

The Morehouse Parish School Board met in a regular monthly session on Tuesday, September 15, 2026, at 5:56 p.m. at Morehouse Student Services Center, with the following members present: Karen Diel, Louis Melton, Robert Johnson – President, Debbie Wilson, Veronica Loche-Tappin, Vice-President, and Adrin Williams. Also, present Dr. Jesse Winston, Jr., Superintendent, and Steve Katz, Attorney.

Mr. Rick Hixon was absent.

Ms. Karen Diel left at 6:39 p.m.

President Robert Johnson called the meeting to order.

The next item on the agenda was the invocation led by Mr. Robert Johnson.

Next there was a moment of silence for Rufus Martin – Retired Bus Driver.

The next item on the agenda was the pledge of allegiance led by President Robert Johnson.

Next was a Roll call to Establish a Quorum: Present – Karen Diel, Louis Melton, 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- ***Central Office, Evelyn Harden with the Business Department was recognized and presented with a plaque, along with a gift card from EBI Insurance.***

The next item on the agenda was superintendent announcements from Dr. Jesse Winston, Jr.

- Dr. Jesse Winston, Jr. announced there were various handouts at their stations, which included information on Chronic absenteeism, Letter of expectations for 2026-2027, LDOE Summary report, Day care procedures (regarding bus transportation), 2026-2027 School Staff Appreciation Days.
- Dr. Jesse Winston, Jr. announced the Candidate Luncheon to be held on October 7, 2026 from 12:00-1:30, located at Bastrop Visitor Center.
- As of September 15, 2026 our district has 2,931 students.
- There will be a tour at Morehouse Elementary this Wednesday, September 16, 2026.
- Our school district partnered with Morehouse Community Development Corporation. On a monthly basis, they will speak with students regarding life skills.
- Fresh Start has moved into the main building of Morehouse Student Services Center.
- Dr. Pullen and Staff at Morehouse Magnet School, Central Office Staff, and Beekman Charter School received on a Safety grant. Morehouse Magnet School and Beekman Charter School received a \$48,000 Safety grant.

The next item on the agenda was approval of minutes- the Regular School Board Meeting held on August 4, 2026, at 5:30 pm. ***On a motion of Ms. Adrin Williams to approve the minutes from the Regular School Board Meeting held on August 4, 2026, at 5:30 pm, seconded by Ms. Karen Diel. 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 Ms. Adrin Williams to approve the monthly travel requests, seconded by Ms. Karen Diel. 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 travel requests, seconded by Ms. Karen Diel. None opposed; and the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda the Morehouse Parish School Board 2025-2026 Revised School Year Consolidated Budget was to adopt. (Requested by Ms. Ersula Downs and Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion of Ms. Adrin Williams to adopt the Morehouse Parish School Board 2025-2026 Revised School Year Consolidated Budget, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin. None opposed; and the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to adopt the Morehouse Parish School Board 2026-2027 School Year Consolidated Budget Resolution. (Requested by Ms. Ersula Downs and Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion of Ms. Adrin Williams, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin. None opposed; the motion passed unanimously, and the 2026-2027 School Year Consolidated Budget Resolution was adopted.***

The next item on the agenda was to discuss and consider the approval of the revised job description for the Business Coordinator Specialist position. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion of Ms. Adrin Williams to approve the revised job description for the Business Coordinator Specialist position, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin. None opposed; and the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to receive an update regarding Executive Order 26-047 Teacher and Support Staff Stipends (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs). ***This was a presentation only.***

The next item on the agenda was to present the LARMA, Crime and Cyber renewal and approve same and adopt the resolution for the 2026-2027 school year and authorize the superintendent to execute all documents necessary for renewal. (Presented by Mr. Rob Cowan) Mr. Rob Cowan mentions the uninsured motorist will be removed. ***On a motion of Ms. Adrin Williams to amend the item to “To present the LARMA, Property and Insurance Liability, Crime and Cyber renewal and approve same and adopt the resolution for the 2026-2027 school year and authorize the superintendent to execute all documents necessary for renewal,” seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin. None opposed; and the motion passed unanimously.***

***On a motion of Ms. Adrin Williams to approve the LARMA, Property and Insurance Liability, Crime and Cyber renewal and approve same and adopt the resolution for the 2026-2027 school year and authorize the superintendent to execute all documents necessary for renewal, seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson. None opposed; and the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to hear a presentation by Bretta Palmer of NativState, or her representative, regarding the Forest Management Plan and the Forest Management Plan

Addendum for the Morehouse Parish School Board and the Memorandum of Understanding and for the school board to adopt the Forest Management Plan and the Forest Management Plan Addendum for the Morehouse Parish School Board and to approve the Participant Memorandum of Understanding with the Morehouse Parish School Board, NativState and F&W Forestry Services, Inc. and to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to sign all necessary documents from time to time in order to implement same and to direct the Superintendent of Schools to continue the posting of the Forest Management Plan and the Addendum To Forest Management Plan on the Morehouse Parish School Board's website. (Presented by Bretta Palmer, RF or her representative). ***On a motion of Mrs. Veronica Tappin to adopt the Forest Management Plan and the Forest Management Plan Addendum for the Morehouse Parish School Board and to approve the Participant Memorandum of Understanding with the Morehouse Parish School Board, NativState and F&W Forestry Services, Inc. and to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to sign all necessary documents from time to time in order to implement same and to direct the Superintendent of Schools to continue the posting of the Forest Management Plan and the Addendum To Forest Management Plan on the Morehouse Parish School Board's website, seconded by Ms. Adrin Williams. None opposed; and the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to consider changing the November 5, 2026, board meeting to November 10, 2026 due to a conflict in schedules. (Presented by Dr. Jesse Winston, Jr.) ***On a motion of Mrs. Veronica Tappin to change the November 5, 2026, board meeting to November 10, 2026 due to a conflict in schedules, seconded by Ms. Adrin Williams. None opposed; and the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to accept the bid of \$83,150.48 per year for Agricultural purposes, for five years, Section 16, Township 23 North, Range 10 East, approximately 540 acres from Owens Farming Joint Venture (Scott Owens). (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion of Ms. Adrin Williams to accept the bid of \$83,150.48 per year for Agricultural purposes, for five years, Section 16, Township 23 North, Range 10 East, approximately 540 acres from Owens Farming Joint Venture (Scott Owens), seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin. None opposed; and the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to accept the bid of \$96,251.00 per year for Agricultural purposes, for five years, Section 16, Township 22 North, Range 9 East, approximately 638.46 acres from Ricky A. McIntyre. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion of Ms. Adrin Williams to accept the the bid of \$96,251.00 per year for Agricultural purposes, for five years, Section 16, Township 22 North, Range 9 East, approximately 638.46 acres from Ricky A. McIntyre, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin. None opposed; and the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was the report from the Finance and Advisory Committee meeting held on August 25, 2026.

The Finance and Advisory Committee met on Tuesday, August 25, 2026 at 5:30 pm. **Veronica Tappin - Chairperson** called the meeting to order. In attendance were the following: Louis Melton, Robert Johnson, Rick Hixon, and Adrin Williams. Also present were Mrs. Debbie Wilson, Dr. Jesse Winston, Jr., Superintendent, and Stephen Katz, Attorney.

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

1. To receive the Sales Tax Funds for July 2026. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion of Ms. Adrin Williams to approve the Sales Tax Fund for July 2026, seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson. None opposed; the motion passed unanimously.***

***Mr. President, I so move, seconded by Ms. Adrin Williams. None opposed; the motion passed unanimously.***

2. To receive the General Fund report for July 2026. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion of Ms. Adrin Williams to approve the General Fund report for July 2026, seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson. None opposed; the motion passed unanimously.***

***Mr. President, I so move, seconded by Ms. Adrin Williams. None opposed; the motion passed unanimously.***

3. To receive the School Lunch Fund report for July 2026. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion of Ms. Adrin Williams to approve the School Lunch Fund report for July 2026, seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson. None opposed; the motion passed unanimously.***

***Mr. President, I so move, seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson. None opposed; the motion passed unanimously.***

4. To receive the East Morehouse Tax Fund report for July 2026. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion of Ms. Adrin Williams to approve the East Morehouse Tax Fund report for July 2026, seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson. None opposed; the motion passed unanimously.***

***Mr. President, I so move, seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson. None opposed; the motion passed unanimously.***

5. To receive quarterly and year-to-date budget-to-actual comparisons on the funds below. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs)
  - A. Sales Tax Funds
  - B. General Fund
  - C. School Lunch Fund
  - D. East Morehouse Tax Fund
  - E. Special Revenue Funds

***On a motion of Ms. Adrin Williams to approve the quarterly and year-to-date budget-to-actual comparison Sales Tax Funds, General Fund, School Lunch Fund, East Morehouse Tax Fund, and Special Revenue Funds, seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson. None opposed; the motion passed unanimously.***

***Mr. President, I so move, seconded by Ms. Adrin Williams. None opposed; the motion passed unanimously.***

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

The next item on the agenda was to consider the adoption of the Delta Committee budget for 2026-2027. (Presented by Ms. Wendy Coleman) ***On a motion of Mrs. Veronica Tappin to adopt the Delta Committee budget for 2026-2027 as of September 2026, seconded by Ms. Adrin Williams. None opposed; the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to adopt a correction to policy JCDA, Student Code of Conduct, as a “**Second reading**”. (Presented by Mr. Steve Katz) ***On a motion of Mrs. Debbie Wilson to adopt a correction to policy JCDA, Student Code of Conduct, as a “Second reading”, seconded by Mr. Louis Melton. None opposed; the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to adopt amended policies EBBC, IDDFC, JGCE, JGCFA, GBRIA, GBRIB, JD JDE, and IDDF to comply with the mandates of the 2026 legislative session, as a “**First Reading**.” (Presented by Mr. Steve Katz) ***On a motion of Mrs. Debbie Wilson to adopt amended policies EBBC, IDDFC, JGCE, JGCFA, GBRIA, GBRIB, JD JDE, and IDDF to comply with the mandates of the 2026 legislative session, as a “First Reading.”, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin. None opposed; the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was Public Comment: **3-5 minutes are allowed for comment.**

- Rhonda Johnson would like to discuss school uniforms, substitute pay, and discipline. ***This was discussion only.***
- Sheneka Hatfield would like to discuss school security. ***Ms. Hatfield was not present.***
- Juanetta Martin would like to discuss Special School Reason. ***Ms. Martin was not present.***

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