

**Northeast Regional School
Of
Biotechnology and Agriscience
Board Meeting Minutes**

Date: April 17, 2013
Time: 4:30 pm

Present:

Mac Hodges
Kenneth Harrell
Joe Landino
David Peoples
Michael Dunsmore
Lynn West

Place: Vernon James Research and Ext. Center

Absent:

Supt. Joe Davis
Janie Spencer
David Peele
Benjie Forrest

Vice-Chair Mac Hodges called to order the meeting of the Board of the Northeast Region High School for Biotechnology and Agriscience at 4:30 pm on April 17, 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, Cheryl Young, County Attorney/Assistant County Manager for Washington County, Jerry Rhodes, Washington County Manager and Mary Wayt from the Roanoke Beacon Newspaper.

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

Vice-Chair Hodges presented the agenda for additions and or deletions. Supt. Dunsmore reported, for informational purposes, that he was approached by State Supt. June Atkinson regarding a meeting that she would like to have with the 5 superintendents and Rep. Bob Steinberg to help work on line item funding for day to day operational expenses for the 5 LEA's. A tentative meeting has been scheduled with Rep. Steinberg at the Vernon James Center for Friday, April 26th. David Peoples noted that he has a question that he would like to raise concerning the lottery during his report on the NC Rural Economic Center Grant Application. With no additions or deletions a motion is made by David Peoples with a second from Kenneth Harrell to approve the agenda as presented. With no further discussion, the motion is approved unanimously.

Vice-Chair Hodges then offered the February minutes for consideration. David Peoples noted that he had contacted the secretary with a minor change prior to the meeting that has been made to the minutes. He motions to approve the minutes as posted on the website. Joe Landino then noted that Heber Respass name is misspelled in the previous minutes which will be corrected. David Peoples notes that he includes this correction in the motion previously made. A second is made by Kenneth Harrell to approve the minutes as correction. With no further discussion, the motion is approved unanimously.

Public Comments: None made.

Financial Report – David Noell, Finance Officer Washington County Schools:

Mr. Noell provided statements showing the checking account balance and balances of funds for the Northeast Regional School i.e. state ADM funds, local ADM funds, Central Office Admin Fund, RTTT Stem Funds, Carnegie Funds and Golden Leaf Funds. David Peoples asked if the outstanding balances from the local ADM funds billed for the second quarter have been collected from the 5 LEA' s that was reported at the February meeting. Mr. Noells reported that the funds have been collected. A motion is made by Michael Dunsmore with a second from Joe Landino to accept the financial report as presented. With no further discussion the motion is approved unanimously.

Old Business:

Update on NC Rural Economic Center Grant Application:

David Peoples reported that the Rural Center did approve a \$15000 grant for a study to be done to look at three scenarios to provide water and sewer in the vicinity of the Vernon James Center. \$7500 of this amount is a match that is the responsibility of the NERSBA School. This amount was approved to be paid at the February Board meeting. The additional \$7500 will be approved at the Rural Center March 20th Board meeting contingent upon a completed application to be sent to them. He reported that the application has been completed and that Chairman Peele has signed an agreement with Washington County that outlines Washington County's sponsorship of the school of the grant and an indication that the school will be responsible for the \$7500 match and any other fees that may occur or might be expended. The grant application documents will be mailed to the Rural Center by Washington County. He thanked Washington County for their help with this endeavor. David Peoples then inquired about the question raised at a Board meeting in 2012 as to whether the NERSBA School qualifies for lottery funds. Rob Hines with the NC Dept. of Public Instruction had indicated at the previous meeting that he would look into this and report back. Rebecca Stanley with NC New Schools agreed to communicate with Rob Hines and report back on his findings.

Report from Principal Davis:

Technology Acceptable Use Policy: Principal Davis presented a copy of a proposed technology acceptable use policy for the Board's review before a vote on the policy at the May board meeting. Julie Gurganus, technology specialist will be at the May Board meeting to answer any questions regarding the policy and offer any input before the vote. Supt. Dunsmore suggested and offered to forward the State Board and School Board Association policies as there are specific lines from these policies that must be used. Vice Chair Hodges asked if the policy, since it is being made available tonight as a first reading, will be posted for the staff and parents. He noted that it would be made available. David Peoples recommended to the board that item b on page three – political use – to also read in "all other political and elected offices". Lynn West noted that it is against the law to use NC resources for this purpose. He agreed but feels that it must be stated in the policy so the staff and parents understand this.

Industry Education Day

Principal Davis thanked Lynn Garrison, Rebecca Stanley and other staff from the NC New Schools Project for their support of the Industry Education Day. He reported that there were individuals from different business that visited with the students and gave them the opportunity to learn about different careers and the education required for those specific jobs. He noted that it was a very successful day. Lynn West noted that she was confused about the industry education day and if Board members were to be

involved or not. She received conflicting messages regarding this. Mac Hodges noted that he was here representing Farm Bureau and not the Board. Principal Davis apologized for any confusion caused. Vice Chairman Hodges shared that he was very proud to be a Board member present at the event with the way the young men and women were dressed in official FFA dress and how well mannered and how well they presented themselves to the guests present.

Parental Advisory Committee:

Principal Davis reported that this committee has been meeting once a month, generally the second Thursday of the month. During the May meeting one member will be nominated to bring to the May NERSBA Board meeting to become the parental advisory member of the NERSBA Board.

Student Recruitment for 2013-14:

Principal Davis reported that student recruitment has been a major focus for the school since January. School visits have been done as well as an open house held at the Vernon James Center and now he is currently doing interviews. 106 students have applied and all 106 students will be interviewed and then from those 60 students will be chosen. He noted that all of the LEA's have welcomed him in their respective schools and have been very supportive. Kenneth Harrell asked what the selection process will be with only 60 students to be admitted out of a total of 106. Principal Davis indicated that he will be using a rubric system to evaluate the students application and how they interview and then selections will be based on the formula identified in Senate Bill 125 based on seats per county but he does want to give every student the opportunity to interview. David Peoples asked how many students will be attending at the Roper Annex. Principal Davis said based on space that 60 students will be attending. Rebecca Stanley noted that Principal Davis is personally spending approx. one hour with each student being interviewed and she feels this shows tremendous time, dedication and effort to make sure that each student and parent feels comfortable with their choice to attend the NERSBA School.

FFA Semi Formal:

Principal Davis reported that the FFA Semi Formal will be held Thursday, May 2nd from 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm conducted and organized by parents of students. Board members were invited to attend.

FFA Awards Banquet:

Principal Davis reported that the FFA Awards Banquet will be held Thursday, May 23rd and that each Board member will be receiving a formal invitation.

New York Study Visit:

Principal Davis reported that Ginny Paul and Stacy Vander Meeden will be going to New York for a study visit in inter city schools that are incorporating STEM curriculum sponsored by the NC New Schools Project.

Roper Annex – East Campus Update:

Principal Davis reported that New Schools personnel as well as some parents have toured the Roper Annex to see the facility and identified some minor items that need to be done before the start of school. He expressed his appreciation to Washington County for their cooperation in helping the school getting this facility ready for the start of school for the 2013-14 school year.

2013-2014 Academic Calendar:

Principal Davis apprised the Board that he has been working with his faculty and parents in developing two calendars for the next school year and will email copies to each Board member before the May Board meeting to allow them to review and be prepared to take action at the May board meeting. Vice Chairman Hodges asked if a motion needs to be made to give formal permission to Principal Davis to begin recruiting additional teachers for the Roper annex for the next school year. Principal Davis reported that he and Ms. Stanley have developed a job description and have begun some posting through the New Schools organization now. Ms. Stanley noted that she did not know what the Board's formal process is but that they are ready to pursue recruitment of teachers. David Peoples asked if there will be any curriculum changes for the next year that would require a different skill set. Principal Davis does not feel like there will be any issues in this respect based on needs identified. Ms. Stanley did note that the Environmental and Natural Resources class being taught this year will not be offered next year. It has been replaced with a college level course. David Peoples asked how many teaching positions will be hired. Principal Davis reported that they want to hire three additional teachers in addition to the six certified positions already in place one of whom is the instructional technology facilitator. It was the consensus of the Board that Principal Davis can begin the recruitment process but that hiring cannot be done until an approved budget is in place.

Principal Davis extended an invitation to the Board Members for a special activity for the student body to be held at the Vernon James Center at 1pm on April 24th.

With no further business a motion is made by Michael Dunsmore with a second from David Peoples to adjourn the meeting. Vice-Chairman Hodges adjourned the meeting at 6:05 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Melinda White