

The Morehouse Parish School Board met in regular monthly session on Tuesday, May 7, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. at Morehouse Student Services Center, with the following members present Karen Diel, Robert Johnson - Vice President, Rick Hixon, Debbie Wilson, Veronica Loche-Tappin and Adrin Williams. Also, present David Gray, Superintendent.

Louis Melton – President (**Arrived at 5:51p.m.**)

Vice President Robert Johnson called the meeting to order.

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

The next item on the agenda was a moment of silence for –

- Mittie Thomas- Retired Cafeteria Worker
- Nellie Gardner- Retired Cafeteria Worker
- April Canada- Accounts Payable

Mr. Robert Johnson led the pledge of allegiance.

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

Louis Melton – President (**Arrived at 5:51p.m.**)

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

The next item on the agenda was recognitions:

- Employee Recognition – ***Child Nutrition Department- Cassandra Sutton with Bastrop High School was recognized and presented with a certificate and gift card from EBI.***
- To recognize Bastrop High School weight lifting team. ***Ms. Adrin Williams recognized and congratulated the weight lifting team and coaches, and they were presented with gift cards.***
- Grown Your Own (Support Staff to Teacher Pipeline) Delta Elementary - ***Beverly Johnson, Morehouse Elementary - Simaj Naylor, Bryant Brown and Dora Brown. Bastrop High School- Shania Mansfield. Each employee received a certificate for their outstanding accomplishment.***
- Certified Teacher Mentors (Teacher Leader Pipeline) Delta Elementary – ***Heather Uptigrove, Morehouse Elementary – Raven Jackson, Bastrop High School – Raven Washington, Shalonda Coleman, Dr. Eboni Brown***
- MFirst Louisiana Initial Teacher Certification - Delta Elementary – ***Rebecca Osburn, Morehouse Elementary Victoria Hargrave, Danny Watson, Deshuna McDaniel, and Mckenzie Gear.***
- Bastrop High School Pre-Educator Pathway/Educator’s Rising Cohort I – ***Raven Jackson gave updates on the program throughout the year, and presented a power point presentation. There was one senior going into education after graduation this year. There were 59 students interested in next year program.***

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

- ***Child Nutrition Manager Ashley White gave updates on the Summer Feeding kick off for May 30, 2024.***
- ***Mr. Lyn Kenley- Gave updates on the ESSER projects for the district.***
 - ***Restroom renovations are complete, and some punch list items are being resolved.***
 - ***The running track at Bastrop High School is complete.***
- ***ESSER III – Phase II – Update***
 - ***Bastrop High School – Boys Gym Renovations***
 - ***Projected Scope: Refinish the gym floor, painting of the entire gym interior, remodel and refinish the lobby. Remodel of restroom and of the locker rooms.***

The next item on the agenda was the approval of minutes from The Regular School Board Meeting held on April 9, 2024 at 5:30 pm. ***On a motion of Mr. Robert Johnson to approve the minutes from The Regular School Board Meeting held on April 9, 2024 at 5:30 pm, seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

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

The next item on the agenda was to request more information from Grant Schlueter concerning the Morehouse Parish School District's constitutional tax and how future projects will be affected prior to voting on Beekman Charter School's request" (Requested by Mrs. Veronica Tappin) Mr. Brennan Black with present on behalf of Foley & Judell, LLP. ***This was discussion only and would be secured by a constitutional millage.***

The next item on the agenda was to request Foley & Judell to prepare the necessary documents for use of the Morehouse Parish School Board's Constitutional Tax to serve as collateral for a bond issue for Beekman Charter School to construct a building addition to be owned by the Morehouse Parish School Board on land now owned by the Morehouse Parish School Board at no cost to the Morehouse Parish School Board. (Presented by Mr. Huntsman) ***On a motion of Mr. Rick Hixon to request Foley & Judell to prepare the necessary documents for use of the Morehouse Parish School Board's Constitutional Tax to serve as collateral for a bond issue for Beekman Charter School to construct a building addition to be owned by the Morehouse Parish School Board on land now owned by the Morehouse Parish School Board at no cost to the Morehouse Parish School Board, seconded by Ms. Karen Diel.***

Roll Call Vote:

Karen Diel- Yes

Louis Melton-Yes

Robert Johnson- Yes

Rick Hixon- Yes

Debbie Wilson- Yes
Veronica Tappin- No
Adrin Williams- No
The motion passed

The next item on the agenda was to adopt a proposal for the 2024 Summer Work Schedule. (Presented by Mr. David Gray) ***On a motion of Mrs. Debbie Wilson to adopt a proposal for the 2024 Summer Work Schedule, seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to adopt a proposal for the 2024-2025 School Calendar effective July 1, 2024. (Presented by Mr. David Gray) ***On a motion of Mr. Rick Hixon to adopt a proposal for the 2024-2025 School Calendar effective July 1, 2024, seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to adopt a proposal for the 2024-2025 Morehouse Parish School Board/Committee Meeting Schedule. (Presented by Mr. David Gray) ***On a motion of Mr. Rick Hixon to adopt a proposal for the 2024-2025 Morehouse Parish School Board/Committee Meeting Schedule, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to accept the bid of Hobson and Son to tear down and move debris from the Old Collinston Gym site. (Presented by Mr. Tony Roberts) ***On a motion of Mrs. Debbie Wilson to accept the lowest bid of \$17, 750 from Hobson and Son to tear down and move debris from the Old Collinston Gym site, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to consider and take the necessary action to encumber funds generated through savings of money occurring from use of electric buses, until funds value 5 million dollars to be solely used to replace electric buses. (Presented by Mr. David Gray) ***On a motion of Mr. Rick Hixon to take the necessary action to encumber funds generated through savings of money occurring from use of electric buses, until funds value 5 million dollars to be solely used to replace electric buses, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to receive the Discipline Report (April 2024). (Presented by Mr. Ralph Davenport) **Mr. Ralph Davenport was not present.**

The next item on the agenda was to approve the use of a school bus for the City of Bastrop Parks and Recreation Track and Field Program to transport their track team to the following track meets:

1. USATF Southern Championship Jr Olympic, Zachary High on June 8, 2024
2. Invitational Meet River Cities TC Mansfield High School on June 15, 2024
3. Region 16 Junior Olympics Tennessee, TBA on July 4-7, 2024
4. USATF REGION 6 Jr Championship, Denham Spring High on July 22-23, 2024
5. USATF Jr Olympic Championship Texas A &M University on July 22-28, 2024
“The mileage would have to be at Morehouse Parish School District current school year rate”

(Requested by Ms. Margaret Cotton, Presented by Mr. David Gray) *On a motion of Mrs. Veronica Tappin to approve the use of a school bus for the City of Bastrop Parks and Recreation Track and Field Program to transport their track team to the following track meets:*

1. *USATF Southern Championship Jr Olympic, Zachary High on June 8, 2024*
2. *Invitational Meet River Cities TC Mansfield High School on June 15, 2024*
3. *Region 16 Junior Olympics Tennessee, TBA on July 4-7, 2024*
4. *USATF REGION 6 Jr Championship, Denham Spring High on July 22-23, 2024*
5. *USATF Jr Olympic Championship Texas A & M University on July 22-28, 2024*
“The mileage would have to be at Morehouse Parish School District current school year rate”

With providing a certificate of insurance before the bus can leave, seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to present a request on behalf of the City of Bastrop Parks and Recreation Track and Field program to use Bastrop High Tracks from May 6 – July 31, 2024. (Requested by Ms. Margaret Cotton, Presented by Mr. David Gray) *There was much discussion. On a motion of Mr. Rick Hixon to allow the City of Bastrop Parks and Recreation Track and Field program to use Bastrop High Track from May 6 – July 31, 2024, with conditions including a certificate of insurance, provide supervision of children, following all school track use guidelines and when the facility is available any time after graduation on May 10, 2024, 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 April 23, 2024.

The Finance and Advisory Committee met on Tuesday, April 23, 2024 at 5:30 pm. **Robert Johnson-Chairperson (absent).** Debbie Wilson called the meeting to order in Robert Johnson – Chairperson’s absence. In attendance were the following: Louis Melton, Debbie Wilson, Veronica Tappin and Adrin Williams. Also present were Rick Hixon, David Gray, Superintendent, and Stephen Katz, Attorney.

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

1. Questions regarding renovations at Beekman Charter School. (Presented by Mr. David Gray) *There were public comment questions from Ronald Williams and Charles Bradford. Mr. Huntsman and Samantha Mann explained they will apply for a bond loan through the secretary of state, and he believes the amount has to be at least 5 million to be qualified for the loan. They are asking Morehouse Parish School Board to approve using the constitutional tax for this process. Morehouse Parish owns the property they are asking to renovate. If they don’t follow through on the loan Morehouse Parish School Board still owns the property. There was much*

discussion on how the renovations were going to be funded. This was discussion only.

2. To receive the Sales Tax Funds report for March 2024. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) *On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to approve the Sales Tax Funds report for March 2024, seconded by Ms. Adrin Williams. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.*

Mr. President, I so move, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.

3. To receive the General Fund report for March 2024. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) *On a motion of Mrs. Veronica Tappin to approve the General Fund report for March 2024, seconded by Mr. Louis Melton. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.*

Mr. President, I so move, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.

4. To receive the School Lunch Fund report for March 2024. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) *On a motion of Mrs. Veronica Tappin to approve School Lunch Fund report for March 2024, seconded by Mr. Louis Melton. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.*

Mr. President, I so move, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. President, I so move, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. President, I so move, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.

7. To receive the quarterly and year-to-date budget to actual comparisons on the funds below.

A. Sales Tax Funds- On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to approve the quarterly and year-to-date budget to actual comparisons Sales Tax Funds, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. President, I so move, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.

B. General Fund- *On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to approve the quarterly and year-to-date budget to actual comparisons General Fund, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.*

Mr. President, I so move, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.

C. School Lunch Fund- *On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to approve the quarterly and year-to-date budget to actual comparisons School Lunch Fund, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.*

Mr. President, I so move, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.

D. East Morehouse Tax Fund- *On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to approve the quarterly and year-to-date budget to actual comparisons East Morehouse Tax Fund, seconded by Ms. Adrin Williams. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.*

Mr. President, I so move, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.

E. ESSER Funds- *On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to approve the quarterly and year-to-date budget to actual comparisons ESSER Funds, seconded by Ms. Adrin Williams. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.*

Mr. President, I so move, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.

F. Special Revenue Funds- *On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to approve the quarterly and year-to-date budget to actual comparisons Special Revenue Funds, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.*

Mr. President, I so move, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.

- 8. To consider and take the necessary actions to consider recommending to advertise for bid/sale of six portable buildings at H. V. Adams. **(The buildings are included in your packet)** (Presented by Mr. Tony Roberts) *On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to approve advertising for the sale of six portable buildings “as is” at H. V. Adams, 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 unanimously.

- 9. To consider and take the necessary actions to consider recommending to accept the quote from United Automation for the amount of \$54,925.82 for Delta Elementary intercom system.(Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) *On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton***

to amend the agenda reflecting the amount of \$65,925.94 instead of \$54, 925.82, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin. None opposed the motion passed. On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to accept the amended quote from United Automation for the amount of \$65,925.94 for Delta Elementary intercom system, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. President, I so move, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.

- 10.** To consider and take the necessary actions to consider recommending to accept the quote from Matts Music for the amount of \$ 27,365.00 sound system for Bastrop High gymnasium. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) *On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to table this item and have Tony Roberts get quotes on heating and air for Bastrop High Auditorium, 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 unanimously.

- 11.** To consider and take the necessary actions to consider recommending to accept the quote from Matts Music for the amount of \$102,184.00 acoustic treatment for Bastrop High gymnasium. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) *On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to table this item and have Tony Roberts get quotes on heating and air for Bastrop High Auditorium, seconded by Ms. Adrin Williams. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.*

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

- 12.** To discuss and take the necessary action to consider recommending to approve the contract additional hours needed to complete Powerschool implantation of:

- EFP
- SmartFind
- Unified Talent(Talent Ed Records)

(Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs and Mrs. Teresa Merritt)

On a motion of Mrs. Veronica Tappin to table this item until Ms. Ersula Downs and Mrs. Teresa Merritt come back with more accurate information, seconded by Mr. Louis Melton. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. President, I so move, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next item on the agenda was adopt Forethought’s revisions to sections D and E of the policy manual to replace all former sections D and E of the policy manual except section D-12 which will be included in section J and to replace sections A-10.1 and A-10.2 of the policy manual and to add a new section F of the policy manual (which does not replace the current section F of the policy manual) as a **“Second Reading.” (Attachments are provided in your packets)** (Presented by Mr. Steve Katz) *On a motion of Mrs. Debbie*

Wilson to adopt Forethought’s revisions to sections D and E of the policy manual to replace all former sections D and E of the policy manual except section D-12 which will be included in section J and to replace sections A-10.1 and A-10.2 of the policy manual and to add a new section F of the policy manual (which does not replace the current section F of the policy manual) as a “Second Reading.” Seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to adopt the Student and Teacher Artificial Intelligence Acceptable Use as a new Policy, H-31, as a “**Second Reading**”. (**Attachments are provided in your packets**) (Presented by Mr. Jesse Winston, Jr. and Ms. Katie Henderson). *On a motion of Ms. Karen Diel to adopt the Student and Teacher Artificial Intelligence Acceptable Use as a new Policy, H-31, as a “Second Reading”, seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.*

The next item on the agenda was to amend section III.B.2. under Mandatory Suspensions to include vape as a mandatory suspension, as a “**Second Reading**”. (Presented by Mr. Ralph Davenport) *On a motion of Mrs. Debbie Wilson to amend section III.B.2. under Mandatory Suspensions to include vape as a mandatory suspension, as a “Second Reading”, seconded by Ms. Karen Diel. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.*

The next item on the agenda was to amend policy H-3.5, section 6. To add “cros” as unacceptable footwear, as a “**Second Reading**”. (Presented by Mr. Ralph Davenport) *On a motion of Mr. Rick Hixon to amend policy H-3.5, section 6. To add “cros” as unacceptable footwear, as a “Second Reading”, seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson. Ms. Adrin Williams opposed, the motion passed.*

The next item on the agenda was to amend the fighting policy as set forth in the attached correspondence, as a “**Second Reading**”. (Presented by Mr. Ralph Davenport) *On a motion of Ms. Karen Diel to amend the fighting policy as set forth in the attached correspondence, as a “Second Reading”, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.*

The next item on the agenda was to discuss and take the necessary action to consider recommending to approve the contract additional hours needed to complete Powerschool implantation of:

- EFP
- SmartFind
- Unified Talent(Talent Ed Records)

(Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs and Mrs. Teresa Merritt)

On a motion of Mrs. Debbie Wilson to approve the contract additional hours needed to complete Powerschool implantation of:

- *EFP*
- *SmartFind*

- ***Unified Talent(Talent Ed Records)***

Seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to request for the Board to provide transportation cost (school bus) for students traveling to Birmingham, Alabama for Nations Competition for GUMBO track and field. (Presented by Tricia Brisco, Hannah Andrews and Katye Saldana) ***On a motion of Ms. Karen Diel to provide transportation cost (school bus) for students traveling to Birmingham, Alabama for Nations Competition for GUMBO track and field, along with the bus driver \$2,000 which includes hotel stay, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to approve for Delta Elementary Basketball Coaches and Cheer/Dance sponsors to be paid from school funds that are available in the basketball account. (Presented by Mrs. Carla Martin) ***On a motion of Mr. Rick Hixon to approve for Delta Elementary Basketball Coaches and Cheer/Dance sponsors to be paid from school funds that are available in the basketball account effective for the 2024-2025 school year, seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda adopt the Differentiated Compensation Plan as an amendment to the 2023-2024 Teacher pay Scale. (Presented by Mrs. Teresa Merritt and Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion of Mrs. Debbie Wilson to adopt the Differentiated Compensation Plan as an amendment to the 2023-2024 Teacher pay Scale, seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson None opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to “To discuss and take the necessary procedure for aggressively advertising, recruiting, screening, and selecting the most capable person/applicant who meet both state and local qualifications and who also display the ability to successfully carry out the duties of the Superintendent of the Morehouse Parish School Board. (Requested by Mr. Louis Melton) ***This was discussion only with clarification of what’s needed or required.***

The next item on the agenda was “To discuss and take the necessary action to renew the summer school work program for the students and supervisors at the two major job sites at Bastrop High School and Delta Elementary School. (Requested by Mr. Louis Melton) ***On a motion of Mrs. Debbie Wilson to renew the summer school work program for the students and supervisors at the two major job sites at Bastrop High School and Delta Elementary School, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was “To discuss and take necessary actions to make the assistant principals for all schools 11 month instead of 10 month.” (Requested by Mr. Louis Melton) ***On a motion of Mr. Rick Hixon to table this item until each principal***

would figure out they would use their extra person to June, seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.

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

The next item on the agenda was to remove from the table the appeal of the minor child, K.R., from a hearing conducted by Ralph Davenport. The student will have the choice of conducting the hearing in open meeting or an executive session. (Presented by Mr. Steve Katz) *On a motion of Ms. Karen Diel to remove from the table the appeal of the minor child, K.R., from a hearing conducted by Ralph Davenport. The student will have the choice of conducting the hearing in open meeting or an executive session, seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.*

The next item on the agenda was to appeal of the minor child, K. R., from a hearing conducted by Ralph Davenport. The student will have the choice of conducting the hearing in open meeting or an executive session. (Presented by Mr. Steve Katz) *On a motion of Ms. Adrin Williams the appeal of the minor child, K. R., from a hearing conducted by Ralph Davenport. The student will have the choice of conducting the hearing in open meeting or an executive session, seconded by Ms. Diel. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.*

The next item on the agenda was Personnel:

- a. Personnel Report (See Attachment)

ADJOURNMENT

Louis Melton, President

David Gray, Superintendent