

The Morehouse Parish School Board met in regular monthly session on Thursday, January 8, 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 Mr. Robert Johnson.

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

- Letha Emanuel – Retired Teacher
- Leon Conway – Retired Teacher

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 Ms. Karen Diel. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was recognitions:

- Drax Community Fund- ***Dr. Jesse Winston, Jr. recognized DRAX for a grant was received for \$7500.00 for incentives for LEAP Performance, Chronic Absenteeism, and Truancy. Ms. Shelby was present and a plaque will be given to Drax for their support.***
- Employee of the month (Morehouse Elementary). ***Marcus Norwood was recognized as the employee of the month, he was presented with a plaque, and received a gift card from EBI Insurance.***
- Principal of the year – ***Will be recognized at the February board meeting.***
- Students of the year – ***Beekman Charter School 5th Grade Rylann Gregory, Delta Elementary School 5th Grade Naveah Banner, Morehouse Elementary School 5th Grade Knowledge Armstrong; Morehouse Magnet School 5th Grade Evie Reese. Rylann Gregory and Knowledge Armstrong won overall for the district.***
- ***Bastrop High School 8th Grade Addison Nash, Beekman Charter School 8th Grade Paul Liam Hurst, and Morehouse Magnet School 8th Grade Ashtyn Barksdale. Addison Nash and Paul Liam Hurst won overall for the district.***
- ***Bastrop High School 12th Grade Kylie Murphy, Beekman Charter School Mallory Williams, and Morehouse Magnet School 12th Grade Shontae Wilson. Kylie Murphy won overall for the district.***
- Recognition of the outgoing School Board President. ***President Robert Johnson presented Ms. Adrin Williams with a plaque in recognition of her dedication and service as the 2025 school board president.***

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- January is School Board Recognition Month - *Dr. Jesse Winston, Jr., read the resolution declaring January 2026 School Board Recognition Month. Certificates were presented to each board member in recognition of their service and dedication to Morehouse Parish.*
 - 2025 Louisiana School Board Association Certified School Board Members- *Dr. Jesse Winston, Jr., presented all Certified School Board Members with certificates and a box of treats.*

The next item on the agenda was Superintendent's Announcements – (Presented by Dr. Jesse Winston, Jr.) *Dr. Jesse Winston, Jr., presented a copy of the RSD discussion and review visit to all board members. The copy is what was submitted to the state, and they were very impressed during the visit.*

At each board member station was information for the Recognizing Improvement Excellence in student (RISE) initiative and incentives.

Our school district received a check from NativState for \$85,493.22 for carbon credits sold.

A timeline from Foley and Judell is provided in case we want to proceed with the Bond, and we can discuss further at the Finance and Advisory Committee meeting.

Our district has partnered with the Louisiana Workforce Commission, knowing there is a shortage of employees. Louisiana Workforce Commission will pay for workers' compensation and salary for sixteen weeks, and we will have the opportunity to keep them on to fill vacancies.

The next item on the agenda was Approval of Minutes – The Regular School Board Meeting held on December 4, 2025, at 5:30 pm. *On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to approve minutes from the Regular School Board Meeting held on December 4, 2025, 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. Veronica Tappin to approve the monthly Travel Requests, seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson. 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 Mrs. Veronica Tappin to approve the monthly Bus Requests, seconded by Ms. Adrin Williams. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.*

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

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

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

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

The next item on the agenda was to accept the Reroofing lowest bid of \$344, 250 from Terry's Roofing & Sheetmetal for Morehouse Elementary School. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs and Mr. Lyn Kenley with Volkert). ***On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to accept the Reroofing lowest bid of \$344, 250 from Terry's Roofing & Sheetmetal for Morehouse Elementary School, seconded by Ms. Karen Diel. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

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 policies as a "First 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 policies as a "First Reading", seconded by Mr. Louis Melton. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to adopt new policy GAL- Code of Ethics as a "First Reading". A copy is provided in your packet. (Presented by Mr. Steve Katz) ***On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to adopt the new policy GAL- Code of Ethics as a "First Reading", seconded by Ms. Adrin Williams. 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 "First Reading". A copy is provided in your packet. (Presented by Mr. Steve Katz) ***On a motion of Mrs. Debbie Wilson to adopt amended policy GBRB - Employee Attendance (section Job abandonment) as a "First Reading", seconded by Ms. Adrin Williams. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to adopt the Parent and Family Engagement Policy IFD as a “**Second Reading**”. A copy is provided in your packet. (Presented by Mrs. Marilyn Taylor & Dr. Jesse Winston, Jr.) *On a motion of Ms. Adrin Williams to adopt the Parent and Family Engagement Policy IFD as a “Second Reading”, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin.*

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