



Northeast Regional School of Biotechnology and Agriscience
Wednesday, October 17, 2018
NERSBA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
NERSBA Technology Center
3:45 PM

1. OPEN SESSION 3:45 PM

- 1.1 Call to Order: Mr. Julius Walker
- 1.2 Roll Call: Inga Moore
Present: Julius Walker, Jean Woolard, Christie Bell, Dwight Respass, Ephraigm Smith, Ethan Lenker, Kenneth Harrell, Mac Hodges, Paul Hutchins
Absent: Jerry Phelps, Karen Clough, Sandy Maddox, Simon Griffin
Tardy: Benjie Forrest
- 1.3 Invocation and United States Pledge of Allegiance: Mr. Benjie Forrest
Benjie Forrest was not in attendance at the time. Mr. Dwight Respass led the board in the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

2. CLOSED SESSION

Chairman Julius Walker asked for a motion to go into closed session under items listed below at 3:49 PM. Mr. Kenneth Harrell made the motion; followed by a second from Mrs. Jean Woolard. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Mac Hodges recused himself from closed session discussions due to the pending law suit with Beaufort County Schools.

NC G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3)/Attorney-Client Privilege Update
NC G.S. 143-318.11(a)(5)/Real Property
NC G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6)/Personnel

3.0 AGENDA

- Mr. Hal Davis requested to move item 2.3 NERSBA Board Industry Reps to Section become an item of action by the board.
- 3.1 Approval of Board Meeting Agenda: Mr. Julius Walker, Chair
Mr. Mac Hodges made the motion to approve the amended meeting agenda. Mrs. Jean Woolard second the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
 - 3.2 Public Comments: none
 - 3.3 New NERSBA Faculty: Dr. Susan Speight (Agriscience) and Mrs. Pamela Riggs (Career Development)
Mr. Davis introduced both new faculty members to the board.

4.0 **Discussion (Action)**

- 4.1 Approval of August 15th/October 2nd Board Meeting Minutes: Mr. Julius Walker, Chair
August 15th BOD Meeting: Mr. Paul Hutchins motioned to approve as presented; followed by a second from Mr. Mac Hodges. The motion passed unanimously.
October 2nd BOD Meeting: Mr. Dwight Respass motioned to approve as presented; followed by a second from Mr. Benjie Forrest. The motion passed unanimously.
- 4.2 NERSBA Fiscal Budget Update: Mrs. Debra Baggett, NERSBA Finance Officer A. 2019 -2019 Budget Resolution (gray packet) the Average daily membership (ADM) showed the trends over the last 6 years. Student membership peaked in 2017 and this year we are projecting 220 for ADM.
- 18-19 Budget by Fund:
- | | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| State: | \$1,876,295.00 |
| Local: | \$411,440.00 |
| Federal IDEA: | \$39,353.03 |
| G5 Grant: | <u>\$1,998.89</u> |
| Total: | \$2,329,086.92 |

Changes in Revenues by Fund:

State: <\$37,001.00> based on student funding

Local: \$82,650.00

Federal: <\$4,862.70>

G5 Grant: <\$26,673.54> end of life of grant

Budget by Purpose:

77% of funding goes toward instruction. Supporting at 22%.

Non programmed at 3%.

Budget document shows a breakdown by detail for each purpose.

State Budget: The stated budget has been reduced by approximately \$37,000.00. However, there is an increase in retirement and insurance. It is important to note that two (2) positions vacated previously were not filled in order to accommodate the reduction. In addition, more of the EC teacher's pay is allocated through state funds.

Local Budget:

The revenues from all of the 5 counties were \$311,400.00. At this time, \$100,000.00 was reallocated from the fund balance to the local budget in order to cover the cost of the legal fees.

Mrs. Jean Woolard questioned the cost of the legal fees. Mrs. Baggett indicated that the legal fee section is a total of \$120,000.00.

Federal Budget:

The federal budget has been decreased by 11%. In order to accommodate this decrease, part of the EC teacher's salary has been reallocated through the state funds.

Mr. Mac Hodges questioned the reasoning for such a reduction in this area of the budget.

Mrs. Debra Baggett replied that instead of the EC teacher's salary being allocated as 40% from the federal budget as it was last year, this year 35% of the salary will be paid out of federal funds.

Mr. Mac Hodges questioned as if this shift in the funding source approved by the board. Mrs. Baggett replied that "it's the balance in the funding available and the EC teacher is still hired by the board and is doing the same job as before.

G5 Grant:

The funding through this grant ended on September 30, 2018. All of the funds have been drawn down and paid out.

Mrs. Baggett requested that the board approve the 2018-2019 Budget Resolution and requested that upon approval, Mr. Walker and Mrs. Moore sign the document and submit.

Mr. Benjie Forrest motioned to approve as presented; followed by a second from Mr. Paul Hutchins. The motion passed unanimously.

B. 2019-2019 NERSBA Fiscal Budget Review & Approval:

State Funds:

At this time, we have expended \$408,198.36 which is approximately 22% of the total budget. Mrs. Baggett indicated that is where we should be at this time of the year.

Federal Funds:

Approximately 28% of the federal budget allocated to NERSBA has been spent. Mr. Mac Hodges questioned "why don't we have any money budgeted for substitutes in this portion of NERSBA's budget?"

Mrs. Baggett explained that the funding for substitutes is allocated through the state funding since the federal budget was reduced.

Local Funds:

Mrs. Baggett showed that to this date, NERSBA has spent \$94,125.57 in legal fees.

G5 Grant Funds:

All monies have been spent.

Fund Balance:

As of last year about \$150,000.00 was rolled over to the fund balance. The total projected balance is \$550,000.00.

Mr. Dwight Repess asked "how confident are we with this \$120,000.00 budget for legal services? Do you think we will have to come back and readdress or reallocate more funds?" Mr. Hal Davis replied, "we are just taking a shot. I would like this thing to be over in February but if it goes to trial in July that would obviously increase our expenses with legal services."

Mr. Kenneth Harrell motioned to approve the financial report as presented; followed by a second from Mr. Benjie Forrest. The motion passed unanimously.

4.3 NERSBA Academic Calendar/Hurricane Florence & Michael Update: Mr. Hal Davis

Mr. Davis stated "that obviously we were affected by the hurricanes Florence and Michael. Even though we missed a considerable amount of school, we worked with MCC, PCC and BCC to keep our kids going. Earlier the board approved some dates in the event if school is missed due to inclement weather. November 2nd was turned into a regular school day. We will conclude the fall semester on December 19th."

4.4 NERSBA Strategic Plan: Mr. Hal Davis

Mr. Davis presented the following 8 school concerns in order to get the school moving in the right direction in August.

1. Teacher Recruitment/Retention/Professional Growth
2. NERSBA Instruction Program & Curricular Goals
3. Partnership Development
 - A. Local Education Agencies
 - B. College/University Opportunities
 - C. Business/Corporate Relationships
4. Facilities
5. Academic/Career Success for Current/Former Scholars
6. NERSBA Policy Handbook
7. Growing New Scholar/Recruitment
8. Financial Sustainability

Mr. Benjie Forrest and Mr. Davis met with Dr. Larry Price to discuss a consultant contract to help us plan for this and set goals. The cost of his services will be \$12,000.00. If approved by the board, Dr. Price's contract will begin November 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019. Dr. Price has been highly recommended.

Mr. Mac Hodges asked "did you ever consider DPI coming in for some free consulting, Mr. Davis?"

Mr. Hal Davis replied, "I don't know of anybody to talk to at DPI."

Mr. Mac Hodges questioned, "did you call them?"

Mr. Hal Davis replied, "we can't get nobody to answer a phone there."

I'm just being honest."

Mrs. Jean Woolard stated, "I would like to say that I do think it's time that we get somebody from the outside and has a perspective for what we are trying to do here for some expert opinions and I agree that we had to get somebody like this with no loyalties to anybody that can come to us with some fresh ideas and I don't think DPI would be an answer to this. They do have expertise in other areas from my observation. DPI is in a period of adjustment, unrest and they don't know which way they are going."

Mr. Benjie Forrest added, "I think if we would look toward DPI we would also find conflicting interest there from that standpoint. Dr. Price understands the Regional School concept. He can probe the partners and can do that from outside the confines of a governmental agency. I'm really excited about this."

Mr. Paul Hutchins motioned to approve the consultant contract with Dr. Price; followed by a second from Mr. Ephraigm Smith. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Mac Hodges stated; "I have nothing against Dr. Price. I'm just looking at the \$12,000.00 being spent."

4.5 RTI International Professional Leadership Services: Mrs. Julie Gurganus; Mr. Hal Davis.

Mrs. Gurganus provided the board with a copy of the RTI International Services contract proposal. She explained that this is an outside firm to provide our faculty leadership/instruction to staff at the cost of \$27,000.00 for 6 months with a payment plan starting January 1, 2019 if approved.

The proposal includes the following:

- >1 onsite strategy /planning sessions
- >2 onsite group professional development workshops
- >8 ½ day onsite coaching sessions
- >2 onsite and 2 virtual development sessions
- >1 onsite experience at RTI International

Mr. Hal Davis added, "we need to step up our game and become the school that we need to be by seeking advice on lab facilities, faculty professional development opportunities and other avenues for educational programs.

Mr. Jean Woolard commented, "right now if we had somebody to dump a lot of money in our laps we wouldn't know how to spend it would we?"

Mr. Hal Davis replied, "well I could spend it pretty quick."

Mrs. Jean Woolard replied, "I know but as far as biotechnology is concerned, we need help to develop our plan to build a lab."

Mr. Hal Davis stated, "obviously we don't have the labs to work with in science and biotechnology but RTI could give us a pretty good idea of where to start with that program."

"I'm glad that you (Hal Davis) and the staff are behind this and see that we need to step up our game in instructional development," Mrs. Woolard added.

"Are we getting the cart before the horse when we just approved a consultant to help us develop a strategic plan and at the same time we are having somebody come in to assist us in the development of educational development? This is one of the things identified on page 4. Shouldn't we have the planning and implementing goals in place before we bring a company in to do this?" Mr. Dwight Respass asked.

Mr. Hal Davis replied, "I really see this going together hand in hand and see what Dr. Price is going to be doing in terms of his work and what RTI can do to support our teachers and the process will work together."

Mr. Paul Hutchins motioned to approve the RTI contract as presented; Followed by a second from Mrs. Jean Woolard. The motion passed unanimously.

4.6 Personnel:

Mr. Mac Hodges motioned to approve the substitute teacher; followed by a second from Mr. Kenneth Harrell. The motion passed unanimously.

4.8 Motion to Approve Recommendations of Salaries. Mr. Mac Hodges motioned to approve as presented; followed by a second from Mr. Paul Hutchins. The motion passed unanimously.

4.7 NESBA Board Business/Industry Representatives (Jo Landino/Paul Spruill replacements): Mrs. Jean Woolard

Mrs. Melva Lilley from Tyrrell County will be the business representative filling the seat vacated by Mr. Joe Landino and Mr. Greg Coltrain of Tri County Telephone, will be filling the seat vacated by Mr. Paul Spruill.

Both will be contacted by Mr. Hal Davis and will be scheduled to be sworn in at the November BOD meeting. Mrs. Jean Woolard will continue to find a Superintendent to fill the seat vacated by Dr. Don Phipps.

Mr. Mac Hodges motioned to accept; followed by a second from Mr. Kenneth Harrell. The motion passed unanimously.

5. **DISCUSSION (NO ACTION)**

5.1 NERSBA Instructional Programs: Mr. Hal Davis; Dr. Melanie Stanley

One fourth of the school year has been completed. Report cards will be going home on October 18, 2018. Parent Teacher Conferences at NERSBA will also be held on October 18, 2018.

- 5.2 NERSBA Accountability Program Informational: Mrs. Julie Gurganus
Mrs. Gurganus provided the board an overview of the 2017/2018 school grade report. This information was released by the state on September 5, 2018.

Some highlights are listed below see packet for further details.

- *School Performance score- 81
- *School Achievement Grade- B
- *School Achievement Score- 81.4
- *School Growth- MET
- *School Index -0.18
- *Reading/Math EOG/EOC -75.8
- *4 Year Cohort- 92.7
- *ACT & ACT Workkeys score- 80.4
- *Passing NC Math 3 score- 79.5

- 5.3 Was moved to action item.

- 5.4 NERSBA Curriculum Design Committee Update: Dr. Melanie Stanley
The committee met today. Dr. Stanley provided the committee with an overview of the courses for the Spring semester offered at NERSBA. In addition, a check list for parents/students will be implemented during the Spring semester.

- 5.5 NERSBA Policy Manual: Mr. Hal Davis
We are working with NCSBA on our Policy handbook. When we come back in November we may want to appoint a committee of board members to serve as a Policy Manual Committee.

Next Facilities Committee meeting is scheduled for October 31st at 11AM
Mr. Hal Davis will contact the committee members with the location.

Mr. Paul Hutchins stated that MCC Board of Trustees will send out a correspondence to formalize what the last meeting was about. The trustees want to do whatever they can do to help support NERSBA because NERSBA is certainly important to MCC.

Mr. Julius Walker reported that in November we will have an election of officers. The nominating committee members are: Mr. Dwight Respass, Christie Bell and Mr. Walker. A meeting of this committee is scheduled for November 6th at Mrs. Christie Bell's office.

6. **Announcements**

November 7th is the NE Regional Ag Expo with 12 counties and approximately 1,100 students projected to be in attendance.

- 6.1 UMO AgFest: March 21,2019
- 6.2 NERSBA Parent/Student/Teacher conferences: Oct 18th (5-7 PM)
- 6.3 NERSBA FFA Jacket Presentation Ceremony: Oct 18 (7:30 PM)
- 6.4 National FFA Convention: Oct 23rd-27th
- 6.5 NERSBA November BOD meeting: Wednesday, Nov. 14th

7. Adjourn

7.1 Motion to Adjourn

Mr. Ephraigm Smith motioned to adjourn at 5:47 PM; followed by a second from Mr. Dwight Respass. The motion passed unanimously.