



NERSBA

EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT

NERSBA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
NERSBA Technology Center
Wednesday, October 20, 2021
4:30 PM

1. OPEN SESSION

1.1 Call to Order: Mr. Benjie Forrest, Chairman

1.2 Roll Call: Mrs. Inga Stotesberry

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

Absent: Jean Woolard, Terry Draper

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

1.4 Approval of October 2021 Board Meeting Agenda: Mr. Benjie Forrest, Chairman

Mr. Ephraigm Smith moved to approve the meeting agenda as presented by Mr. Davis. Mr. Kenneth Harrell seconded the motion. The motion passed with a majority vote by the NERSBA board membership.

1.5 Public Comments:

Mrs. Robyn Berry, a NERSBA parent from Washington County addressed the board regarding her personal and varied experiences with NERSBA. She has a son who will complete his high school graduation requirements and a college degree from Martin Community College in the near future. Mrs. Berry encouraged the board to work to collaborate with Washington County Schools as a cooperating partner with her daughter intending to attend NERSBA in the near future. She noted that Washington County School students need the experiences and opportunities offered at NERSBA.

2.0 NERSBA Public Hearing

2.1 G.S. 115-238.62/Organization of Regional Schools: Mr. Benjie Forrest

Tyrrell County Schools:

Mr. Forrest informed the board that North Carolina General Statute 115C-238.62 requires that a regional school who receives a valid withdrawal resolution to hold a public hearing on the resolution at the next meeting of the governing body. NERSBA has received a formal resolution to withdraw from Tyrrell County Schools.

Mr. Forrest reminded the NERSBA board membership the hearing is for the public to provide input regarding the resolution. He asked board members to hold their comments until the board considers the resolution as a formal business item during the meeting.

After Mr. Forrest opened the public hearing, Mr. Oliver Holley, Superintendent of Tyrrell County Schools addressed the board to inform them of their systems' Career and Technical Education Programs and the Tyrrell County Schools Early College Program in place at Columbia High School.

At the conclusion of Mr. Holley' presentation, Mr. Forrest asked for any additional comments. With no further discussion or requests to address the board, Mr. Forrest declared the public hearing closed regarding the Tyrrell County resolution.

Washington County Schools:

Mr. Benjie Forest informed the board membership that NERSBA has received a formal resolution from the Washington County Board of Education noting their intentions to withdraw from NERSBA.

Mr. Forrest opened the floor for public input regarding the resolution on the part of Washington County Schools. Mr. Carlos Riddick, chairman of the Washington County Board of Education addressed the board making the following comments. "Our Superintendent is not able to attend, but our resolution states why we want to withdraw". Mr. Forrest asked for additional input or public comments regarding the resolution. With no additional public comments regarding the Washington County Resolution, Mr. Forrest declared the public hearing closed.

3.0 NERSBA Information Items

3.1 Scholastic Report: Mr. William Askew

Mr. Hal Davis spoke on behalf of Mr. William Askew during the meeting to provide updates regarding the following items:

*Mr. Askew has done a commendable job in assuming his new role as the building principal at NERSBA during the school year. With a number of faculty members out on leave for various reasons, this has been a challenging year for our scholastic community as impacted by the COVID virus.

*NERSBA has completed the first quarter of the school year with grade reports forwarded to parents today (October 20th).

*Mr. Askew and several faculty recently traveled to Lexington, NC to tour Valley Academy which is also a Cooperative and Innovative High School focusing on project based learning similar to NERBSA with our membership through the Research Triangle Institute professional development initiative.

*The NERSBA Scholar Volunteer Day on October 29th was successful.

*Teacher observations are moving forward as scheduled.

*The Pre-ACT was administered to sophomore scholars on October 12th.

*Mr. David Lawrence from Gregory Poole Company completed a presentation with NERSBA scholars in early October, generating much interest with career opportunities offered by Gregory Poole among our students.

*NERSBA scholars attended the NC State Fair on October 19th.

3.2 NC Legislative Update: Mr. Hal Davis

Mr. Davis presented information regarding the following legislative items:

*The Annual Report to the NC General Assembly Report on Cooperative and Innovative High School Funding by Local Educational Agency.

*The North Carolina School Boards Association Legislative Update as of October 15, 2021 regarding Local School Board Masking Policies.

3.3 NERSBA Board of Director Appointment (Business & Industry Representative)

Mr. Davis informed the board that Mrs. Susan Tyre has accepted the position as a Business & Industry Representative on our board. Mrs. Tyre is the Director of the Senator Bob Martin Center in Williamston. Her appointment was approved by the Martin County Chamber of Commerce. Mrs. Tyre will be joining our board in November.

3.4 NERSBA Policy Proposals: Board Member Vacancies (2111)/Board Compensation (2112)

Mr. Davis presented to the board proposed policies regarding board member vacancies and compensation for NERSBA board members. These policies were reviewed and will be discussed as formal business items during the November 17th board of directors meeting.

3.5 NERSBA Honorary Board Member Proposal

Mr. Hal Davis offered to the board a recommendation to create a position as an Honorary Board member (Director Emeritus) of the Board of Directors of NERSBA. This proposal will be considered during the November Board meeting.

4.0 NERSBA Financial Report

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

Mr. Davis informed the board that Mrs. Debra Baggett was not able to attend the meeting this afternoon. Mr. Hal Davis updated the board on current general fiscal operations at NERSBA. The auditors are completing NERSBA financial audit and will be presenting the 2020-2021 fiscal audit report at the December board meeting.

4.2 NERSBA Finance Committee Meeting: TBA

Mr. Davis noted that once a state budget was approved by the North Carolina General Assembly and signed into law by the Governor, he would like to schedule a finance committee meeting to finalize the NERSBA Operational Budget for the 2021-2022 academic calendar.

5. NERSBA Action Items:

5.1 NCGS 115C-238/Organization of Regional Schools: Mr. Benjie Forrest, Chair

Mr. Benjie Forrest informed the board that we have on the agenda, discussion of the resolutions on the part of Tyrrell and Washington Counties. He reviewed the following points regarding the requests to withdraw on the part of Tyrrell and Washington Counties as outlined below:

*The General Statutes note that the NERSBA Board can, but is not required to, approve the resolution. If the resolution is approved, the State Board of Education will then get involved and review the Resolution at their level. If the NERSBA Board does not approve the request to withdraw, then respective local educational agencies would remain a member of NERSBA.

*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. This means that at least 10 members of the NERSBA Board must approve the Tyrrell and Washington County board of education's request to withdraw.

*He reminded the NERSBA Board members that each board member should vote in the best interest of NERSBA and the boards' duty is to NERSBA. He also noted that if any NERSBA director thinks, he or she has a conflict of interest with respect to NERSBA, that director to recuse himself or herself from voting.

*Director Clough expressed to the board membership that she is the chair of Tyrrell County Board of Education and voted in favor of their boards' resolution. She recused from voting on or discussing any motion involving the Tyrrell County Board of Education resolution.

*Chairman Forrest asked the NERSBA directors if they had any comments about the resolution. Mr. Davis informed the board there were copies of both resolutions as presented by Tyrrell and Washington County Board of Education in their packet for review.

*Mr. Benjie Forrest opened the floor for any discussion regarding the Tyrrell County resolution. After limited discussion by the board membership, Mr. Ephraim Smith moved to reject the resolution. Mrs. Joyce Moore seconded the motion as presented by Mr. Smith.

After a brief discussion, the board voted to reject the resolution by a vote of eight to one, denying the Tyrrell County Resolution to withdraw.

Discussion Washington County Resolution:

Mr. Benjie Forrest informed the board that we have on the agenda, discussion of the resolution on the part of Washington County. He reviewed the following points regarding the request to withdraw from NERSBA by the Washington County Board of Education as outlined below:

*The General Statutes outline that the NERSBA Board can, but is not required to, approve the resolution. If the resolution is approved, the State Board of Education will then get involved and review the Resolution at their level. If the NERSBA Board does not approve the request to withdraw, then respective local educational agencies would remain a member of NERSBA.

*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. This means that at least 10 members of the NERSBA Board must approve the Washington County Board of Education's request to withdraw from NERSBA.

*He reminded the NERSBA Board members that each board member should vote in the best interest of NERSBA and the boards' duty is to NERSBA. He also noted that if any NERSBA director thinks, he or she has a conflict of interest with respect to NERSBA, that director to recuse himself or herself from voting.

*Director Julius Walker has recused himself in addition to Director Jerry Phelps, Washington County Board of Education representative on the NERSBA Board.

*Mr. Forrest asked the board for any comments regarding the resolution offered by Washington County. Mr. Dwight Respass commented that he has not had time to read and review the resolution before taking action and moved to that we table any further action until the November 17th board meeting. Dr. Brian Busch seconded the motion. The board voted to table any action on the resolution by a vote of seven to five. Mr. Forrest noted this issue would be an action item at the November board of directors meeting.

5.2 Approval of September 2021 Board Meeting Minutes: Mr. Benjie Forrest, Chair
Mr. Kenneth Harrell moved to approve the September 15th board meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Simon Griffin seconded the motion. The motion passed with a majority vote by the NERSBA board membership.

5.3 NERSBA COVID-19 Protocols: Mr. Hal Davis
Mr. Davis reported that as of October 18, 2021 there was a nine percent infection rate of COVID cases in Martin County. Mr. Davis provided the board a report dated October 18th from the Martin-Tyrrell-Washington District Health outlining rates of COVID cases across Martin, Tyrrell and Washington counties.

NERSBA Monthly Mask Mandate Vote:

Mr. Kenneth Harrell moved to continue the mask mandate on campus. Mr. Simon Griffin seconded the motion. The motion passed with a majority vote by the NERSBA board membership.

5.4 NERSBA Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan: Mr. Hal Davis
Mr. Davis reviewed the NERSBA Safe Return To In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan with our board membership.

Mrs. Joyce Moore moved to approve as presented by Mr. Davis. Mr. Kenneth Harrell seconded the motion. The motion passed with a majority vote by the NERSBA board membership.

5.5 North Carolina Prayer Certification and Single Set of Assurances Policy, Mr. Hal Davis
Mr. Davis presented for board review the North Carolina Prayer Certification and Single Set of Assurances Policy. This policy mandates that no effort on the part of NERSBA would be made to restrict or limit prayer by students enrolled within the school setting.

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.

The board authorized the Superintendent/Executive Officer to administratively approve items of this nature moving forward.

6. Announcements: Mr. Hal Davis

Mr. Davis presented the following informational items and announcements to our board membership:

- 6.1 NERSBA College Day Experience: Thursday, October 21st
- 6.2 NERSBA FFA Jacket Presentation Ceremony: Thursday, October 21st at 7PM
- 6.3 NERSBA Scholar Volunteer Day, Friday, October 29th
- 6.4 Veterans Day: Thursday, November 11, 2021
- 6.5 NERSBA Capstone Project Presentations: Tuesday, November 16th at 1 PM
- 6.6 NERSBA November Board of Directors Meeting Date: Wednesday, November 17th @ 4:30 PM

7.

Motion to Adjourn

Mr. Simon Griffin move to adjourn meeting. Mr. Dwight Respass seconded the motion. The motion passed with a majority vote by the board at 5:32 PM.

Respectively Submitted:

Inga Stotesberry

Date