



NERSBA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
NERSBA Technology Center
Wednesday, July 21, 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, Ethan Lenker, Kenneth Harrell, Simon Griffin, Ephraigm Smith, Melva Lilley, Michele Spence
Absent: Jean Woolard, Jerry Phelps, Karen Clough, Terry Draper, Joyce Moore
Tardy: Brian Busch
- 1.3 Invocation & United States Pledge of Allegiance: Mr. Julius Walker
- 1.4 Approval of July 2021 Board Meeting Agenda: Mr. Benjie Forrest, Chair
Mr. Ephraigm Smith 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 Public Comments: None

2. NERSBA Business Items: NERSBA Board Membership

2.1 Public Hearing (NCGS 115C-238.62)

Mr. Benjie Forrest informed our board that NERSBA Principal Hal Davis received an email from the Tyrrell County Board of Education attorney on July 1, 2021. The email contained a resolution stating that Tyrrell County Board of Education intends to withdraw from NERSBA effective with the 2021-2022 academic year.

Mr. Forrest noted that North Carolina General Statute Section 115C-238.62 requires a regional school that receives a valid withdrawal resolution to hold a public hearing on the resolution at the next meeting upon receiving a formal resolution.

Mr. Forrest reminded the board membership this hearing is open for the public. Board members should hold their comments until the board formally considers the resolution. Mr. Forrest then opened the floor for public comments regarding the Tyrrell County Board's Resolution to withdraw from NERSBA.

During the public hearing, two speakers approached the board. Mrs. Jean Laplante and Mrs. Molly Long noted the positive aspects of NERSBA and encouraged the board to work with Tyrrell County Schools to remain a partner with NERSBA.

At the conclusion of the hearing, Mr. Forrest asked for any further discussion regarding the resolution on the part of Tyrrell County Schools. With no further comments, Mr. Forrest closed the public hearing.

2.2 Consideration of Resolution (NCGS 115C-238.62) Mr. Benjie Forrest, Chair

Mr. Forrest noted that once the public hearing concluded, the board could discuss the resolution as a formal agenda item. Mr. Forrest stated the following protocols regarding the resolution from Tyrrell County Schools would be followed:

*The General Statutes outlines that a board can, but is not required to approve the resolution. If the resolution is approved, the State Board of Education will then review and consider the resolution at their level. If the NERSBA board does not approve the request to withdraw, the resolution would not be forwarded to the North Carolina State Board of Education for their consideration.

*Mr. Forrest also reminded the NERSBA board members that each director should vote in the best interest of NERSBA. If 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, Mr. Forrest asked for that director to recuse himself or herself from voting on any proposed motions with respect to the resolution from Tyrrell County Schools. No board member recused from voting.

*Mr. Forrest also informed the NERSBA board that no one from the Tyrrell County Board of Education reached out to him regarding the resolution before or after they approved the document to withdraw. He also stated that he would hope that both boards could work together for the good of our region instead of sending unexpected withdrawal resolutions.

Mrs. Melva Lilley asked for clarification regarding concerns on behalf of Mrs. Laplante who stated her child was not provided bus transportation by Tyrrell County Schools. Mr. Davis affirmed that information on the part of Tyrrell County Schools. Mrs. Lilley requested the issue of transportation on the part of students from Tyrrell County attending NERSBA also be successfully addressed.

Mr. Forrest asked for any further discussion or debate regarding the Tyrrell County Schools resolution. No further debate or motion to approve the resolution was offered by the NERSBA Board of Directors. No further action was taken during the meeting.

Mr. Forrest asked that Tyrrell County Board of Education work with NERSBA and that as a regional collaborative, we wish to achieve success together. He asked for Mr. Davis to meet with representatives from Tyrrell County Schools to seek opportunities to mutually support Tyrrell County Schools, NERSBA and our respective member school districts.

2.3 Approval of June 2021 Board Meeting Minutes: Mr. Benjie Forrest, Chair

Mr. Kenneth Harrell moved to approve the June 2021 Board meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Simon Griffin seconded the motion. The motion passed with a majority vote by the NERSBA board.

2.4 NERSBA Facilities Improvement Initiative: Mr. William Askew, Mr. Hal Davis

Mr. Askew and Mr. Davis stated that a number of campus facility projects have been completed during the summer. They provided a brief update on the following:

- *Re-organization of classroom space and room assignments
- *Class rooms located in the 1937 building have been cleared out and cleaned
- *Removal of student lockers with walls painted and cove molding installed
- *A wall mural outlining North Carolina agriculture has been developed and applied
- *AgriScience Engineering Laboratory renovations and upgrades

Mr. Davis informed the board that he and Mr. Askew would like to conduct a facility walkthrough at 4:00 PM prior to our August 18th board of directors meeting for our board membership to see the campus and review continued facility needs.

2.5 NERSBA Summer Opportunity Program Review: Mr. Hal Davis

Mr. Davis informed the board of the schools' Summer Learning Opportunity Program. He noted students received instruction in Math, Science and AgriScience during the three-week session recently completed on July 2nd.

2.6 NERSBA 2021-2022 Scholar Enrollment Information: Mr. Hal Davis

Mr. Davis presented information regarding projected scholar enrollment numbers by Grade Level and Local Educational Agency. He indicated a projected enrollment of 167 scholars for the 2021-2022 school year.

2.7 NERSBA Scholastic Review:

Mr. William Askew outlined several projects that have been completed or are currently underway to facilitate the start of the new school year. He provided an update regarding faculty and staff and their teaching assignments for the new school year.

2.8 NERSBA Financial Report: Mr. Hal Davis

Mr. Davis presented information regarding our operational budget for the 2021-2022 academic calendar. He noted that we are operating on a continuing budget resolution until the North Carolina General Assembly finalizes the state budget and our board approves a formal budget hopefully in September or October.

Mr. Davis also informed the board that NERSBA could have a potential fund balance of \$700,000.00 once all receipts and disbursements are finalized. He also presented information regarding the status of our scholastic audit that is currently underway. Auditors are completing their work in reviewing our financial records from the 2020-2021 school year.

2.9 NERSBA COVID Operational Protocols: Mr. Hal Davis

Mr. Davis presented updated information regarding the incidences of the COVID-19 Virus within Martin, Tyrrell and Washington counties. Mr. Davis stated that NERSBA would be requiring students and staff to wear masks/face coverings while on buses and on campus with the start of the new school year. A copy of the most recent Martin-Tyrrell-Washington County District Health report was provided to our board membership for review.

2.10 North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Grant: Mr. Hal Davis

Mr. Davis informed the board of an on-site visit with a representative from the Tobacco Trust Fund to review the site for a proposed greenhouse as outlined within the grant proposed to this organization recently. Mr. Davis noted the visit went very well and that NERSBA hopes to hear information relative to the grant in early November.

3. CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Julius Walker moved to go into closed session at 5:07 PM. Mr. Kenneth Harrell seconded the motion regarding NCGS 143-318.11(a.6) and Attorney Client Privilege (NCGS 143-318.11(a.3)).

4. OPEN SESSION @ 5:23 PM

Dr. Ethan Lenker moved to accept the personnel recommendations as presented by Mr. Davis. Mr. Kenneth Harrell seconded the motion. The motion passed with a majority vote by the NERSBA board of directors

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Davis informed the board of future events and schedules at NERSBA:

5.1 NERSBA August Board of Directors Meeting Date:

Wednesday, August 18th at 4:30 PM

Mr. Davis requests board members to arrive on campus at 4:00 PM for a tour of the school to see the improvements and to show some improvements that need to be addressed in the very near future.

5.2 NERSBA Scholar/Parent Orientation Sessions:

July 27th-29th Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

5.3 NERSBA Opening of School Schedules

5.4 NERSBA Financial Resources Workshop: Saturday, August 21st at 8:30-11:45 AM

6. MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. Ephraim Smith moved to adjourn meeting at 5:26 PM. Mrs. Michele Spence seconded the motion. The motion passed with a majority vote by the NERSBA Board.

Respectively Submitted,

Mrs. Inga Stotesberry, NERSBA Administrative Assistant