



NERSBA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
NERSBA Technology Center
Wednesday, December 8, 2021
4:30 PM

1. Open Session

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

1.2 Roll Call: Mr. Hal Davis (Inga Stotesberry was absent)

Present: Benjie Forrest, Julius Walker, Ethan Lenker, Simon Griffin, Ephraigm Smith, Terry Draper, Melva Lilley, Michele Spence (by phone), Joyce Moore, Susan Tyre (by phone)
Absent: Kenneth Harrell, Jerry Phelps, Karen Clough, Brian Busch

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

1.4 Approval of the December 2021 Board Meeting Agenda: Mr. Benjie Forrest, Chair

Mr. Simon Griffin moved to approve the meeting agenda as presented by Mr. Hal Davis. After receiving a second, the motion passed with a majority vote by the NERSBA board membership.

1.5 Public Comments:

Dr. Linda Carr, Superintendent of Washington County Schools presented information regarding instructional programs within Washington County Schools referencing their resolution to withdraw from NERSBA. The board received an update on the development and success of the Washington County Early College program. (Information Packet provided)

2.0 Election of NERSBA Board Chair/Vice Chair: Mr. Benjie Forrest

Mr. Julius Walker moved to nominate Mr. Benjie Forrest as Board Chair. There were no other nominations presented for consideration. Mrs. Melva Lilley seconded the motion. The motion passed with a majority vote by the NERSBA board membership.

Mr. Ephraigm Smith moved to nominate Dr. Brian Busch for Vice-Chairman of the NERSBA Board of Directors. With no other nominations presented and a second to the nomination, the motion passed with a majority vote by the NERSBA board of directors.

3.0 NERSBA Informational Items

3.1 NERSBA Scholastic Report: Mr. William Askew

Mr. Davis presented to the board an article composed by former NERSBA scholar, Ms. Sydney Gainey. This article titled: **“The Future Is Female for Agriculture”** was recently included in a literary publication from the University of Mount Olive. Sydney will be graduating in May from The University of Mount Olive with a degree in Agri-business Management (a copy of article provided to all board members).

Mr. William Askew updated the board regarding events and activities on the part of NERSBA. Mr. Askew also informed the board of the recent financial award from the North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund which will provide funding for the construction of a greenhouse facility on the NERSBA campus.

3.2 North Carolina Legislative update: Mr. Hal Davis

Mr. Hal Davis provided a brief legislative update with respect to teacher salaries noting the North Carolina General Assembly has recently recessed until January of 2022.

3.3 North Carolina East Alliance: Mr. Hal Davis

Mr. Davis informed the board of discussions that have been on-going with the NC East Alliance. This organization provides economic development assistance to business and industry throughout eastern North Carolina. The parent organization to the NCEast Alliance was one of the principal partners regarding the development and placement of NERSBA in the northeastern quadrant of North Carolina. (a handout provided to board members).

4.0 NERSBA Financial Report

4.1 NERSBA Fiscal Update: Mrs. Debra Baggett/Mr. Hal Davis

Mrs. Baggett provided a financial update regarding the fiscal operations of NERSBA. We are still awaiting on the NC Department of Instruction to populate budget information for NERSBA. This has to be completed before a final operational budget can be finalized and approved by our board membership.

NERSBA is currently operating out of fund balance to maintain our fiscal obligations (handout provided).

4.2 NERSBA Finance Committee Meeting: Mr. Hal Davis

Mr. Davis announced the NERSBA Finance Committee would meet as soon as budget information is received from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction to develop an operational budget for review at the boards' January meeting.

5.0 NERSBA 2020-2021 Fiscal Audit Presentation: Mr. Michael Jordan, Carr Riggs & Ingram, CPAs

Mr. Michael Jordan reviewed the board's recently completed financial audit for the 2020-2021 school year. Mr. Jordan complimented NERSBA as having a clean audit with no exceptions or issues noted. This is a reflection of the work of faculty and staff and their efforts to follow local and state guidance with the fiscal operations of the school.

Mrs. Joyce Moore moved to approve the Audit as presented. Mr. Simon Griffin seconded the motion. The motion passed with a majority vote by the NERSBA board membership.

6.0 NERSBA Action Items:

6.1 Approval of December 2021 Board Meeting Minutes: Mr. Benjie Forrest, Chair

Mr. Simon Griffin moved to approve the November 2021 board meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Ephraigm Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed with a majority vote by the NERSBA board membership.

6.2 NERSBA Covid-19 Protocols:

After some discussion by the board membership, the board voted to grant Mr. Askew and Mr. Davis the authority make decisions regarding NERSBA on part of the board until our January 19th board meeting.

Masking will continue on the NERSBA campus until further notice Mr. Terry Draper moved to accept the recommendation on the part of Mr. Davis to wait until the January 19th board meeting and maintain the current masking requirement on campus. Mr. Walker seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion passed with a majority vote by the NERSBA board membership.

6.3 NERSBA Personnel Recommendations: Mr. Hal Davis

Mr. Davis recommended the board accept the resignation of Mrs. Melissa R. Woolard, who has been employed as an Instruction Facilitator at NERSBA. Mrs. Melva Lilley moved to accept the resignation as presented. After a second, the motion to accept the resignation (which was effective December 3rd) passed with a majority vote by the NERSBA board membership.

Mr. Davis recommended the employment of Ms. Samantha Eubanks on a part-time basis as a Instructional Facilitator. Mr. Ephraigm Smith moved to accept the recommendation made by Mr. Davis. Mr. Simon Griffin seconded the motion. The motion passed with a majority vote by the NERSBA board membership.

6.4 NERSBA Honorary Board Membership Recommendation. Mr. Hal Davis

Mr. Hal Davis recommended Mrs. Jean Woolard be named as an honorary board member of the NERSBA board of directors following the policy recently approved for this distinction. Mr. Ephraigm Smith moved to accept the recommendation as presented. Mr. Julius Walker seconded the motion.

After brief discussion regarding the tremendous contributions of Mrs. Woolard to NERSBA, the motion passed with a majority vote by the NERSBA board of directors.

7.0 Announcements: Mr. Hal Davis

7.1 NERSBA Fall Semester Final Exams: December 13th-17th

7.2 Designated Faculty Workday- January 3, 2022

7.3 First day of NERSBA 2022 spring semester: January 4, 2022/MCC Spring semester January 10th

7.4 Martin L. King National Holiday: Monday, January 17, 2022

7.5 NERSBA Board of Directors meeting: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 @ 4:30 PM

7.6 This Is NERSBA: NERSBA Recruitment Video

8.0 Motion to Adjourn:

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

Respectively Submitted,

Ms. Inga Stotesberry, Administrative Assistant