

The Morehouse Parish School Board met in a regular monthly session on Tuesday, August 4, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. at Morehouse Student Services Center, with the following members present: Karen Diel, Louis Melton, Robert Johnson – President, Rick Hixon, Debbie Wilson, Veronica Loche-Tappin, Vice-President, and Adrin Williams. Also, present Dr. Jesse Winston, Jr., Superintendent, and Steve Katz, Attorney.

President Robert Johnson called the meeting to order.

The next item on the agenda was the invocation led by Mrs. Debbie Wilson.

The next item on the agenda was the pledge of allegiance led by President Robert Johnson.

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

The next item on the agenda was to approve the agenda. ***On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to approve the agenda, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin. None opposed; and the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was Employee of the month- ***(There were no nominees this month)***

The next item on the agenda was superintendent announcements from Dr. Jesse Winston, Jr.

- Dr. Jesse Winston, Jr. announced a Memorandum of Understanding with Grambling State University. The teacher program will support students/residents in our parish. This was very successful last year.
- At your stations is a newsletter from Regent University with highlights of Dr. Jesse Winston, Jr. speaking at graduation.
- Our school district received a \$400,000 grant; this can be used to help strong systems. This will develop different initiatives to make things better and relieve some of the General Fund budget.
- We were able to complete the audit for the 2024-2025 school year, and we are off the non-compliance list.
- At your stations is the back-to-school program presentation. Dr. Jesse Winston, Jr. thanked all staff, administrators, and all board members for a successful event.
- Dr. Jesse Winston, Jr. introduced Tara Ferguson as the new Sped Director, and Kristi Powell as the new Assistant Principal at Bastrop High School.

The next item on the agenda was approval of minutes- the Regular School Board Meeting held on July 9, 2026, at 5:30 pm. ***On a motion of Ms. Adrin Williams to approve the minutes from the Regular School Board Meeting held on July 9, 2026, at 5:30 pm, seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson. None opposed; and the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was the Approval of monthly Travel Requests – (Presented by Dr. Jesse Winston, Jr.) ***On a motion of Mr. Rick Hixon to approve the monthly travel requests, seconded by Ms. Adrin Williams. None opposed; and the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was the Approval of monthly Bus Requests - (Presented by Dr. Jesse Winston, Jr.) ***None for this meeting.***

The next item on the agenda was to approve the statewide agreed upon procedures audit engagement for the 2025-2026 fiscal year with Carr, Riggs, and Ingram, LLC. (Requested by Ms. Ersula Downs, presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion of Mrs. Veronica Tappin to approve the statewide Financial Audit agreed upon procedures audit engagement for the 2025-2026 fiscal year with Carr, Riggs, and Ingram, LLC., seconded by Mr. Louis Melton. None opposed; and the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to receive the report from the Finance and Advisory Committee meeting held on July 28, 2026.

The Finance and Advisory Committee met on Tuesday, July 28, 2026 at 5:30 pm. Veronica Tappin – Chairperson called the meeting to order. In attendance were the following: Robert Johnson, and Adrin Williams. Louis Melton was present along with Steve Katz Attorney, and Dr. Jesse Winston, Jr., Superintendent.

Karen Diel and Rick Hixon were absent.

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

- 1. To receive the Sales Tax Funds for June 2026. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) *On a motion of Ms. Adrin Williams to approve the Sales Tax Funds for June 2026, seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson. None opposed; the motion passed unanimously.***

Mr. President, I so move, seconded by Mr. Louis Melton. None opposed; and the motion passed unanimously.

- 2. To receive the General Fund report for June 2026. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) *On a motion of Ms. Adrin Williams to approve the General Fund report for June 2026, seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson. None opposed; the motion passed unanimously.***

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

- 3. To receive the School Lunch Fund report for June 2026. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) *On a motion of Ms. Adrin Williams to approve the School Lunch Fund report for June 2026, seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson. None opposed; the motion passed unanimously.***

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

- 4. To receive the East Morehouse Tax Fund report for June 2026. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) *On a motion of Ms. Adrin Williams to approve the East Morehouse Tax Fund report for June 2026, seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson. None opposed; the motion passed unanimously.***

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

5. To receive quarterly and year -to-date budget to actual comparisons on the funds below. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs)

- A. Sales Tax Funds**
- B. General Fund**
- C. School Lunch Fund**
- D. East Morehouse Tax Fund**
- E. Special Revenue Funds**

On a motion of Ms. Adrin Williams to table the item until the August Finance and Advisory Committee meeting, seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson. None opposed; the motion passed unanimously.

6. To receive an update on the 2026-2027 Initial MFP Allocation. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) This was a presentation only.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The next item on the agenda was to adopt a correction to policy JCDA, Student Code of Conduct, as a first reading. (Presented by Mr. Steve Katz) ***On a motion of Mr. Rick Hixon to adopt a correction to policy JCDA, Student Code of Conduct, as a first reading, seconded by Ms. Adrin Williams. None opposed; and the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was public Comment –None for this meeting.

The next item on the agenda was the Personnel Report. ***The information was presented in board packets.***

The meeting was adjourned.

Mr. Robert Johnson, School Board President

Dr. Jesse Winston, Jr., Superintendent