

The Morehouse Parish School Board met in regular monthly session on Tuesday, July 1, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. at Morehouse Student Services Center, with the following members present Karen Diel, Louis Melton, Robert Johnson – Vice President, Rick Hixon, Debbie Wilson, Veronica Loche-Tappin, and Adrin Williams - President. Also, present Jesse Winston, Jr., Superintendent, and Steve Katz, Attorney.

President Ms. Adrin Williams 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:

- Leonard Posey- Retired Bus Driver
- Charlene Smith- Retired Teacher
- Peggy Caldwell – Retired Cafeteria Manager
- Yvonne Silman – Retired Bus Driver

Mrs. Veronica Tappin 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. Robert Johnson. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was recognitions: Employee of the month ***-There were none for this month.***

The next item on the agenda was Superintendent's Announcements – (Presented by Mr. Jesse Winston, Jr.) ***Mr. Jesse Winston, Jr. gave an update on NativState, they have obtained a new investor. A check was received for \$48,000 previously, and last week a new check came in for \$74,000. This makes a total of \$112,000 for Carbon Credits.***

***A grant has been written with Attuned. This company will assist our district with Strategic planning. There was a meeting scheduled for newly elected superintendents on July 17, 2025, the dates have changed. The new date is to be announced.***

***Mr. Jesse Winston, Jr. thanked the board for their support during the first six months of him being superintendent. Mr. Jesse Winston, Jr. appointed his first principal at Bastrop High School, and recognized Dr. Roy Higgins as the new principal.***

The next item on the agenda was Approval of Minutes – The Regular School Board Meeting held on June 3, 2025 at 5:30 pm. ***On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to approve minutes from the Regular School Board Meeting held on June 3, 2025 at 5:30 pm, seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was the Approval of monthly Travel Requests - (Presented by Mr. Jesse Winston, Jr.) ***On a motion of Mrs. Veronica Tappin to approve 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 – (Presented by Mr. Jesse Winston, Jr.) ***On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to approve the monthly Bus Requests, seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to receive the audit report for 2022-2023 School Year with Carr, Riggs and Ingram, LLC. (Presented by Josh Trahan) ***This was report only.***

The next item on the agenda was to receive the audit report for 2023-2024 School Year with Carr, Riggs and Ingram, LLC. (Presented by Josh Trahan) ***This was report only.***

The next item on the agenda was to receive and consider for approval a proposal regarding property insurance coverage for the 2025-2026 school year from Alliant Insurance Company. (Requested by Ms. Ersula Downs, presented by Mr. Rob Cowan) ***On a motion of Mr. Robert Johnson to authorize Superintendent Winston to approve the proposal regarding property insurance coverage for the 2025-2026 school year from Alliant Insurance Company and sign the necessary documents, and decline the TRIA Clause, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

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

The next item on the agenda was to receive the General Fund report for May 2025. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to approve the General Fund report for May 2025, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to receive the School Lunch Fund report for May 2025. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion of Mr. Robert Johnson to approve the School Lunch Fund report for May 2025, seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

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

The next item on the agenda was “To discuss and consider a music and/or fine arts teacher at the elementary schools.” (Presented by Mr. Louis Melton) ***This was discussion only. Mr. Jesse Winston, Jr. mentioned starting with one itinerant teacher to travel amongst the schools, and there may be a possibility of a grant fund. In the meantime, the district will explore all options.***

The next item on the agenda was to appoint Ms. Ersula Downs and Ms. Shatterria King, for the 2025-2026 Morehouse Sales Tax Commission Board for Morehouse Parish School Board. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to appoint Ms. Ersula Downs and Ms. Shatterria King, for the 2025-2026 Morehouse Sales Tax Commission Board for Morehouse Parish School Board, seconded by Ms. Karen Diel. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to review and approve the 2025 – 2026 MPSD Salary Schedules and Pay Rates. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to approve the 2025 – 2026***

***MPSD Salary Schedules and Pay Rates, seconded by Ms. Karen Diel. None opposed the motion passed unanimously. Ms. Ersula Downs will come back later with an updated list.***

The next item on the agenda was to present the new School Performance Score Formula for the 2025-2026 school year. (Presented by Mrs. Theresa Emfinger) This ***was presentation only.***

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

The next item on the agenda was the Personnel Report.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Jesse Winston, Jr., Superintendent  
Adrin Williams, Board President