



NERSBA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

NERSBA Technology Center

Wednesday, August 18, 2021

4:30 PM

1. OPEN SESSION

- 1.1 Call to Order: Mr. Benjie Forrest, Chair
- 1.2 Roll Call: Mrs. Inga Stotesberry
Present: Benjie Forrest, Dwight Respass, Julius Walker, Kenneth Harrell, Simon Griffin, Jerry Phelps, Terry Draper, Melva Lilley, Michele Spence, Joyce Moore
Absent: Jean Woolard, Ethan Lenker, Ephraigm Smith, Karen Clough, Brian Busch
- 1.3 Invocation & United States Pledge of Allegiance: Mr. Julius Walker
- 1.4 Approval of August 2021 Board Meeting Agenda: Mr. Benjie Forrest, Chair
Mr. Simon Griffin moved to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Mr. Kenneth Harrell seconded the motion. The motion passed with a majority vote by the NERSBA board membership.
- 1.5 Introduction of New NERSBA Faculty: Mr. William Askew, NERSBA Principal
Principal William Askew introduced Mrs. Amy Jo Skiles-Moricle as a new employee at NERSBA. Mrs. Moricle will be teaching English and will serve as our NERSBA Technology Coordinator. Mrs. Moricle was formally employed with Washington County Schools.
- 1.6 Public Comments: None

2.0 NERSBA Informational Items: Mr. Hal Davis

- 2.1 2021-2022 Scholar Enrollment Information: Mr. Hal Davis
Mr. Davis provided information to the board regarding scholar enrollment as of August 18th which included attendance by local educational agencies and grade level. This report indicated a total enrollment of 163 students at NERSBA.
- 2.2 Scholastic Report: Mr. William Askew, Principal
Mr. Billy Ray Askew informed the board of the following key points:
 - The NERSBA scholastic calendar began as scheduled on Wednesday, August 4th welcoming our freshmen class, the NERSBA Class of 2026
 - Sophomore scholars returned to campus on August 9th with Junior scholars beginning their on-campus program on August 11th
 - All NERSBA students are fully scheduled and faculty have begun teaching the NERSBA curriculum and moving forward with our academic program of studies
 - Scholars are enrolled in college classes through Beaufort, Martin and Pitt Community

Colleges in addition to the University of Mount Olive

- Juniors have completed the administration of the ASVAB
- The Pre-ACT is scheduled to be administered on Tuesday, October 12th to our NERSBA sophomore scholars

- 2.3 Exceptional Children's Program Review: Mrs. Kathy Buck
Mrs. Kathy Buck presented information to our board regarding an Exceptional Children's Audit that has just been completed for NERSBA by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

Schools across North Carolina are audited every 5 years by the state regarding their Exceptional Children's Program. This audit included federal indicators to monitor the schools' efforts to successfully serve students who qualify for exceptional children's services. The report noted that NERSBA was effectively providing services to respective students among all of the audit indicators and criteria.

- 2.4 Insurance "Loss Prevention" Review: Mr. Hal Davis
Mr. Davis informed the board that a recent audit by our insurance carrier (Towne Insurance) outlined very positive information relating to our campus facilities.

A letter provided from The Cincinnati Insurance Company noted the campus facilities were well maintained. The letter did note a recommendation to address roof drain/gutter issues. Mr. Davis informed the board that this problem has been corrected and the water is detouring from the building and flowing freely.

In addition, Mr. Davis noted that all faculty, staff and board membership are covered by our workers compensation policy.

- 2.5 NC Legislative Update: Mr. Hal Davis
Mr. Davis informed the board the state budget was currently under review by a joint legislative conference committee. He hopes to have news of an approved state budget in early October.

- 2.6 COVID Informational and Operational Protocols: Mr. Hal Davis
Mr. Davis provided an informational update regarding the impact of the COVID virus on our students and faculty. He also provided recent data regarding the number of cases and infections in Martin, Washington and Tyrrell counties.

Mr. Davis informed the board that NERSBA was requiring facial coverings on all school buses and the interior of the campus facilities.

- 2.7 Food Service
Mr. Davis informed the board that food service (breakfast and lunch) is provided to NERSBA as a "free-enterprise" system from Martin County Schools and Jamesville Elementary School with all scholar meals consumed on our NERSBA campus.

- 2.8 FFA Alumni Organization Fundraiser
Mr. Davis noted the NERSBA FFA Alumni Chapter will be conducting a “reverse-raffle Fundraiser” on Friday, October 15th at 6:00 PM. Tickets will be available for purchase in the amount of \$50.00 per ticket in the near future.
- 2.9 NCGS 115 C238-62 (Organization of Regional School)
Mr. Davis forwarded a copy of a letter sent to Mr. Oliver Holley, Superintendent of Tyrrell County Schools and the Tyrrell County Board of Education Chair, Mrs. Karen Clough regarding further insight and clarification of issues concerning NERSBA. Mr. Davis informed the board that he has not had any further updates or communication with Tyrrell County Schools.

Mr. Benjie Forrest opened the floor for any discussion or debate regarding the issue (Organization of Regional Schools/NCGS 115 C238-62). There were no questions or discussion directed to Mr. Forrest or Mr. Davis from the board membership with respect to this issue during the meeting.

3.0 FINANCIAL REPORT

- 3.1 Federal/State/Local Expenditures: Mr. Hal Davis
Mr. Davis informed the board that Mrs. Debra Baggett would not be attending our board meeting today. He presented general information regarding federal, state and local expenditures to date with our school operating under a continuing budget resolution. Mr. Davis noted the North Carolina House and Senate budgets were currently under review by a joint legislative conference committee. Mr. Davis is hopeful to see a state budget finalized by early October.
- 3.2 Local Chart of Account Review
Mr. Davis presented for the board’s review, a copy of the NERSBA local chart of accounts that are maintained by Southern Bank. Mr. Davis informed the board of a four step-signature process in place prior to any funds disbursed from individual scholastic accounts at NERSBA.

These funds are also included in the schools’ annual fiscal audit

4.0 ACTON ITEMS: Mr. Benjie Forrest

- 4.1 Approval of July 21st Board Meeting Minutes: Mr. Benjie Forrest, Chair
Mr. Simon Griffin moved to approve the July 21st board meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Kenneth Harrell seconded the motion. The motion passed with a majority vote by the NERSBA board membership.
- 4.2 Equipment Requests: Mr. Hal Davis
- 4.3 NERSBA Campus Improvement Projects: Mr. Hal Davis (presented together)

Mr. Davis reviewed with the board, a list of projects and facility improvements that currently need to be addressed by our board of directors and administrators. Mr. Davis referenced specific areas needing attention, noting preliminary cost estimates for these projects to be \$74,500 to include HVAC improvements, ceiling/lighting upgrades, equipment/small tools for the newly renovated NERSBA AgriScience Engineering Laboratory and the development of a STEM Innovation Laboratory.

Mr. Davis recommended the board approve the allocation of \$74,500 to begin work on these projects. These funds would be allocated from the NERSBA general fund balance with the approval of Mrs. Debra Baggett, Pitt County Schools finance officer.

Mr. Jerry Phelps moved to approve the funding request as presented by Mr. Davis. Mrs. Joyce Moore seconded the motion. The motion passed with a majority vote by the NERSBA board membership.

5.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mr. Hal Davis

Mr. Hal Davis presented the following informational items regarding future events and dates at NERSBA:

- 5.1 Scholar/Parent Orientation Sessions: July 27th-29th.
- 5.2 ASVAB Test Administration: Tuesday, August 17th
- 5.3 Martin Community College Class Schedule: August 18th
- 5.4 Financial Resources Workshop: Saturday, August 21st/8:30-11:45 AM
- 5.5 Graduation Attire & Class Ring Orders: Friday, August 27th
- 5.6 National Labor Day Holiday: Monday, September 6th
- 5.7 September Board of Directors Meeting: Wednesday, September 15th @4:30 PM
- 5.8 Parent/Scholar/Faculty Conferences: Thursday, September 16th 5PM-7:15PM

6.0 MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mrs. Joyce Moore moved to adjourn meeting at 5:40 PM. Mrs. Michele Spence seconded the motion. The motion passed with a majority vote by the NERSBA Board membership.

Respectively Submitted,

**Mrs. Inga Stotesberry, Administrative Assistant
Northeast Regional School of Biotechnology and AgriScience**