



NERSBA Board of Directors Meeting
Technology Center
Wednesday, August 16, 2023
4:30 PM

1. Open Session:

1.1 Call to order/Welcoming: Mr. Benjie Forrest, Chair

1.2 Roll Call: Mrs. Inga Stotesberry

Present: Benjie Forrest, Brian Busch, Simon Griffin, Ephraigm Smith, Jerry Phelps,
Joyce Moore, Trey Goodson, Vanessa Cherry, Kendal Paramore, Jason Davis

Absent: Dr. Ethan Lenker, Kenneth Harrell, Karen Clough, Melva Lilly

1.3 Invocation & United States Pledge of Allegiance: Mr. Julius Walker

1.4 Approval of August 16, 2023 NERSBA Board Meeting Agenda: Mr. Benjie Forrest, Chair
Mr. Simon Griffin moved to approve agenda as presented by Mr. Davis. Mr. Kendal Paramore seconded the motion. The motion passed with a majority vote by the NERSBA board membership.

1.5 Public Comments: None

2. Board Member Oath of Office Administration: Mrs. Tonya Leggett, Martin County Clerk of Court

Mr. Hal Davis introduced Mrs. Tonya Leggett, Martin County Clerk of Superior Court to the NERSBA board membership. Mrs. Leggett was in attendance at the meeting to administer the board membership oath of office in to NERSBA board member, Dr. Jason Davis who will be representing the University of Mount Olive. Dr. Davis was administered the oath of office as administered by Clerk of Court Leggett.

3. NERSBA Scholastic Report: Mr. William Askew

Mr. Askew was not in attendance at the board meeting. Mr. Hal Davis informed the board of the following reference points as related to the scholastic operations at the NERSBA Early College:

- ✦ The NERSBA scholastic calendar officially started on August 3rd
- ✦ Martin Community College began classes on August 16th
- ✦ Mr. Davis presented to the board an informational letter from Martin Community College President, Wesley Beddard noting the accomplishments of Martin Community during the 2022-2023 school year.

4. NERSBA Fiscal Report: Mr. Hal Davis

4.1 Mr. Davis informed the board that the North Carolina General Assembly is still working with budgetary issues. NERSBA is currently working under our Continuing Budget Resolution until a formal budget is approved by the North Carolina General Assembly.

4.2 Finance Committee Meeting: Mr. Hal Davis

Mr. Davis will be requesting the board finance committee to meet in the very near future to receive an update regarding the fiscal status of NERSBA as effected by current budgetary projections. Mr. Davis informed the board finance committee that he would be scheduling this meeting in the very near future.

5. NERSBA Informational Items: Mr. Hal Davis

5.1 2023-2024 Scholar Enrollment Information

Mr. Davis provided information indicating a current enrollment of 127 students. Mr. Davis informed the Board that this number is six (6) students less than previous enrollment projections presented to the board in May of this year.

5.2 Innovative Curriculum Design Workgroup Report: Mr. David Jenkins

Mr. Jenkins presented information from the NERSBA Innovative Curriculum Committee meeting held prior to the board meeting earlier in the afternoon which included:

- ✚ Scholars met with counselors and administrative staff to review and formulate their interests for college courses.
- ✚ Mrs. Kolikas and Mr. Jenkins have met with freshmen to review various components of an early college program
- ✚ NERSBA guidance efforts will be directed to promote students completing their individual program of studies over a five-year period
- ✚ Currently, FFA is our only student organization with many students not directly active. NERSBA guidance staff, administrators and faculty be working toward creating new social club meetings
- ✚ Mrs. Kolikas and Mr. Jenkins met with representatives from the ECU AgroMedicine Institute sponsored by East Carolina University, North Carolina State University and North Carolina Agricultural and Technology Institute. The NERSBA Early College looks to collaborating with this organization through internships and on-site classes in agricultural medicine. Representatives have indicated they are willing to come to our campus and teach while exploring additional options for partnerships.

5.3 Legislative Update: Mr. Benjie Forrest

This information was previously discussed in line item 4.1

5.4 North Carolina Stronger Connections Grant: Mr. Hal Davis

Mr. Davis noted that Mrs. Julie Gurganus has researched a grant opportunity to help NERSBA address Social and Emotional Learning Issues as related to our NERSBA scholars. With the assistance of Mr. David Jenkins, Mr. Davis, Mr. Askew and individual faculty members, she has developed a partnership grant that could mean we may receive \$433,000.00 in funding to address social ad emotional learning should we get approved for the 2024-2026 three-year grant (2024-2026).

A copy of the grant application was provided to all board members for their review

5.5 2023-2024 Parent/Student/School Compact Agreement: Mr. Hal Davis

Mr. Davis informed the board that all of the Public School Units we collaborate with are classified as Title I Districts. We are not yet designated as Title 1 school; applications have not been completed to receive any Title I funding to date.

An integral part of this process will include NERSBA displaying how and what we are doing for support with respect to holding parents, students and staff accountable. The 2023-2024 attached agreement is an example that NERSBA is currently using to facilitate this process

6. NERSBA Action Items: Mr. Hal Davis

6.1 Approval of July 16, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes: Mr. Benjie Forrest, Chair

With Consent of the board, we will delay the approval of the minutes, due to Mrs. Stotesberry being out due to family sickness and death of her father in law and not having the time to complete. We will bring this back in the September board meeting.

6.2 Classified Employee Salary Schedule Development Committee: Mr. Hal Davis






Mr. Davis presented to the board the need to review the salaries of all classified staff. He noted that individuals employed in these positions to not receive any salary adjustments unless adjustments are made during budget discussions through the North Carolina General Assembly.

Mr. Davis noted the importance to develop a formal salary schedule that could be implemented with all classified employees at the NERSBA Early College. After discussion, chairman Benjie Forrest recommended that Mr. Davis contact Dr. Larry Price to look at other systems in eastern North Carolina as comparison to our current salaries for classified staff.

Mr. Kendall Paramore moved to approve for Mr. Davis to move forward with talking to Dr. Price and formalize a plan moving forward. Mrs. Vanessa Cherry seconded the motion. The motion passed with a majority vote by the NERSBA board membership.

6.3 Capital Outlay Facility Projects (Request for Approval) Mr. Hal Davis

Mr. Davis presented to the board an outline for projected costs of facility project needs which total \$157,000:

-  Walkway Installation
-  Auditorium Flooring Repair
-  Metal Awning Installation
-  Fencing Project
-  Lighting /Ceiling Project

These expenses will be taken out of the \$400,000.00 School Improvement Legislative Grant. Mr. Davis noted that approximately \$85,000.00 of this grant has previously been allocated towards the NERSBA Greenhouse Project. Mr. Kendall Paramore moved to approve the project recommendations as outlined by Mr. Davis. Mr. Trey Goodson seconded the motion. The motion passed with a majority vote by the NERSBA board membership.

6.4 National FFA Convention Approval: Mr. Hal Davis

Mr. Davis informed the board membership that Mrs. Maria Dickinson wishes to chaperone a group of NERSBA students to the National FFA Convention which is scheduled October 31st – November 4th. Mr. Davis noted that our FFA Chapter and Mrs. Dickinson are collaborating with Bear Grass Charter School. The projected cost of the trip per student is \$650.00.

Dr. Brian Busch moved to approve the trip as presented by Mr. Davis. Mr. Julius Walker seconded the motion. The motion passed with a majority vote by the NERSBA board membership.

7. Closed Session (NCGS 143-318.11(6))/Personnel

Mr. Kendall Paramore moved for the board to enter into closed session per the statutes noted. Mrs. Joyce Moore seconded the motion.

By mutual consent, the board accepted the personnel recommendation made by Mr. Hal Davis.

8. Announcements: Mr. Hal Davis

Mr. Davis made the following announcements to our board membership:

- 8.1 Underclassmen Photographs: August 30, 2023 @ 9AM
- 8.2 NERSBA Global Agricultural Studies Day: September 1st
- 8.3 National Labor Day Holiday: September 4th
- 8.4 NERSBA Board of Directors meeting, September 20, 2023 @ 4:30 PM

9. Motion to Adjourn

After a request from Chairman Forrest, Mrs. Brown moved to adjourn the meeting. With mutual seconds to the motion from respective board members, the motion was approved with a unanimous vote at 5:50 PM.