

The Morehouse Parish School Board met in regular monthly session on Thursday, December 4, 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 Dr. Jesse Winston, Jr., Superintendent, and Steve Katz, Attorney.

President Adrin Williams called the meeting to order.

The next item on the agenda was the invocation led by Ms. Adrin Williams.

Ms. Adrin Williams 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:

- Employee of the month (Delta Elementary). *Whitney Armstrong was recognized as the employee of the month, she was presented with a plaque, and will receive a gift card from EBI Insurance.*
- Teachers of the year - *Morehouse Elementary School Teacher of the year La'Quisha Nute, and New Teacher of the Year Kalen Washington.*
- Delta Elementary School Teacher of the year - *Christy Parker, and New Teacher of the Year Carl Glass.*
- Morehouse Magnet School Teacher of the year – *Rebekah Breaux (Elementary), Laura Pruitt (Middle School), and Christopher Nunn (High School).*
- Morehouse Magnet School New Teacher of the year – *Tierney Coleman (Elementary), Molli Nason (Middle School), and Timothy Ricard (High School).*
- Bastrop High School Teacher of the year – *Sheena Cooks (Middle School), Shandyla Kidd (High School), and New Teacher of the year Jaylen Ross (Middle School).*
- 2025 Top Gains Honoree was Morehouse Magnet School.
- Morehouse Parish School District was recognized as one of the Top 5 Growing School Systems in Louisiana.
- Morehouse Elementary School Royal Court was recognized by Dr. Boockoff and the Special Education Department.
- President Adrin Williams presented a plaque to Dr. Jesse Winston, Jr. on behalf of the board for his outstanding leadership in achievement of the Louisiana State Department of Education's 2025 Top Growing School Systems.

The next item on the agenda was Superintendent's Announcements – (Presented by Dr. Jesse Winston, Jr.)

Dr. Jesse Winston, Jr. thanked the board for their support during his time as superintendent. January 1, 2026 will be one year.

A DRAX Grant was received for \$7500.00 for incentives for LEAP Performance, Chronic Absenteeism, and Truancy.

Dr. Jesse Winston, Jr., announced the LED Program Service Commission will come in to replace all of our lights with LED lights at no cost to the district.

There is a handout at your stations about the LDOE Early Childhood Program Profile. Morehouse Magnet School had a performance rating of Excellence, and Beekman Charter School had a rating of High Proficient.

LARMA awarded our district with a \$2500.00 Safety Grant, and this will help towards additional cameras.

The next item on the agenda was Approval of Minutes – The Regular School Board Meeting held on November 4, 2025, at 5:30 pm. *On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to approve minutes from the Regular School Board Meeting held on November 4, 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 Dr. Jesse Winston, Jr.) *On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to approve the monthly Travel Requests, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin. 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 Mr. Robert Johnson to approve the monthly Bus Requests, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.*

The next item on the agenda was the Election of President of Morehouse Parish School Board for 2026. *Nominations were taken for Morehouse Parish School Board President. Mr. Louis Melton nominated Mr. Robert Johnson for President 2026, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin, and Mr. Rick Hixon motioned for the nominations to be closed.*

Roll Call Vote

Karen Diel – Yes

Louis Melton - Yes

Robert Johnson – Yes

Rick Hixon – Yes

Debbie Wilson – Yes

Veronica Tappin – Yes

Adrin Williams - Yes

Mr. Robert Johnson was elected President of Morehouse Parish School Board for the 2026 year.

The next item on the agenda was the Election of Vice - President of Morehouse Parish School Board for 2026. ***Nominations were taken for Morehouse Parish School Board President. Mr. Robert Johnson nominated Mr. Rick Hixon.***

Roll Call Vote

Karen Diel – No

Louis Melton - No

Robert Johnson – Yes

Rick Hixon – Yes

Debbie Wilson – No

Veronica Tappin – No

Adrin Williams – No

The motion failed.

Mr. Louis Melton nominated Mrs. Veronica Tappin for Vice-President of Morehouse Parish School Board for 2026.

Roll Call Vote

Karen Diel – Yes

Louis Melton - Yes

Robert Johnson – Yes

Rick Hixon – Yes

Debbie Wilson – Yes

Veronica Tappin – Yes

Adrin Williams - Yes

The motion passed. Mrs. Veronica Tappin was elected Vice - President of Morehouse Parish School Board for the 2026 year.

The next item on the agenda was to present the 2025 School Performance Scores for both Old and New Formula. (Presented by Mrs. Theresa Emfinger) ***This was discussion only.***

The next item on the agenda was to receive the report from the Finance and Advisory Committee meeting held on November 18, 2025.

The Finance and Advisory Committee met on Tuesday, November 18, 2025 at 5:30 pm. Robert Johnson- Chairperson called the meeting to order. In attendance were the following: Louis Melton, Debbie Wilson, Veronica Tappin and Adrin Williams. Also present was Dr. Jesse Winston, Jr., Superintendent and Steve Katz, Attorney.

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

1. To discuss the bond issue for the Morehouse Parish School District to include Beekman Charter School. (Presented by Dr. Jesse Winston, Jr. and Brennan Black of Foley Judell). Public comment was given by Mr. Huntsman. ***This item was discussion only.***
2. To receive the Sales Tax Funds for October 2025. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) On a motion of Mrs. Veronica Tappin to approve the Sales Tax Funds for October 2025, seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.

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

3. To receive the General Fund report for October 2025. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to approve the General Fund report for October 2025, seconded by Ms. Adrin Williams. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.

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

4. To receive the School Lunch Fund report for October 2025. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) On a motion of Mrs. Veronica Tappin to approve the School Lunch Fund report for October 2025, seconded by Ms. Adrin Williams. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.

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

5. To receive the East Morehouse Tax Fund report for October 2025. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) On a motion of Ms. Adrin Williams to approve the East Morehouse Tax Fund report for October 2025, seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.

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

The meeting was adjourned.

The next item on the agenda was to adopt MPSD's Differentiated Compensation Plan to the 2025-2026 Teacher Pay Scale. (Presented by Mrs. Teresa Merritt) ***On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to adopt MPSD's Differentiated Compensation Plan to the 2025-2026 Teacher Pay Scale, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin. None opposed the motion passed unanimously***

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

The next item on the agenda was to adopt revised policies, **IDDF** – Education Of Students With Exceptionalities; **JDA** – Corporal Punishment; **IDDFC** – Cameras In Special Education Classrooms; **JAA** – Equal Education Opportunities and **JD** – Discipline and to adopt a new policy

GAAA-E – Morehouse Parish School Board Policy Statement On Title IX Of The Education Amendments From 1972, etc. “(Revised and added policies by Forethought as “**Second Reading**”: Copies are provided in your packet. (Presented by Mr. Steve Katz) *On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to adopt revised policies, IDDF – Education Of Students With Exceptionalities; JDA – Corporal Punishment; IDDFC – Cameras In Special Education Classrooms; JAA – Equal Education Opportunities and JD – Discipline and to adopt a new policy GAAA-E – Morehouse Parish School Board Policy Statement On Title IX Of The Education Amendments From 1972, etc. (Revised and added policies by Forethought as “Second Reading” with the corrections of the addresses, seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson. None opposed and the motion passed unanimously.*

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

ADJOURNMENT

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