

The Morehouse Parish School Board met in regular monthly session on Tuesday, April 14, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. at Morehouse Student Services Center, with the following members present: Karen Diel, Robert Johnson – President, Debbie Wilson, Veronica Loche-Tappin, Vice-President, and Adrin Williams. Also, present Dr. Jesse Winston, Jr., Superintendent, and Steve Katz, Attorney.

Absent- Louis Melton and Rick Hixon

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 -

- Jesse Griggs- Retired Bus Driver
- Evelyn Kemper – Retired SPED Paraprofessional
- Sandra Holley – Retired Paraprofessional

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

The next item on the agenda was to approve the agenda. ***On a motion of Ms. Adrin Williams 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 Transportation Department (Bus Operators & Aides) ***Maresa Cotton 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 announcements from Dr. Jesse Winston, Jr.

- ***Dr. Jesse Winston, Jr. Recognized Board member Mr. Rick Hixon for being awarded the Kelley Christmas award at the Morehouse Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet.***
- ***Testing is going on at Morehouse Magnet School, and Bastrop High School, they are under a modified schedule during this time.***
- ***Cordelio Power is interested in bringing wind turbines (power) to Morehouse Parish and would like the Morehouse Parish School Board to partner with this project. There would be three types of payments: sales tax, property tax, and royalties. More information is to come.***
- ***Beekman Charter School received a Charter School Program Supplemental Grant for \$135,720 this to help with Literacy Initiative, Numeracy Initiative, College and Career Readiness, and new for Attendance.***

- ***Within the next week or so we will schedule town hall meetings for the upcoming Capital Improvement Bond continuation schedule. These forums/meetings will explain in detail how the Bond continuation will be used to the community.***
- ***Louisiana Delta is partnering with Bastrop High School, Beekman Charter School, and Morehouse Magnet School high school and junior high students, on April 22, 2026 8:30-10:30 am, and 11:00 am – 1:00 pm. Our students will gain exposure to various business pathways.***

The next item on the agenda was approval of minutes- The Regular School Board Meeting held on March 3, 2026, at 5:30 pm. ***On a motion of Ms. Adrin Williams to approve the amended minutes from the Regular School Board Meeting held on March 3, 2026, at 5:30 pm with one word removed (unanimously on page 11), 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 Mrs. Debbie Wilson to approve the monthly travel requests, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin. 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.) ***On a motion of Ms. Adrin Williams to approve the monthly bus requests, seconded by Ms. Karen Diel. None opposed and the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to receive Beekman Charter School Annual Report. (Presented by Ms. Samantha Mann) ***This was a presentation only.***

The next item on the agenda was to receive the Sales Tax Funds report for February 2026. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion of Mrs. Veronica Tappin to approve the Sales Tax Funds report for February 2026, seconded by Ms. Adrin Williams. None opposed and the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to receive the General Fund report for February 2026. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion of Ms. Adrin Williams to approve the General Fund report for February 2026, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin. None opposed and the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to receive the School Lunch Fund report for February 2026. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion of Mrs. Debbie Wilson to approve the School Lunch Fund report for February 2026, seconded by Ms. Adrin Williams. None opposed and the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to receive the East Morehouse Tax Fund report for February 2026. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion of Mrs. Veronica Tappin to approve the East Morehouse Tax Fund report for February 2026, seconded by Ms. Adrin Williams. None opposed and the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to receive the Discipline report for March 2026. (Presented by Mr. Ralph Davenport) ***This was a presentation only.***

The next item on the agenda was to consider and take action to cancel and terminate the twenty-year Contract and Lease Agreement with Morehouse Athletic Association, which expires February 16, 2029. (Presented by Mr. Steve Katz) ***On a motion of Ms. Adrin Williams to approve cancelling and terminating the twenty-year Contract and Lease Agreement with Morehouse Athletic Association, which expires February 16, 2029, seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson. None opposed and the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to consider and take the necessary action to enter into an agreement with Hunt, Guillot and Associates for the FEMA Public Assistance Program for damage caused by Winter Storm Fern. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion of Ms. Adrin Williams to approve entering into an agreement with Hunt, Guillot and Associates for the FEMA Public Assistance Program for damage caused by Winter Storm Fern, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin. None opposed and the motion passed unanimously.***

The next time on the agenda was to grant permission to re-advertise for lease for Hunting Purposes for five years, Section 16, Township 23 North, Range 4 East (640 acres). (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion of Ms. Adrin Williams to grant permission to re-advertise for lease for Hunting Purposes for five years, Section 16, Township 23 North, Range 4 East (640 acres), seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin. None opposed and the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to accept the bid of \$650.00 for Hunting Purposes, Section 16, Township 23 North, Range 6 East, approximately 48 acres, from Tommy Sowyers. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion of Mrs. Debbie Wilson to accept the bid of \$650.00 for Hunting Purposes, Section 16, Township 23 North, Range 6 East, approximately 48 acres, from Tommy Sowyers, seconded by Ms. Adrin Williams. None opposed and the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to accept the bid of \$17,321.75 for Hunting Purposes, Section 16, Township 21 North, Range 8 East, approximately 638 acres from Little Missouri Outdoors, LLC. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***There was a public comment from Mr. Todd Smith discussing the history of his family leasing the section for nearly forty years. On a motion of Mrs. Debbie Wilson to accept the bid of \$17,321.75 for Hunting Purposes, Section 16, Township 21 North, Range 8 East, approximately 638 acres from Little Missouri Outdoors, LLC., seconded by Ms. Karen Diel. None opposed and the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was “To discuss and take the necessary action to continue the Summer Work Program at Bastrop High School, Morehouse Elementary School, and Delta Elementary School for Summer 2026”. (Presented by Mr. Louis Melton) ***Dr. Jesse Winston, Jr. presented the item in Mr. Louis Melton’s absence. On a motion of Ms. Karen Diel to continue the Summer Work Program at Bastrop High School, Morehouse Elementary School, and Delta Elementary School for Summer 2026”, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin. None opposed and the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to enter into Executive Session to discuss the Superintendent, Dr. Jesse Winston, Jr.’s, professional competence and contract. (Presented by Mr. Robert Johnson) ***On a motion of Ms. Adrin Williams to enter into Executive Session to discuss the Superintendent, Dr. Jesse Winston, Jr.’s, professional competence and contract, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin. None opposed and the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to exit from Executive Session. (Presented by Mr. Robert Johnson) ***On a motion of Ms. Adrin Williams to exit from Executive Session, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin. None opposed and the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to present the superintendent with a copy of Dr. Jesse Winston, Jr.’s annual evaluation and to place the original evaluation in Dr. Jesse Winston, Jr.’s personnel file. (Presented by Mr. Robert Johnson) ***On a motion of Mrs. Veronica Tappin to present the superintendent with a copy of his evaluation and to place the original evaluation in Dr. Jesse Winston, Jr.’s personnel file, seconded by Ms. Adrin Williams. None opposed and the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was Public Comment- ***There was 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