



NERSBA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
NERSBA Technology Center
Wednesday, November 17, 2021
4:30 PM

1. OPEN SESSION

1.1 Call to Order: Mr. Benjie Forrest

1.2 Roll Call: Mrs. Inga Stotesberry

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

Absent: Jean Woolard, Ethan Lenker

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

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

Mr. Simon Griffin moved to approve the meeting agenda as presented by Mr. Hal Davis. Mrs. Susan Tyre seconded the motion. The motion passed with a majority vote by the NERSBA board membership.

1.5 Public Comments: None

2. NERSBA Board Member Oath of Office: Mrs. Tonya Leggett/Martin County Clerk of Superior Court

Mrs. Susan Tyre, was administered the oath of office as a board member (business & industry representative) by Martin County Clerk of Superior Court, Mrs. Tony Leggett.

3. NERSBA Information Items

3.1 NERSBA Scholastic Report: Mr. William Askew

- Mr. Askew reported that a recent RTI Professional Development Session was successful. NERSBA faculty members Mrs. Krisiti Hardison, Mrs. Kathy Buck and Mr. William Askew visited Brunswick Early College & Sea Tech Early College Institute in Wilmington which are a part of the Cooperative and Innovative High Schools network in North Carolina.
- Our FFA Jacket Ceremony was held on October 21st. Mrs. Heather Smith is to be complimented for a great job this semester with her leadership to our NERSBA FFA Chapter.

- The NERSBA College Fair was held October 21st with 40 colleges & universities represented at this event.
- The monthly NERSBA FFA meeting and FFA Official Dress Day was conducted on November 10th. A special speaker for Veterans Day addressed our FFA membership sharing her experiences as a master flight nurse in the US Air Force.
- The NERSBA National Honor Society Induction Ceremony will be conducted November 18th at 6:30 PM in our Performing Arts Center.
- NERSBA is still waiting confirmation on the grant application from the Tobacco Trust Fund. These funds are a part of the NC Legislative Budget.
- Construction has been initiated on the part of our agricultural mechanics class on the caterpillar tunnel.
- Schedules for the spring semester are nearly complete at this time.

3.2 North Carolina Legislative Update: Mr. Hal Davis

Mr. Benjie Forrest informed the board that NERSBA had been approved to receive \$400,000.00 in the legislative budget for capital improvement projects to our campus facilities. Mr. Davis has already presented to our board a preliminary budget for these funds.

3.3 North Carolina East Alliance: Mr. Hal Davis

Mr. Davis informed the board that he has worked to initiate a collaboration with NC East Alliance. A follow-up meeting with this organization has been scheduled for November 23rd at their office in Greenville, NC.

4. NERSBA Financial Report

4.1 NERSBA Fiscal Update: Mr. Hal Davis

Mr. Hal Davis reported that our 2020-2021 NERSBAS Fiscal Audit will be presented by the auditing firm of Carr, Riggs & Ingram LLC during our December 8th board meeting.

He also noted the NERSBA Finance Committee would be meeting with Mrs. Debra Baggett as soon as the state budget is finalized regarding a formal budget proposal hopefully to be presented at our January 17th board meeting.

5. Personnel

5.1 NERSBA Auxiliary Faculty

Mr. Davis recommended Mrs. Gina R. Bowen as an addition to our NERSBA Auxiliary Faculty. Mr. Kenneth Harrell moved to approve Mrs. Bowen as a substitute teacher. Mr. Simon Griffin seconded the motion. The motion passed with a majority vote by the NERSBA board membership.

5.2 Auxiliary Faculty Salary Proposal:

Mr. Hal Davis recommended to the board that daily substitute teacher pay rates be increased for non-certified personnel from \$80.00 to \$100.00 a day. He also recommended that certified substitute pay rates be increased from \$103.00 to \$130.00 per day effective immediately. Dr. Brian Busch moved to accept pay increase proposal as presented by Mr. Davis. Mrs. Michele Spence seconded the motion. The motion passed with a majority vote by the NERSBA board membership.

6. NERSBA Action Items

6.1 NC G.S. 115C-238.62/Organization of Regional Schools: Mr. Benjie Forrest, Chair

Mr. Forrest reminded the board of the request for withdrawal from NERSBA on the part of Washington County Schools.

Mr. Forrest informed the NERSBA board membership of the following protocols regarding the resolution:

- The North Carolina General Statutes require a certain process for when a member of a regional school wishes to withdraw from that school. Washington County's resolution is the second withdrawal submitted according to the General Statutes. It is very important for the board to understand the process as impacted by NERSBA.
- With respect to this process, the General Statutes indicate the NERSBA Board can, but is not required to approve the resolution. If the resolution is approved, the State Board of Education would review the resolution at their level. If the NERSBA Board does not approve the resolution to withdraw, Washington County Schools would then remain a NERSBA member.
- 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.
- He also reminded the NERSBA Board membership that each director should vote in the best interest of NERSBA. The duty of the board is primarily to serve the students at NERSBA. Mr. Forrest also noted that if a NERSBA director believes they have a conflict of interest that prevents him or her from acting in the best interest of NERSBA, that director should recuse themselves from voting on the resolution.
- Mr. Forrest informed the board that Director Julius Walker and Jerry Phelps have a conflict of interest and recused themselves from voting or discussing any motion involving the Washington County Board of Education resolution.

Mr. Forrest asked the board for discussion regarding the resolution. Mr. Ephraigm Smith moved for the board to reject the resolution presented by Washington County Schools. Mrs. Michele Spence seconded the motion.

After discussion by the board membership, Chairman Forrest asked for a vote by the board. The motion to reject the resolution received nine votes in the affirmative and three votes in opposition. The Washington County Board of Education resolution to withdraw from NERSBA was not approved by our NERSBA Board of Directors.

- 6.2 Approval of October 2021 Board Meeting Minutes: Mr. Benjie Forrest, Chair**
Mr. Ephraigm Smith moved to approve the October board meeting minutes as presented by Mr. Davis. Mr. Simon Griffin seconded the motion. The motion to approve the October board meeting minutes passed with a majority vote by the NERSBA board membership.
- 6.3 NERSBA COVID-19 Protocols: Mr. Hal Davis**
Mr. Hal Davis presented information from the Martin-Tyrrell-Washington Health Department regarding the rates of COVID infections as of Monday November 15th. Mr. Davis noted the COVID infection rates in Martin County are continuing to decrease as outlined within the report. Mr. Davis then informed the board of their duty to vote monthly on the masking requirement as required by the North Carolina General Assembly.
- Mr. Davis recommended the board to grant Mr. William Askew and himself the authority to make any decision between now (November 17th) and the next board meeting (December 8th) regarding masking protocols at NERSBA.
- Mr. Ephraigm Smith moved to delegate that authority to Mr. Askew and Mr. Davis. Mr. Simon Griffin seconded the motion. The motion passed with a majority vote by the NERSBA board membership.
- 6.4 NERSBA Policy Proposal: (Board Member Vacancies (2111)/Board Compensation (2112))**
Policy 2111 Board Member Removal and Vacancies.
Mr. Dwight Respass moved to approve the policy as presented. Mr. Julius Walker seconded the motion. The motion passed with a majority vote by the NERSBA board membership.
- Policy 2112 Board Member Compensation.**
Mrs. Joyce Moore moved to approve the policy as presented by Mr. Davis. Mr. Simon Griffin seconded the motion. The motion passed with a majority vote by the NERSBA board membership.
- 6.5 NERSBA Honorary Board Membership**
After a very brief presentation by Mr. Davis regarding honorary board membership, Mr. Simon Griffin moved to accept the Honorary Board Membership Policy. Mr. Jerry Phelps seconded the motion. The motion passed with a majority vote by the NERSBA board membership.

7. Announcements

- 7.1 NERSBA College Day Experience Review**
Mr. Davis noted 40 college representatives and recruiters visited our campus on October 21st as a part of the NERSBA College Fair. This event was well received by our NERSBA scholars.
- 7.2 NERSBA FFA Jacket Presentation Ceremony**
Mr. Davis informed the board the FFA Jacket Presentation Ceremony was held on October 21st in the Performing Arts Center at 7:00 PM. He thanked Mrs. Heather Smith and Mr. William Askew for their role in guiding this successful NERSBA program.
- 7.3 NERSBA Capstone Project Presentations**
Mr. Davis presented and update on the NERSBA Capstone Project Program with senior presentations that were conducted on Tuesday, November 16th. Mr. Davis thanked Mrs. Pamela Riggs for her leadership and direction with this successful event.

7.4 NERSBA National Honor Society Induction Ceremony

Mr. Davis informed the board the National Honor Society Induction Ceremony has been scheduled for Thursday, November 18th at 6:30 PM in our NERSBA Performing Arts Center.

7.5 NERSBA Thanksgiving Holidays: November 25th-26th

Mr. Davis noted that NERSBA would be observing the National Thanksgiving Holidays November 25th and 26th. The campus would be open on an abbreviated schedule throughout the holiday break.

7.6 NERSBA December Board of Directors Meeting Date:

Mr. Davis informed the board of the December meeting scheduled for Wednesday, December 8th at 4:30 PM in the schools technology center.

On a final note, Mr. Dwight Respass informed the board he would be stepping down as Vice-Chair of the NERSBA board at the conclusion of his present term (concluding on November 30th). The position will be filled during the December board meeting during the election of board officers. Mr. Benjie Forrest thanked Mr. Askew for all his support over the many years of service and that he will be greatly missed.

8. Motion to Adjourn

Mr. Dwight Respass moved to adjourn meeting. Mr. Jerry Phelps seconded the motion. The motion passed with a majority vote by the NERSBA board membership. The November board meeting adjourned at 5:25 PM.

Respectively Submitted,

Inga Stotesberry, NERSBA Administrative Assistant

