



**NERSBA Early College  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Technology Center  
Wednesday, November 15, 2023  
4:30 PM**

**1. Open Session**

1.1 Call to Order/Welcome: Mr. Benjie Forrest, Chair

1.2 Roll Call: Mrs. Inga Stotesberry

**Present:** Benjie Forrest, Brian Bush, Julius Walker, Kenneth Harrell, Simon Griffin, Melva Lilley, Joyce Moore, Trey Goodson, Vanessa Cherry, Kendall Paramore, Jason Davis

**Absent:** Ethan Lenker, Ephraigm Smith, Jerry Phelps, Karen Clough

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

1.4 **Approval of November 15, 2023 Board Meeting Agenda**

Mr. Kendall Paramore approved the agenda with the removal of line item #9 closed session. Mrs. Melva Lilley seconded the motion. The motion to approve the agenda as noted passed with a majority vote by the board membership.

1.5 **Public Comments: None**

**2. Public Hearing for Regional School: Washington County Schools Request to Withdraw from NERSBA Early College (NCGS115C-238.62) Mr. Benjie Forrest, Chair**

- On October 18, NERSBA's legal counsel received a letter and resolution from the Washington County Board of Education's attorney. The letter contained a resolution stating the Washington County Board of Education intends to withdraw from NERSBA effective with the 2023-2024 academic calendar.
- North Carolina General Statutes Section 115C-238.62 requires a regional school that receives a valid withdrawal resolution to hold a public hearing on the resolution.
- Mr. Forrest reminded board members of NERSBA the hearing is for the general public. Board members should hold their comments until the board formally considers the resolution during the meeting.

- Mr. Forrest opened the public hearing regarding the Washington County Board of Educations' resolution of withdrawal from NERSBA.
- He addressed the meeting asking for any member of the audience who wishes to speak regarding the resolution to please complete registration with the public-comment signature sheet posted in the lobby. He requested that speakers to please limit comments to five minutes in length.
- *Parents, guardians, current and former students expressed their concerns of withdrawal, noting desires for a better education for their child and historical concerns they've had with Washington County Schools.*
- *Students expressed their experiences at NERBSA and would not be where they were now if it had not been for NERSBA.*
- *The attorney for Washington County Schools addressed the board outlining financial concerns for Washington County. He noted the Washington County Board of Education wished for the dollars devoted to NERSBA to stay their county.*
- After allowing all attendees the opportunity to address the board during public comments and seeing there were no other members of the public who desired to speak; Mr. Forrest declared the public hearing regarding the resolution closed.

### 3. Consideration of Washington County (Resolution Request/NC GS 115C-238.62) Mr. Benjie Forrest, Chair

#### ***BOARD DISSCUSSION:***

With the conclusion of the public hearing, Mr. Forrest opened the floor for discussion regarding the resolution as presented by Washington County Schools. Before opening discussion regarding the resolution, Mr. Forrest made the following points of reference:

The North Carolina General Statues requires a certain process for when a member of a regional school wishes to withdraw. Washington County School's resolution is only the second withdrawal resolution ever submitted according to the General Statutes. It is therefore very important for the board to ensure complete understanding of the process and what the withdrawal could mean for NERSBA.

- As for the process, the General Statutes says that the NERSBA Board can, but is not required to, approve the resolution. If the resolution is approved, the State Board of Education will receive the resolution and review the document at the state level. If the NERSBA Board does not approve the request to withdraw, then Washington County Schools will remain a member of NERSBA.
- In addition, the General Statutes state that a vote of at least two-thirds of the membership of the board of directors is required to approve the request to withdraw. This means that at least 10 members of the NERSBA Board must approve the Washington Board of Education's request for the resolution to be approved.

- Mr. Forrest reminded the NERSBA Board members that each member should vote in the best interest of NERSBA. The pledged duty is to NERSBA. He also noted that should any NERSBA director believes he or she has a conflict of interest that prevents him or her from acting in the best interest of NERSBA, he asked for that director to recuse himself or herself. Mr. Julius Walker recused himself prior to a voted of the board membership.
- Finally, Mr. Forrest pointed out that no one from the Washington County Board of Education reached out to the NERSBA board regarding their resolution. Mr. Forrest also expressed the notion that he would hope that we could work together for the good of our region instead of sending unexpected withdrawal resolutions.
- Mr. Forrest asked the directors for any comments regarding the resolution or any motions. No board member responded to the open discussion.
- After a period of time, Mr. Forrest asked if any board member would like to offer a motion to approve the withdrawal request on the part of Washington County Schools. No discussion or motion was presented regarding the resolution.
- The resolution received no discussion or motion to withdraw. This is short of what is required by the General Statutes for withdrawal. The Washington County Board of Education resolution to withdraw was not approved.
- Mr. Forrest asked Washington County Board of Education to work with NERSBA to collaboratively move their programs forward.
- Mr. Forrest informed the board that our schools' leadership would be meeting with representatives from Washington County in the coming weeks to address any disconnect and what both boards my do to mutually support NERSBA and our member school districts.

#### **4. Scholastic Report/Curriculum Development Committee Update: Mr. David Jenkins**

Mr. Jenkins presented the following informational items to the board:

- The ACT test administrations has been scheduled for February
- Workkeys Testing is scheduled for December 1<sup>st</sup> at Martin Community College
- The University of Mount Olive tour was a tremendous success
- Junior scholars toured East Carolina University in October
- The field trip to Jockeys Ridge State Park and Nags Head Woods offered unique learning experiences for our scholars
- We are working to finalizing spring semester scholar and faculty schedules
- Our NERSBA Greenhouse is almost complete with electrical installation finalized. Plumbing and natural gas line connections are to be run in the near future

**5. Financial Report: Mr. David Jenkins**

**5.1 2023-2024 Fiscal Report/December Audit Presentation will be presented at the December Meeting.**

**5.2 Local Chart of Accounts Update: Mr. David Jenkins**

Documents are provided showing ALL Local accounts and balances held at Southern Bank.

**6. Informational Items: Mr. David Jenkins**

**6.1 Capital Improvement Projects Update/NC Legislative Grant: Mr. David Jenkins**

This document provides an outline of various projects completed and currently in progress and projected costs. Funding for these projects have been designated from respective Legislative Grants devoted to NERSBA by the General Assembly.

**6.2 Classified Employee Salary Schedule: Comparison Salary Ranges for Classified Employees**

This document compiled by Dr. Larry Price presented a salary comparison range throughout the State of NC public schools for information purposes. Possible salary schedules will be reviewed and discussed by our board in the near future.

**6.3 National FFA Convention Review:** Our NERSBA Delegation joined 73,000 FFA members in Indianapolis, Indiana. Three of our former scholars received their American FFA Degrees. The NERSBA Early College received a National Chapter Award. Mr. Forrest requested a slide show of pictures to present to board during a later meeting.

**6.4 Varsity Spirit Wear Marketplace (<https://nersba23.itemorder.com>):** To purchase Spirit Wear login onto the website listed.

**7. Action Items: Mr. David Jenkins**

**7.1 Approval of the September 20, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes: Mr. Benjie Forrest, Chair**  
Mr. Simon Griffin moved to approve the board meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Julius Walker seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes received a majority vote by the NERSBA board membership.

**7.2 State FFA Land Judging Career Development Event/Request for Overnight Field Trip**  
Mr. Kendall Paramore moved to approve the overnight field trip as presented. Ms. Vanessa Cherry seconded the motion. The motion to approve the trip to the State FFA Land Judging Contest to be held in Lincoln county received a majority vote by the NERSBA board membership.

**7.3 Personnel Recommendations: Mr. Jenkins (upon the absence of Mr. Davis)**  
Mr. Jenkins recommenced Ms. Logan Modlin to be employed as an instructional facilitator beginning January 2, 2024.

Dr. Brian Busch moved to accept the personnel recommendation as presented. Mrs. Joyce Moore seconded the motion. The motion to approve the recommendations received a majority vote by the NERSBA board membership.

**8. Announcements:**

The following announcements were made at the conclusion of the meeting:

- 8.1 Early College Fall Dance: November 21, 2023 @Deadwood 7PM
- 8.2 Professional Day/Scholar Holiday: November 22<sup>nd</sup>
- 8.3 Thanksgiving Holidays: November 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup>
- 8.4 Next Board of Directors Meeting, December 13, 2023 @4:30 PM (Audit Presentation)
- 8.5 Early College Fall Semester Exams: December 14<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>

**9. Closed Session:** NCGS 143-318.11(6) (Personnel) was removed under 1.4 due to Mr. Davis' absence.

**10. Motion To Adjourn:**

Mrs. Joyce Moore motioned to adjourn meeting. Mrs. Melva Lilley seconded the motion. The motion passed. The November board meeting was adjourned at 5:35 PM.

