



**NERSBA**  
EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT

KH/SG

NERSBA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
NERSBA Technology Center  
Wednesday, September 15, 2021  
4:30 PM

**1. OPEN SESSION**

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- 1.1 Call to Order: Mr. Benjie Forrest
- 1.2 Roll Call: Mrs. Inga Stotesberry  
Present: Benjie Forrest, Julius Walker, Kenneth Harrell, Simon Griffin, Ephraigm Smith, Jerry Phelps, Brian Busch, Michele Spence, Joyce Moore  
  
Absent: Dwight Respass, Jean Woolard, Karen Clough, Terry Draper, Melva Lilley  
  
Tardy: Ethan Lenker
- 1.3 Invocation & United States Pledge of Allegiance: Mr. Julius Walker
- 1.4 Approval of September 2021 Board Meeting Agenda: Mr. Benjie Forrest, Chair  
Mr. Simon Griffin moved to approve the meeting agenda as presented by Mr. Davis. Mr. Kenneth Harrell seconded the motion. The motion passed with a majority vote by the NERSBA board membership.
- 1.5 Public Comments: None

**2. NERSBA INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

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- 2.1 Mr. Hal Davis presented the following informational items for review by our board membership:
  - \*Scholastic Report/FFA Alumni Fundraiser Updates.
  - \*Noted the faculty and staff at NERSBA are moving forward with our instructional schedule.
  - \*As a school, we are working to actively engage students with the start of the new year while managing COVID-related issues.
  - \*Mr. David Mooring, part-time AgriScience faculty member is making progress with the development of the AgriScience Engineering Laboratory and caterpillar tunnel construction.
  - \*Mrs. Pam Riggs completed a financial aid workshop in late August with assistance from the College Foundation of North Carolina, various college admissions officers, and financial aid personnel from various community colleges and universities located in northeastern North Carolina.

\*The FFA Alumni Reverse-Raffle Fundraiser set for Friday, October 15<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 PM---Mr. Davis encouraged the board membership to support this endeavor as an effort to promote our entire school.

2.2 North Carolina Legislative Update: Mr. Hal Davis

Mr. Davis informed the board of legislative issues as related to the approval of the state budget. There is a legislative conference committee currently working in collaboration with the governors' office to resolve differences between the executive and legislative branches of state government.

2.2 ACT Test Data: Mr. Hal Davis

Mr. Davis provided a brief review of ACT testing information for NERSBA scholars from the 2017-2018 school year until present noting the following percentage of students proficient as outlined:

|            |                         |
|------------|-------------------------|
| 2017-2018: | <b>76%</b> Proficient   |
| 2018-2019: | <b>63%</b> Proficient   |
| 2019-2020: | <b>63.6%</b> Proficient |
| 2020-2021: | <b>68.8%</b> Proficient |

2.4 COVID Informational Updates: Mr. Hal Davis

As the number of positive COVID cases have decreased, NERSBA will still require all students and staff to wear masks on campus and bus. Mr. Davis thanked faculty and students for doing a very good job with our facial mask requirement.

2.5 North Carolina Home School Data: Mr. Hal Davis

Mr. Davis provided to the board information regarding homeschool enrollment in North Carolina by individual counties.

He noted that homeschooling has increased substantially, both nationally and at the state level. North Carolina increased by 21% from 2019-2020 with 149,173 students homeschooled to 179,900 students in homeschool operations during the 2020-2021 school year.

This increase in home schooled students was driven by the pandemic, which has numerous fallout effects from health implications, working conditions, post-secondary conditions, reprioritizations of values, and many other implications.

2.6 Parent/Scholar/Faculty Conference Schedule: Mr. Hal Davis

Mr. Davis informed the board that parental conferences with our faculty are scheduled for Thursday, September 16<sup>th</sup> and Friday, September 17<sup>th</sup>.

2.7 North Carolina Educational Attainment Report: Mr. Hal Davis

Mr. Davis presented to the board, the "State of NC Talent Pipeline Educational Attainment Report" outlining educational status/goals for North Carolina. Mr. Davis referenced this information and the recently completed document "My Future NC" as a planning guide for NERSBA and northeastern North Carolina moving forward. Mr. Davis noted the importance of articulating the Vision and Mission of NERSBA with these references to better serve our students and the future of our NERSBA scholastic community.

2.8 Board of Director Appointments (Business & Industry Representative)

Mr. Davis noted that NERSBA currently has a position open with our board membership regarding a Business & Industry Representative. He requested the board approve for him and Mr. Benjie Forrest to move forward with filling this position and outlined the process for completing this appointment. By unanimous consent, the board approved Mr. Davis to move forward with this request.



### **3. FINANCIAL REPORT: Mrs. Debra Baggett**

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#### **3.1 Federal/State/Local Budget Information: Mrs. Debra Baggett**

Mrs. Debra Baggett informed the board that the North Carolina General Assembly has not finalized a state budget to date. Fiscal officers are anticipating a final state budget to be approved first week in October.

Mrs. Baggett outlined for the board that Federal Budget Allotments have been approved on the part of NERSBA.

#### **3.2 Fiscal Audit Update: Mrs. Debra Baggett**

Mrs. Debra Baggett informed the board that the audit firm of Carr, Riggs & Ingram were still in process of completing the fiscal audit for the scholastic calendar concluding on June 30, 2021. Mrs. Baggett noted a projected fund balance of \$713,607.00 at the conclusion of the 2020-2021 academic calendar.

### **4. ACTION ITEMS**

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#### **4.1 Approval of August 2021 Board Meeting Minutes: Mr. Benjie Forrest, Chair**

Mr. Davis presented the August 2021 board meeting minutes for review and approval. Mr. Simon Griffin moved to approve the board meeting minutes as presented. Mrs. Joyce Moore seconded the motion. The motion passed with a majority vote by the NERSBA board membership.

#### **4.2 COVID-19 Protocols: Mr. Hal Davis**

Mr. Davis recommended the board to authorize Mr. Askew and himself to make emergency decisions related to COVID on an emergency basis as deemed appropriate. Dr. Brian Busch moved to approve the request by Mr. Davis. Mr. Jerry Phelps seconded the motion. The motion passed with a majority vote by the NERSBA board membership.

Mr. Davis recommended to the board that the current indoor facial mask requirement be continued until the October board of directors meeting. Dr. Brian Busch moved to approve the mask requirement as presented by Mr. Davis. Mr. Kenneth Harrell seconded the motion. The motion passed with a majority vote by the NERSBA board membership.

#### **4.3 Fiscal Audit Contract: Mrs. Debra Baggett**

Mr. Simon Griffin moved to approve the 2020-2021 Audit Contract as presented. Mr. Kenneth Harrell seconded the motion. The motion passed with a majority vote by the NERSBA board membership.

#### **4.4 401K/457(b) Board Resolutions: Mrs. Debra Baggett**

Mr. Davis informed the board membership that several of the employees at NERBSA participate in the 401K/457 Savings and Retirement Plans, however they were currently enrolled plans in effect with Washington County Schools. The resolution approved by NERSBA will allow these employees to have their individual 401K/457B plans managed through Pitt County Schools.

#### **4.5 Fiscal Audit Board Member Survey: Mr. Hal Davis/Mrs. Inga Stotesberry**

All board members present at the meeting were asked to complete the Related Party Questionnaire requested by Carr, Riggs & Ingram and return to Mrs. Stotesberry at the end of the board meeting. This survey is an integral part of the annual fiscal audit for NERSBA.

**5. Announcements:**

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- 5.1 Parent/Scholar/Faculty conferences: Thursday, September 16<sup>th</sup>
- 5.2 Career Exploration Day: Wednesday, September 24<sup>th</sup>
- 5.3 FFA Chapter Meeting: Thursday, October 7<sup>th</sup>
- 5.4 Scholar Holiday/Faculty Optional Leave/Workday: Friday, October 8<sup>th</sup>
- 5.5 Pre-SAT Administration (Sophomore Scholars) Tuesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>
- 5.6 NERSBA FFA Alumni Reverse Raffle: Friday, October 15<sup>th</sup> @6:00 PM
- 5.7 October Board of Directors Meeting Date: Wednesday, October 20<sup>th</sup> @ 4:30 PM
- 5.8 FFA Jacket Presentation Ceremony: Thursday, October 21<sup>st</sup> @ 7:00 PM

**6. MOTION to ADJOURN:**

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Mr. Simon Griffin moved to adjourn meeting at 5:22 PM. Mrs. Joyce Moore seconded the motion. The motion passed with a majority vote by the NERSBA Board membership.

**Respectively Submitted,**

**Mrs. Inga Stotesberry, Administrative Assistant**  
**October 20, 2021**