and if any excess funds are available to repair foundations, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.*

The next item on the agenda was to adopt a Resolution to accept the bid of \$41,000 from Cassius Hayes for the purchase of Cherry Ridge Elementary School and grant the President, Louis Melton, the authority to execute the deed and related documents. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) *On a motion of Mrs. Debbie Wilson to adopt a Resolution to accept the bid of \$41,000 from Cassius Hayes for the purchase of Cherry Ridge Elementary School and grant the President, Louis Melton, the authority to execute the deed and related documents, seconded by Ms. Adrin Williams. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.*

The next item on the agenda was to discuss adjusting the IEP Facilitator position from an 11-month position to a 12-month position. (Presented by Dr. Dana Boockoff) *On a motion of Mrs. Debbie Wilson to approve adjusting the IEP Facilitator position from an 11-month position to a 12-month position, seconded by Ms. Adrin Williams. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.*

The next item on the agenda was “To discuss and take the necessary action to stop third, fourth, and fifth grade students at Morehouse Magnet School from changing classes.” (Requested by Mr. Louis Melton, and Presented by Mr. Louis Melton) *This was discussion only.*

The next item on the agenda was “To discuss and take the necessary actions to pay Delta Elementary coaches, cheerleader/pep squad and dance sponsors, stipends for games should come out of the East Morehouse District Fund. (Presented by Mr. Louis Melton) *After much discussion, on a motion of Ms. Adrin Williams to approve to pay Delta Elementary coaches, cheerleader/pep squad and dance sponsors, stipends for games should come out of the East Morehouse District Fund, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin. Ms. Karen Diel and Mrs. Debbie Wilson opposed. The motion passed.*

The next item on the agenda was “To discuss the procedure used to evaluate teachers on their effective teaching methods and classroom management.” (Requested by Mrs. Veronica Tappin and Presented by Mrs. Veronica Tappin) *This was discussion only.*

The next item on the agenda was “To receive a report on what is being done to alleviate the vermin problem in our schools.” (Requested by Mrs. Veronica Tappin and Presented by Mrs. Veronica Tappin). *Expert Pest Control Gabe gave updates.*

The next item on the agenda was to Public Comment: **None for this meeting.**

The next item on the agenda was Personnel:

- a. Personnel Report (See Attachment)

The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Louis Melton, President

Mr. Louis Melton, President

Mr. David Gray, Superintendent