Northeast Regional School Of

Biotechnology and Agriscience Board Meeting Minutes

Date: May 15, 2013 Present: David Peele

Time: 4:30 pm

Benjie Forrest
Supt. Joe Davis
Joe Landino

Mac Hodges

Place: Vernon James Research and Ext. Center David Peoples

Lynn West

Absent: Kenneth Harrell

Janie Spencer

Chairman David Peele called to order the meeting of the Board of the Northeast Region High School for Biotechnology and Agriscience at 4:30 pm on May 15, 2013, at the Vernon James Research and Extension Center. Melinda White proceeded with roll call. Resource personnel present are Rebecca Stanley, NC New Schools Project, Hal Davis, Principal of the Northeast Regional School of Biotechnology and Agriscience, Jean Woolard, former member of the NC State Board of Education, and Cheryl Young, County Attorney/Assistant County Manager for Washington County. Also present are Mary Wayt from the Roanoke Beacon Newspaper, County Commissioners Buster Manning, and Tracey Johnson, parents Dwight Respess and Melva Lilley, Washington County Finance Manager David Noell, and Michele Oros, Beaufort County Schools.

Joe Landino led the Board in prayer and in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Peele presented the agenda for additions and or deletions. David Peoples asked that we add an item be added under old business concerning lottery funds. Rebecca Stanley had agreed at the last meeting to check on the availability of lottery funds for the school and is prepared to discuss this. Supt. Davis asked that an additional item be added regarding an outstanding invoice with Washington County schools. This will be addressed under item 7 – Finance Report. Chairman Peele also added under old business a report on the incorporation of the NERSBA Foundation. David Peoples motioned to approve the minutes as amended with a second from Lynn West. Motion approved unanimously.

Chairman Peele then offered the April minutes for consideration and noted that the minutes are posted on the NERSBA website and were emailed to the Board members before the meeting. One correction was noted. The minutes stated that the last meeting was adjourned by Chairman Peele who was not present at the April meeting. David Peoples motions with a second from Joe Landino to approve the minutes with the correction as noted. Motion approved unanimously.

Public Comments: None

Finance Report - David Noell:

David Noell discussed handouts provided of the funds available. Chairman Peele asked if the local ADM funds are current with the 5 participating LEA's. Mr. Noell felt like they were but he will check on it and report back to Chairman Peele. Supt. Dunsmore asked if the school was committed to pay the Instructional Technology Specialist from the Golden Leaf Funds as he thought this was "in kind'. Chairman Peele said no, that Golden Leaf would only agree to fund the grant with the technology specialist position as a part of the grant.

Outstanding Invoice with Washington County Schools:

Vice-Chairman Hodges reported that a bill has been received from Washington County schools and the bill has not been paid entirely but the amount of \$15,298.36 which represents 20% (one day a week of services to the school) of the guidance counselor salary has been paid as well as \$14,328.26 for child nutrition services provided to the school. He indicated that there are still questions regarding the balance of the bill and hopes to get these matters resolved as soon as possible. Supt. Davis noted that nothing has been paid for the fiscal services provided by Washington County schools to NERSBA as well as transportation costs. Supt. Davis indicated that they would like these costs paid as soon as possible but wanted to give the Board the opportunity to ask any questions they might have. Finance Officer David Noell reported that the report provided to the Board was generated by taking the Memorandum of Understanding prepared in February and breaking down the financial piece by hours, by category and by each person involved in each category and feels that it gives a realistic look by hours of financial services provided by Washington County schools to NERSBA. He broke the report down item by item and explained to the Board the services provided by personnel for payroll services, accounts payable, services provided by himself, and services provided by the Assistant Finance Officer. The total annual cost to provide financial services is \$25,253.88. David Peoples asked that if the next fiscal year if the amount will be the same. Mr. Noell said the amount would \$25,253.88 less the one time set up cost of \$3600. Benjie Forrest asked, other than the \$3600, does this amount reflect the same amount that it would cost per student for Washington County schools or are they charging us more per student. Mr. Noell said that it cannot be broken down per student. Supt. Davis said no, that the amount is strictly the time that it takes to provide the financial services for NERSBA. Mr. Noell indicated that some days he provides 12 hours per day to Washington County schools but cannot charge for 12 hours because he is a salaried employee. Mr. Forrest said that he still does not understand why it would cost NERSBA more per student that it costs Washington County schools per student. He understands the start up fees, but asked what it costs them per student. Mr. Noell acknowledges that the cost per student for their students would be more than the cost per student for our students. Chairman Peele asked do they run each school in their system the same way they have set up NERSBA. Mr. Noell said no. Supt. Davis said they provide more work to their district and the breakdown given is a clear reflection of the services provided to NERSBA for financial services. Chairman Peele noted that the breakdown shows the Assistant Finance Manager working 36 hours per month for NERSBA and how is this possible. Mr. Noell indicated that she works these hours throughout the month and works over some days but that the hours shown are the hours she works each month for NERSBA. Mr. Noell indicated that school finances are far more complicated than corporate finances. Benjie Forrest adds that he wants to pay the due and just bill and wants to do what is fair and right, but wants to make sure that if it costs Washington County Schools X amount per student it should cost

NERSBA the same amount per student minus the start up costs and he is not clear if this is indeed what is happening or not. He indicated that maybe another meeting between the Chair and the Superintendent is needed. The issue with Supt. Davis is that it is now May 15th and Washington County schools has gone all year and provided this work with no compensation and this is unacceptable. Chairman Peele explained that one of the problems is that the former superintendent with Washington County schools who helped develop the original budget for the school did not allocate any funds for financial services. Chairman Peele also indicated that the MOU is a complete surprise: no one from Washington County Schools ever discussed a MOU and is not clear where the numbers came from indicated in the MOU. Chairman Peele expressed that a MOU was never agreed upon or accepted by the Board. The MOU was given to the Board as a document but no action was ever taken. The school was started with a certain amount of money and now the Board has to figure out how to pay a \$25000 bill and still pay teachers from now until the end of the year. Supt. Davis interjected that Senate Bill 125 indicates that Washington County Schools would be reasonably compensated for and that the services have been provided. Chairman Peele indicated that he is not disputing the services provided; it is the word reasonable and is \$25,000 reasonable for financial services. The dilemma is whether \$25,000 is the right or wrong number and no one has an answer. Chairman Peele feels that some portion of the bill can be paid but not the full \$25,000. Supt. Davis asked that the Board make a decision today regarding the bill. Benjie Forrest indicated that he is not sure if the Board is prepared to make a decision unless they base the decision on input from Chairman Peele and Vice-Chairman Hodges who have had meetings with Supt. Davis in the past regarding the bill. The only thing he can do is take what they tell him in full confidence and base a vote on that and if Chairman Peele does not feel comfortable making a decision then he does not feel comfortable. Chairman Peele feels what has been presented is not unreasonable, the issue is does NERSBA have \$25,000 to pay today. He feels that a portion of the bill can be paid but not the full \$25,000. Chairman Peele indicated Supt. Davis was told today that \$18,000 can be paid on the bill. Chairman Peele indicated that the Board has an obligation to Washington County, the teachers hired and to the students we have to make sure there is money at the last day of school. Peele again reiterated that the MOU was never accepted by the Board and that it was never signed by the Board. It was noted that the MOU bill was before the present Finance Officer and the Washington County Superintendent and that the Board is now trying to figure out exactly what is owed for accounting services. Chairman Peele again reiterated that they Board can pay today \$18,000 on the \$25,253.88. Supt. Davis noted that the original MOU bill given to the Board in February was for \$27,360 and that they have tried to be reasonable and fair which resulted in figuring actual hours spend on the accounting services provided by Washington County which in turn resulted in them reducing the bill to \$25,253.88. David Peoples asked Supt. Davis if the Board could find a way to pay some portion of the bill today and then pay the remainder at the end of the fiscal year is this acceptable to him. Supt. Davis would like more detail as to when the balance would be paid as Washington County would like to have it paid by the end of their fiscal year which is June 27th. Benjie Forrest asked Chairman Peele was their any understanding that they were headed in the right directed at the last meeting held with Supt. Davis, Mac Hodges and Chairman Peele as the figure \$18,00 continues to be used as a figure that was discussed to be paid. Chairman Peele reported that they looked at the budget at the last meeting held and that it was decided that \$18,000 could be paid. Benjie Forrest asked is it possible to have another meeting and negotiate further. David Peoples noted that if you take the bill for \$25,000 and subtract the amount for start up costs and then divide that figure by the amount of hours spent that the amount per hour seems reasonable and fair. Mac Hodges then spoke and said that

he would like for the NERSBA Board to work with the Washington County school system by being partners instead of in a constant tug of war. He motioned to pay \$18,000 today against the bill for \$25,253.88.and give the Finance Committee and whoever else would like to meet next month to meet prior to Washington County's end of year to allow the Board time to get the matter resolved. He feels that the main objective is to do what is best for the students and that there is no reason that everyone cannot work together. Benjie Forrest then asked is the motion to pay \$18000 of the bill. Benjie Forrest seconds the motion. David Peoples asked is there \$18,000 to be paid towards the bill; Chairman Peele answers yes. Supt. Davis asked for clarification is the \$18,000 towards the MOU bill of \$27,360 or towards the bill of \$25,253.88. Hodges reiterated that he wants to work towards paying the balance before Washington County closes out their fiscal year. Supt. Davis again asked for clarification again to make sure he is clear. The original bill received was \$27,360. David Noell then took this invoice and broke it down by hours actually performed which resulted in an adjusted invoice of \$25,253.88 which is about a \$2,000 reduction. The motion made is to pay \$18,000 towards the \$25,253.88 with the balance to be paid before the close of Washington County's fiscal year. Lynn West asked Supt. Davis does the \$25,253.88 replacing the \$27,360 with the amount of \$27,360.00 gone and never to be discussed again. Supt. Davis answered yes. Supt. Davis then asked to go on public record that he is a proponent of Early College and of NERSBA and doing the work of the students. He is in full support of the school and what is being done in the community. He said that all of the discussions have been about funding and not the concept, which he is in full support of. He reiterates, on behalf of Washington County Schools, they are happy to work with NERSBA and to do anything they can to make the relationship harmonious. With no further discussion the motion is approved unanimously. Chairman Peele asked David Noell to send a corrected invoice showing the amount of \$25,253.88 with a partial payment to be made of \$18,000.

Bus Transportation:

Data is provided for the costs incurred to the school for additional 20 days of bus transportation but it is unclear to Chairman Peele as to whether or not the 20 days for extra bus transportation have been submitted for reimbursement from DPI. Washington County has submitted for 180 days and not 200 days and he respectfully requests that the Transportation Director for Washington County and the other LEA's submit the requests to DPI for early college bus reimbursement for them to deny first for the additional 20 days of transportation. It is his understanding from Derek Graham Section Chief, Transportation Services. N.C. Department of Public Instruction that there is money available for extra days for early college transportation. Lynn West indicated that the NERSBA Board has received several emails to this effect. Rebecca Stanley noted that the individual transportation directors have to request the money. Chairman Peele noted that there is still time to get these requests in. Principal Davis explained that Derek Graham met with the individual transportation directors at the Vernon James Center in September and explained the process for reimbursement to them at that time. Principal Davis was asked to notify all the transportation directors and remind them to apply for this reimbursement. It was noted that with the addition of satellite days that additional transportation was only provided by the LEA's to the school for 9 days and not 20 days.

Incorporation of the NERSBA Foundation:

Chairman Peele reported that Ragsdale Liggitt, Corporate Attorneys in Raleigh have agreed to do the articles of incorporation at no charge to the school. These should be completed in another week or so and when the Foundation is legally incorporated it will then be submitted to the IRS to complete the 501 c 3 status.

<u>Update on Availability of Lottery Funds for NERSBA:</u>

Rebecca Stanley with New Schools Project reported that she contacted Rob Hines, with DPI if the school is eligible for lottery funds and if so how do we access those funds. He indicated that the school is eligible for school lottery funds. Ken Phelps is the contact person with DPI for additional information. She also asked if the State will provide the principals salary for the next school year. Typically once a school reaches 100 students the State picks up the Principals salary, however the school is not funded as other schools are funded so the Principals salary will not be picked up by the State. It is possible that the Board could propose to the General Assembly as they talk with legislatures, that this was an oversight in the way the Senate Bill 125 was written and the State could pick up the salary but as it is currently written the state will not fund the salary. Lynn West indicated that it was understood in earlier meetings that DPI would provide the money for a level 3 principal's salary. Rebecca Stanley indicated that this is not written in the legislature. The Principals salary will currently have to come from ADM funds. She also asked if the school was available for CTE funding, i.e. Perkins money etc. and Rob Hines indicated that NERSBA is eligible but there is a lot of detail involved and that it would benefit the Board to have Joanne Honeycutt who is the State Director with CTE to come and address the specifics. Rebecca Stanley agreed to contact her and make the arrangements for her to come. Chairman Peele asked what the magnitude of the money involved. Lynn West indicated that it is based on ADM grade 8-12. Benjie Forrest indicated that it is based on a formula which used to be 1 month of employment for every 95 students. Lynn West indicated that each system received a base of 50 months of employment and above that funding was on ADM grades 8-12. Mr. Forrest is not clear if NERSBA would be considered a system or not but feels that it is worth looking into. Rebecca Stanley will contact Joanne Honeycutt.

Old Business:

<u>Update on Clean Water Management Trust Fund Grant Application – David Peoples:</u>

David Peoples reported that the grant has been awarded and work is supposed to start June 3rd with completion in September. Since the grant is made to the Washington County Board of Commissioners there will be a presentation made to them at their October Board Meeting which he will facilitate.

New Business:

Michele Oros - NERSBA Grant Update -

Michele Oros, grant writer with Beaufort County Schools who has agreed to work with NERSBA, reported that a grant proposal of approx. \$88,000 was submitted to the North Carolina Biotechnology Center to enable the development of a combination biotechnology/chemistry curriculum for upcoming juniors. This is a brand new combination curriculum which does not currently exist in the State. If this pre-proposal is accepted then a full proposal will have to be written during the summer for submission in August. Principal Davis visited and had a personal interview with the Biotechnology Center which was recommended. At the same time there was a Burroughs Wellcome Foundation grant considered for submission which had previously been submitted. The money from this grant has to be spent after schools hours i.e. evening, weekends and

summer and cannot be spent during the regular school day. The original proposal was to have students stay after school several times a week and during the summer and pay stipends to work with researchers at the Vernon James Center. This was received in favor by Burroughs Wellcome; however, they did not fund it because the school did not exist at the time of the original submission but welcomed another proposal to be submitted. After reviewing it for resubmission it was realized that in order for students to stay after school, with the way the school has come together as a regional school, that another bus run would be necessary. The complex bus system necessary would need to be financed by the grant which would use a good portion of the grant. Also, with the extension of the school year if would make it difficult to find time to do the activities named in the grant. Another possibility is the Bright Ideas Grant which provides an annual grant for teachers but the school is not in the system to be selected so the school would need to pursue being placed in their system. Lynn West asked why the school did not apply for the \$25,000 Monsanto Grant as she knew the school was encouraged to apply. In order to apply you have to have a sponsor, a farmer, with 5,000 acres or more which the school had. Ms. Oros indicated that she did not discourage the school from applying until a week before submission when a farmer had not independently come forward to invite the school. She explained that the way the process works is that a farmer independently and separately has to log into a public Monsanto website. She also explained that the application process is set up by county and that there is no provision for a charter school or an independent school to obtain votes and only one applicant per county is allowed. Benjie Forrest asked if Burroughs Wellcome would consider the additional 20 days that NERSBA is in session beyond the 180 as unique enough not to be considered as part of a normal school day. She answered that if they are considered as part of our particular schools count of days they count as student days and cannot be considered.

Report from Principal Davis:

<u>Acceptable Use of Electronic Resources – Julie Gurganus/Tracie Asby</u>

Julie Gurganus and Tracie Asby were available for questions regarding the acceptable use of electronic resources policy that was presented to the Board at the April meeting. Julie Gurganus stated that she did review the Board minutes from the April meeting and noted that David Peoples recommended that item B on page 3 - political use also read all other political and elected offices and she did add this. Lynn West asked if it was not recommended at the last meeting to compare this policy to the State Board policy. Ms. Gurganus noted that she was aware that Supt. Dunsmore suggested this and in preparing this policy she looked at several school districts policies and communicated with representatives with DPI to make sure she included all components especially reflective of the children's internet protection act and cyber bullying. She noted that the policy presented is in accordance with other school policies that she looked at i.e. Washington County, Tyrell County, and Beaufort County etc. Lynn West asked if there are any legal statutes that need to be attached to the policy as most polices do. Ms. Gurganus noted that the other policies she reviewed did not have statutes attached and that the DPI represented did not mention this. David Peoples noted that the statutes are cited in the Washington County Policy. Ms. Gurganus noted that Washington County did have legal references cited. Ms. Gurganus will add legal references. David People motioned that the policy be adopted with addition of the legal references. He also noted that the document presented is an excellent document. Motion is seconded by Michael Dunsmore. With no further discussion, the motion is approved unanimously.

Parental Advisory Committee Recommendation for Board Representative

Principal Davis presented Dwight Respess to be named to the Board as the parental advisory committee representative. Benjie Forrest motioned with a second from Lynn West to accept Principal Davis recommendation. Motion approved unanimously.

NERSBA Student Recruitment for 2013-14

Principal Davis reported that recruitment has been taking place since January for the 2013-14 school year and that at total of 106 students have been interviewed. A breakdown of applicants for each LEA is provided. Acceptance letters have been mailed to 60 students. Supt. Davis asked if there is a breakdown by county of the 60 students being offered acceptance. Principal Davis noted that he will have this at the June meeting. Chairman Peele noted that Senate Bill 125 sets how many students can be accepted from each county.

NERSBA East Campus Site

Principal Davis reported that the school is set to take possession of the East Campus, formerly the Windows on the World building on June 1st. The tentative plan is to place the freshman class at the East Campus and the sophomore class will remain at the Vernon James Center. He is also getting proposals for technology for the East Campus as well.

NERSBA Trip to State FFA Convention Approval

Principal Davis asked for Board approval for 20 FFA members to attend the State FFA Convention June 18-20, 2013. He reported that 4 different groups earned recognition to compete in CDE events at the Convention. Benjie Forrest moved with a second from Michael Dunsmore to allow students to attend convention. David Peoples asked if there is any cost associated and if so how is it being funded. Principal Davis reported that there is a cost and that students are doing a fund raiser. If enough funds are not raised from the fund raiser there are funds available from a previous fund raiser and that the cost to the student will be minimal. Chairman Peele asked if there would be any cost to NERSBA. Principal Davis answered no and also noted that several donations have already been received to fund the students. With no further discussion motion is approved unanimously.

2013-14 Calendar Proposals

Principal Davis provided two draft copies to the Board for their review and approval. He noted that these were emailed previously to the Board members as well. Option A has school starting August 12 and ending on June 20th. Option B has school beginning August 5th and ending June 12th. Principal Davis then asked Tracie Asby to discuss the basic differences between the two calendars and Julie Gurganus to discuss the exam schedule and how it will be affected by the two calendars presented. Ms. Asby noted that satellite days are in red and these will be done as they were this year with each group of students meeting in their own counties but Freshmen and Sophomores will meet together to allow for interaction between each building to keep it from seeming like there are two different schools. Each month has at least one satellite day to allow the students to interact. Teacher's workdays are noted in blue, annual leave and holidays are in yellow and green and she noted that effort was made to match these dates with

dates from the other LEA's calendars especially Christmas holiday which is a complete two weeks and spring break. Early release days are in brown and every effort was made to match these with Washington County work days and early release as they provide bus transportation. Julie Gurganus then discussed how the exam schedule will be affected by each calendar presented. For those not aware Ms. Gurganus noted that the State is now implementing common exams so even subjects that have not been tested in the past are now being tested. The test has a constructive response portion that has to be scored at the school level. This requires NERSBA faculty to partner with another school district due to the small NERSBA staff to score the common exams. This year NERSBA partnered with Beaufort County schools however, they are finishing up and scoring exams on June 6th but the NERSBA calendar goes until June 19th so NERSBA exam schedule had to be revised to be ready to score with them. This will have to be taken into consideration for next year. Calendar A will work better for exams in the middle of the year but will still have the same issues with the final exams in June. Chairman Peele asked how many teachers it takes to score each exam and Ms. Gurganus answered at least two. Chairman Peele asked can we hire two teachers from Beaufort County to just be available to help with testing. Lynn West asked if we could hire a retired teacher or a teacher on maternity leave that is certified and is in the subject area. This is a better option that would work with Draft Calendar B. Chairman Peele asked how much ahead of the other LEA's would NERSBA be starting with an August 5th start date. Principal Davis answered that a typical LEA starts on the 25th or 26 of August. David Peoples asked if the money for transportation is recurring money or is it decided upon each year. Principal Davis answered that it is decided upon each year. It was also noted that with Calendar Draft B there would not be a conflict with students still being in class during the State FFA Convention. Rebecca Stanley also noted that Calendar Draft B also matches up better with college classes. Lynn West and Michael Dunsmore suggested that Ms. Gurganus look at the substitute lists of the other LEA's for certified teachers to help with testing as well. Jean Woolard commented on the transportation money. As she understands it from her conversations with Derek Graham, transportation money is a pot of money that is not designated days wise; it is money that can be used as long as funds are available. David Peoples asked Mr. Manning and Mr. Respass if the August 5th start date would impact the students working on farms during the summer time. Mr. Respess answered that it would not impact it as much as the Draft Calendar A ending date of June 20th. He feels this would have more of a negative impact that the start date of August 5th. Principal Davis noted that the parental advisory committee prefers Draft calendar B. Benjie Forrest motioned with a second from Lynn West to adopt calendar B. David Peoples calls for the question. Motion approved unanimously.

FFA Parent Member Awards Banquet

Principal Davis reported that the FFA Parent Member awards banquet will be held Thursday, May 23rd at 6:00pm with Steve Troxler, Commissioner of Agriculture as the guest speaker. All scholastic awards will be presented at this time.

NERSBA Spring Semester Exam Schedule

Principal Davis reported that spring exams will start the 31st of May and conclude on June 12th.

June 7th - Jean Woolard

Jean Woolard reported that Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack will be visiting the NERSBA campus on Friday June 7th. He will arrive at 11:00 am until approximately 3 pm. An invitation is extended to the Board members to be on campus on this date to meet with Secretary Vilsack.

NERSBA/Pitt Community College Biotechnology Workshop:

Principal Davis reported that Pitt Community college has expressed interest in partnering with our school. On June 17th the students will be attending a biotechnology workshop at Pitt Community College. Next year they would like to do workshops in biotechnology with our sophomore class on some of the satellite days. An individual will be coming on May 22nd from the North Carolina Biotechnology Center to work with all of the students.

NERSBA Board Meeting Schedule for 2013-14:

Principal Davis asked for input from the board regarding the Board meeting for the 2013-14 school year. David Peoples recommended that we stay with the same schedule of meeting on the third Wednesday of the month.

Principal Davis reported that the students raised 963.54 to donate to Relay for Life by donating loose change.

Principal Davis reported that the students will be going to Kings Dominion on June 14th for a science education day.

Principal Davis reported that the students have narrowed down the choice for mascot to the bulldog and the maverick. The faculty and parental advisory committee endorse the maverick with the student body split. Principal Davis asked that the Board give consideration and have it as an agenda item for the June meeting.

Principal Davis expressed his gratitude for the concern and prayers shown to him recently at the death of his father.

Mac Hodges reported that the Finance Committee will be meeting Tuesday, May 21st at 1:30 pm to discuss the school budget for next year. The meeting will be held at the Vernon James Center.

Chairman Peele appointed a committee of one – Supt. Michael Dunsmore- to come back and recommend to the Board the procedure to develop a set of policies and procedures necessary for the school to have by the time of start of school. Supt. Dunsmore asked to go on the record that it will be virtually impossible to develop this by the start of the school year. Tyrell County has been working on theirs over a school year and half. Most systems go through the School Board Association and it is a costly and lengthy process but that it is an organized process with "I's dotted and t's crossed".

Lynn West noted that she and Supt. Davis will be at training on June 19th which is the next scheduled board meeting. It was also noted that Benjie Forrest and Mac Hodges will be at the FFA Convention June 19th. The next scheduled Board meeting will be June 13th at 1:30 pm.

With no further business a motion is made by David Peoples with a second from Michael Dunsmore adjourn the meeting. Chairman Peele adjourned the meeting at 6:40 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Melinda White