

## **DRAFT COPY:**

The Morehouse Parish School Board met in regular monthly session on Thursday, February 5, 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 a moment of silence for -

- Earline Rushing – Retired Paraprofessional

Mr. Robert Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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 the approval of the agenda. ***On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

***The next item on the agenda was recognitions:***

- Employee of the month (Bastrop High School). ***Shalonda Hester was recognized as the employee of the month, she was presented with a plaque, and received a gift card from EBI Insurance.***

The next item on the agenda was Superintendent's Announcements – (Presented by Dr. Jesse Winston, Jr.) ***Dr. Jesse Winston, Jr., informed the board about the Safety Grant for \$39,169.28 for Bastrop High School. The grant will be used to secure the parking lot in the back of Bastrop High School.***

***A claim was made to our insurance company for damages from Winter Storm Fern.***

***At each board member station on page 5, there is an article from Regent University recognizing Dr. Jesse Winston, Jr. for his accomplishments, and there is a tentative 2025-2026 schedule of the election.***

The next item on the agenda was Approval of Minutes – The Regular School Board Meeting held on January 8, 2026 at 5:30 pm. ***On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to approve minutes from the Regular School Board Meeting held on January 8, 2026, at 5:30 pm, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin. None opposed 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 Mrs. Debbie Wilson to approve the monthly Travel Requests, seconded by Ms. Adrin Williams. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was the Approval of monthly Bus Requests – (Presented by Dr. Jesse Winston, Jr.) ***On a motion of Ms. Adrin Williams to approve the monthly Bus Requests, seconded by Mr. Louis Melton. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to receive an announcement of a public meeting for Morehouse Parish School District on March 3, 2026, to consider adopting a resolution ordering and calling a special election to be held in the School District Number A. (Presented by Dr. Jesse Winston, Jr.) ***There was a public comment from Mr. Huntsman with Beekman Charter School. (Announcement of Public Meeting Notice is hereby given that at its meeting to be held on Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. at the Morehouse Student Services Center, 1607 Martin Luther King South, Bastrop, Louisiana, the Parish School Board of the Parish of Morehouse, State of Louisiana, plans to consider adopting a resolution ordering and calling a special election to be held in School District Number A (Parishwide) of the Parish of Morehouse, State of Louisiana to authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds therein.) This was an announcement and discussion only.***

The next item on the agenda was to receive the Sales Tax Funds for December 2025. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to approve the Sales Tax Funds for December 2025, seconded by Ms. Adrin Williams. None opposed, the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to receive the General Fund report for December 2025. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion of Ms. Adrin Williams to approve the General Fund report for December 2025, seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson. None opposed, the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to receive the School Lunch Fund report for December 2025 (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to approve the School Lunch Fund report for December 2025, seconded by Ms. Adrin Williams. None opposed, the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to receive the East Morehouse Tax Fund report for December 2025. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion of Ms. Adrin Williams to approve the East Morehouse Tax Fund report for December 2025, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin. None opposed, the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to receive year-to-date budget to actual comparisons on the funds below.

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

(Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs)

*On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to approve the year-to-date budget to actual comparisons on the funds below.*

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

*Seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.*

The next item on the agenda was to discuss travel for board members to the COSSBA National Conference, Friday, March 13 – Sunday, March 15, 2026 per policy DJD Travel and Reimbursement (Limitation on School Board Member Travel). (Presented by Dr. Jesse Winston, Jr.) *This was a discussion only; no name drawing was needed because no more than two members wanted to attend the conference.*

The next item on the agenda was to receive the Discipline report for January 2025. (Presented by Mr. Ralph Davenport) *This was discussion only.*

The next item on the agenda was to adopt the Sale of Surplus Equipment and Supplies DFJ, Behavioral Health Support for Students JGCF, Emergency/Crisis Management EBBC, Employee Conduct GBRA, Recruitment GBC, Dismissal of Employees GBN, Purchasing and Procurement DJE, Architectural and Engineering Services (FEA), and Advertising in the Schools KIB as a “**Second Reading**”. A copy is provided in your packet. (Presented by Mr. Steve Katz) *On a motion of Mrs. Veronica Tappin to adopt the Sale of Surplus Equipment and Supplies DFJ, Behavioral Health Support for Students JGCF, Emergency/Crisis Management EBBC, Employee Conduct GBRA, Recruitment GBC, Dismissal of Employees GBN, Purchasing and Procurement DJE, Architectural and Engineering Services (FEA), and Advertising in the Schools KIB as a “Second Reading”, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.*

The next item on the agenda was to adopt new policy GAL- Code of Ethics as a “**Second Reading**”. A copy is provided in your packet. (Presented by Mr. Steve Katz) *On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to adopt new policy GAL- Code of Ethics as a “Second Reading”, seconded by Ms. Karen Diel. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.*

The next item on the agenda was to adopt amended policy GBRB - Employee Attendance (section Job abandonment) as a “**Second Reading**”. A copy is provided in your packet. (Presented by Mr. Steve Katz) *On a motion of Mr. Rick Hixon to adopt amended policy GBRB - Employee Attendance (section Job abandonment) as a “Second Reading”, seconded by Ms. Karen Diel. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.*

The next item on the agenda was to consider adopting amended policy JGFB Supervision of Students as a “**First Reading**”. A copy is provided in your packet. (Presented by Mr. Steve Katz) *On a motion of Ms. Adrin Williams to adopt amended policy JGFB Supervision of Students as a “First Reading”, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.*

The next item on the agenda was to discuss and amend pages 2,7,15 and 17 of pages 1 of 18 of Policy II, Testing Program as a “**First Reading**”. A copy is provided in your packet. (Presented by Mrs. Theresa Emfinger) *On a motion of Mr. Rick Hixon to and amend pages 2,7,15 and 17 of pages 1 of 18 of Policy II, Testing Program as a “First Reading”, seconded by Ms. Adrin Williams. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.*

The next item on the agenda was to recommend to the Board an updated superintendent evaluation instrument. (Presented by Mr. Robert Johnson) *On a motion of Mrs. Veronica Tappin to approve the updated superintendent evaluation instrument Form A, and Form B (pages 2-3) with the necessary revisions, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon. 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 the Personnel Report.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Dr. Jesse Winston, Jr., Superintendent

Robert Johnson, Board President