

# Northeast Regional School of Biotechnology and Agriscience

## Board Meeting Minutes

Date: December 17, 2013

Time: 4:30pm

Place: Vernon James Research and Ext. Center

Present: Mac Hodges  
Kenneth Harrell  
Benjie Forrest  
Joe Landino  
David Peele  
Dwight Respass  
Ethan Lenker

Absent: Lloyd Armstrong  
Lynn West  
Norris Toleson  
David Peoples  
Michael Dunsmore

Chairman David Peele called to order the December meeting of the Board of the Northeast Regional School of Biotechnology and Agriscience at 4:30 pm on December 17, 2013 at the Vernon James Research and Extension Center. Inga Spruill proceeded with the roll call. Resource personnel present were Hal Davis, NERSBA Principal; Joyce Loveless, NC New Schools; Michael Cowin, Finance Officer with Pitt County Schools; Connie Smith, Staff member at NERSBA and Mary Wayt from the Roanoke Beacon Newspaper.

Mac Hodges led the Board in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman David Peele presented the agenda for additions and or deletions. Mac Hodges moved to adopt the agenda with a second from Kenneth Harrell. The motion to adopt the agenda received a majority vote by the board.

Chairman David Peele offered the minutes of the November board meeting for consideration and noted this information was posted on the NERSBA website. The minutes were corrected to reflect that Dwight Respass was present at the November board meeting. Mr. Respass was not listed as present on the November minutes. Joe Landino moved to approve the minutes as corrected with a second from Mac Hodges. The motion to accept the minutes passed with a majority vote.

**Public Comments:** None

### **Finance Report: Mr. Michael Cowin**

Michael Cowin presented each board member with a detailed budget summary for NERSBA as of December 16, 2013 outlining budget revenue and expenses for the 2013-2014 school year. The budget totals \$970,806.04 including funds from the state, local, RttT, Golden Leaf Grant and Carnegie Foundation resources to support the school. He noted a year to date actual balance of \$392,449.54 with obligated funds of \$474,578.28; leaving an available balance of \$103,769.23. He then provided summarized totals of each of our funding sources. These funding sources cover salary and benefits, purchased services, technology, instructional supplies, furniture, equipment, supplies, east campus site lease and reserve account.

Mr. Cowin stressed to the board the need to start planning the budget for the next school year in the very near future.

Dwight Respass moved to approve the financial report as presented with a second from Joe Landino. The motion to adopt the budget report received a majority vote from the board.

### **Old Business:**

#### **Biodiesel for Schools Program**

Chairman Peele stated he hadn't received anything pertaining to this program to date. Principal Hal Davis stated the he was waiting on a proposed contract from Dean Price. Chairman Peele questioned Michael Cowin on the profit Pitt County School receives from the Biodiesel program. Mr. Cowin replied that there is a split profit of 50/50 after costs are taken out.

#### **Fall Semester Exam Schedule: December 16-19, 2013**

Principal Davis stated that during December 16-19, 2013 scholars would be administered semester exams. Thursday December 19th is a makeup day for any students that were absent for state tests/exams. Friday December 20th is a satellite day for our NERSBA students. Principal Davis complimented Mrs. Julie Gurganus and Mrs. Tracie Asby for doing an outstanding job in scheduling the testing calendar and arranging for proctors to cover all sites for the semester exam administration.

#### **Beaufort County Agribusiness Expo**

Principal Davis thanked Mac Hodges and Beaufort County Schools on doing an outstanding job on November 26, 2013 with the Agribusiness Expo. Also thanked the administrative team at Beaufort County with bus transportation for our students. Mac Hodges commented that out of all the schools at the event you could tell NERSBA was represented. NERSBA students had on their FFA jackets and presented them very well. We should be very proud of the students and how they conducted themselves and believes this was a very productive effort.

Benjie Forrest commented that he was able to talk with Josh Starlings with NC FFA Foundation at NC State University about this event. He quoted that Josh Starlings had rave reviews from all over the state from the program held at Beaufort County School and that he would like to see this state wide. There were 450 students and 150 citizens in attendance at the event.

## **New Business: Principal Hal Davis**

### **NERSBA Student Recruitment Update**

Principal Davis stated the application process is already in place with student applications for admission posted on the NERSBA website. A NERSBA New Student/Parent Orientation Meeting is planned for March 20, 2014.

### **Education and Workforce Innovation Fund Grant Application**

Principal Davis stated he has been working with Michelle Orrus with Beaufort County Schools on the Education and Workforce Innovation Fund Grant. This grant seeks to identify sites for acceleration successful innovation programs that combine academic rigor and skills development with the goal of graduation of every student both college and career ready. Ambitious plans will also include accelerated strategies in five core areas: allowing public schools and business industry, college and universities, provide greater choice for parents and guardians among high quality education, enhance teacher and principal effectiveness and insure all students possess job ready skills and leverage technology to drive both students and teacher learning. This grant would be worth 1.2 million dollars to the school over a five-year period.

Joyce Loveless stated that this funding source would be over a five-year period. The selection process will begin in January for the school, districts, and regions. Funds will be allocated in the spring as early as February.

Benjie Forrest stated that the grant sounds like it was written for our school. It specifically identifies regional schools.

Principal Davis requested for our board to endorse the application when it is ready to be presented later this month. Chairman Peele stated he would be available to assist with this process later in the week.

Mac Hodges moved that the NERSBA board endorse the grant followed by a second from Benjie Forrest. The motion was approved unanimously by the board.

### **North Carolina Pathways to Prosperity Program**

Principal Davis explained this new program links career and technical education to different jobs in the NERSBA five-LEA area. Mr. Rob Boyce is the director for this program. He's formally of Chowan County Schools. In addition, Mrs. Christie Harris the Regional Technology Coordinator is providing assistance with this program. They are working on developing a specific program for the five career areas. The group finished the Health-Career area and currently working on the Biotechnology and Agriscience. NERSBA has been requested to become a member of this group. As an anchor school, it is important for the program to be a part of leading the way and developing curriculum and instructional goals for this program.

Joe Landino moved to endorse the program with a second from Dwight Respass for NERSBA to support and participate in this program. The motion was approved unanimously by the board of directors.

### **NERSBA Holiday Operational Schedule**

Principal Davis stated that students would be completing exams at the conclusion of the week (December 19<sup>th</sup>). Mr. Davis will work on an abbreviated schedule throughout the holidays. Monday January 6<sup>th</sup> is a teacher workday and students return back to school January 7, 2014 to begin the NERSBA Spring 2014 semester.

Chairman Peele asked Mrs. Joyce Loveless from NC New Schools to share some information with the board regarding updates from NC New Schools. Joyce Loveless informed the board that Matt Sears with NC New Schools will be working directly with our regional school. He will be supporting curriculum development as well as anchor development for NERSBA. He will be encouraged to attend the next board meeting.

Chairman Peele addressed specific USDA loan information regarding construction of a facility for NERSBA. He noted that there was a meeting with USDA officials and they are fully supportive of working with our organization with financing a new school.

Chairman Peele discussed the possibility of Mrs. Katherine Peele conducting a visioning session on school buildings what a facility may look like. The United States Department of Agriculture has a grant program of up to \$100,000 for planning and initial design work. We would need to hire an architect to initiate this process. In addition, there is a February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014 deadline for grant application.

Dr. Peele stated that he had received a letter of resignation from David Peoples effective January 1, 2014 from the NERSBA board of directors. He has gained employment with the North Carolina Department of Commerce.

### **NERSBA Board Executive Session: School Organization (G.S.143-318.11)**

With no further business a motion was made by Mr. Mac Hodges to go into closed session under statute (G.S. 143-318-11). Mary Wayt added A5 to statute. Closed session was made under (G.S.143-318-11-A5). Kenneth Harrell seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Mac Hodges moved for the board to come out of closed session and go back into open session with a second from Dr. Ethan Lenker. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **Next Scheduled Board Meeting**

The next scheduled board meeting is set for January 15, 2014.

### **Adjournment**

With no further business a motion was made by Mr. Dwight Respass to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 6:34 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Inga Spruill

