

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

Date: January 25, 2014

Time: 4:30 pm

Place: Vernon James Center

**Present:** David Peele  
Mac Hodges  
Joe Landino  
Norris Tolson  
Lloyd Armstrong  
Dwight Respass  
Lynn West  
Michael Dunsmore  
Kenneth Harrell

**Absent:** Benjie Forrest  
Ethan Lenker

Chairman David Peele called to order the January meeting of the Board of the Northeast Regional School of Biotechnology and Agriscience at 4:37 pm. Inga Spruill proceeded with roll call. Resource personnel present were Hal Davis, Principal of the Northeast Regional School of Biotechnology and Agriscience and Jean Woolard. Also present were Julie Gurganus, Technology Facilitator at NERSBA, Matt Sears from the NC New Schools organization, parent Gerald Wynn and Bunny Sanders, Mayor of Roper.

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

Chairman David Peele presented the agenda for approval. Norris Tolson moved to accept the agenda with a second from Mac Hodges to approve the agenda as presented. With no further discussion, the motion was approved unanimously by the board.

Chairman David Peele offered the December minutes for board approval and noted the minutes are posted on the NERSBA website. Michael Dunsmore moved to approve the minutes as presented with a second from Joe Landino. With no further discussion, the motion was approved unanimously.

## **Public Comments:**

Bunny Sanders, Mayor of Roper, addressed the Board with the option of using town property as a potential site for housing NERSBA students. Mayor Bunny Sanders stated she wanted to keep NERSBA in Washington County and thought this idea would be a good fit for the school and the Roper township.

Mayor Bunny Sanders shared with the Board that she has been working with one of the Professors at North Carolina A&T State University, Dr. Cameron Shay. Dr. Shay is very interested in the work at NERSBA. Mrs. Sanders has forwarded contact information for Dr. Shay to Principal Hal Davis.

### **Finance Report:**

Michael Cowin, Finance Officer with Pitt County Schools, could not attend the meeting. Hal Davis spoke on his behalf. He informed the board that we basically have not had a lot of financial transactions since the last board meeting and that Mr. Cowin would be making a formal presentation during our February board meeting.

### **NERSBA Technology Plan: Julie Gurganus**

Julie Gurganus presented an overview of the NERSBA Technology Plan to the board for their review and approval. Mrs. Gurganus outlined the following points that are integral to the technology plan:

#### **Timeline for Approval:**

- November 1, 2013 –Tech Plans were due to regional technology consultant.
- December 13, 2013-Tech Plans were reviewed and returned to respective LEAs.
- January/February 2014- Submitted for Local Board Approval.
- March/April 2014- Submitted for State Board of Education approval.

#### **Vison:**

- Provide learning experiences through powerful teaching and personalization within a professional setting.
- Provide a team approach to instruction with collaborative planning.
- Provide technology resources needed to support effective use of information resources and technology tools.

#### **Priority 1: Shared Services Model:**

- Continue 1:1 computer access.
- Utilize Edmodo Learning Management System across all curricula areas.
- Use collaborative planning to identify digital content resources.
- Subscribe to Cloud based firewall and content filtering (Zscaler) offerings through MCNC and NCREN, as well as resources provided through HomeBase which is part of our PowerSchool with an online testing and professional development component.
- Continue to file for E-rate discounts annually on WAN services, local and long distance phone service and other eligible services.
- Continue to implement filtering in accordance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) on campus and off campus.
- Utilize Edmodo, Google Aps for Education and Schoolnet.
- Upgrade network electronics to maintain connectivity as necessary for the integration of technology into the classroom

**Priority 2: Universal Access to Personal Teaching and Learning Devices:**

- Continue to implement a plan for universal access for staff and students.
- Provide public meetings about the plan and policies included in the plan, as well as post them on the web.
- Continue to increase the number of mobile computing devices for use at school and home.
- Continue to provide professional development in using the 1:1 devices for teaching and learning.
- Provide probeware and graphing calculators for students.
- Provide online resources that will enhance math and science activities through the use of technology.
- Provide the staff with the necessary technology resources and professional development to fully implement components of HomeBase.

**Priority 3: Statewide Access to Digital Teaching and Learning Resources:**

- Continue collaborative planning sessions to identify and align digital resources.
- Continue to organize access to open education resources through collaborative web-based tools such as NC Wise Owl (a free resource provided by the state of NC that consist of an encyclopedia and other research tools), HomeBase (our student data base system; includes training on HomeBase; online testing through the system; However, we are still running into hurdles with this and eventually it will be running smoothly and will be a great resource for us.), Google Aps for Education, Moodle and the Instructional Improvement System which is also a part of HomeBase.
- Continue to use the district website, teacher websites and Edmodo to promote online resources for the Common Core and Essential Standards.
- Continue to implement Internet safety instruction.

**Priority 4: A Statewide Model of Technology-Enabled Professional Development:**

- Implement an annual calendar of staff development that supports a technology enabled environment.
- Continue to provide opportunities to attend conferences and/or training.
- Provide professional development opportunities through NC New Schools, Friday Institute, NE RESA and NC DPI.
- Provide training in online testing.
- Implement annual training in evaluating classroom performance using the TrueNorthLogic evaluation system.
- Provide professional development on the utilization of PowerSchool.
- Explore the option of implementing SchoolNet and Open Class.

**Priority 5: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Leadership for All Schools and Districts:**

- Integrate the vision for 21<sup>st</sup> Century education through all local initiatives and the school improvement plan.
- Provide support both in and out of the classroom for teachers.
- Partner with other agencies to identify workplace related experiences in math and science for teachers.

- Provide opportunities for students to attend field experiences that promote 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning.

Julie Gurganus asked that the plan be approved during the February meeting. Mrs. Gurganus also informed the board of mandated E-rate policies.

*The mandated policies for E-rate are:*

*D: Copyright and Plagiarism Policy*

*E: Acceptable Use Policy*

*L: Internet Safety and Ethical Use including Cyberbullying and Harassment*

Chairman Peele thanked Julie Gurganus on behalf of the board for all her work at NERSBA.

### **Old Business:**

Chairman Peele noted the USDA Grant outlining a February 11<sup>th</sup> deadline for submission. Mr. Norris Tolson and the NC New Schools organization are developing a grant proposal for the USDA grant application which would fund a preliminary feasibility study for a NERSBA physical facility.

Chairman Peele addressed the resignation of David Peoples who took a full time job with the Department of Commerce. His position is currently vacant on the board. Three additional positions are available on the board at the present time that should be filled with business and industry representatives from the five-county NERSBA service area.

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

Hal Davis welcomed Mr. Lloyd Armstrong from Tyrrell County who now serves on our board representing Tyrrell County. He also formally introduced Mr. Matt Sears with NC New Schools Organization. During our December meeting, Mrs. Joyce Loveless noted that Mr. Matt Sears with would be our primary contact person to represent New Schools and working with NERSBA.

### **Budget Plan for 2014-2015/ NERSBA Committee Meeting:**

Hal Davis spoke for Michael Cowin due to the fact that he could not attend the scheduled meeting. Michael Cowin asked Mr. Davis to set some preliminary dates for our budget committee to begin to work on the budget process for next year. Chairman Peele stated that Mac Hodges would facilitate this process.

### **Fall Semester Grade Reports:**

Hal Davis reported that we have finished the fall semester and started the spring semester January 7<sup>th</sup>. Grade reports for the fall semester are to be forwarded to students and parents later this week.

**NERSBA Student Recruitment Update:**

Hal Davis reported that we have now planned student information sessions scheduled in the NERSBA five-county service area. He has been working with guidance counselors, assistant principals, and principals to schedule visits with respective middle schools and present program information regarding the school.

A new student/parent orientation session has been scheduled for the 20<sup>th</sup> of March 2014 at the Vernon James Center.

**NERSBA Faculty Recruitment for 2014-2015:**

Hal Davis reported that with bringing in the new students, there will be a need to recruit new teachers to teach those students. He discussed this issue with Mr. Sears today and his leadership coach Mr. Clint Johnson about NC New Schools helping to recruit potential teachers for the 2014-2015 academic calendar year.

**2014-2015 Academic Calendar Proposal:**

Hal Davis presented two academic calendar proposals for the 2014-15 school year for board review. Chairman Peele noted the only difference between the calendar outlines (Option A and Option B) is the January 2<sup>nd</sup> and January 5<sup>th</sup> return dates for the 2015 Spring Semester. After discussion, Mr. Hodges moved to approve Calendar Option A. Mr. Norris Tolson seconded the motion to approve Calendar Option A. After brief discussion, Calendar Option A was approved by the board for the 2014-15 school year.

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

Hal Davis reports he would like to thank our teachers and this board's support of the Education and Workforce Innovation Fund application grant.

**NERSBA Instructional Facilities for 2014/2015:**

Chairman Peele asked if anyone had any information to present during the meeting. There was no further discussion on this issue during the meeting.

**Next Board Meeting February 19 , 2014**

Chairman Peele announced that the next board meeting will be February 19, 2014 at 4:30 pm.

**Adjournment:**

Mac Hodges moved to adjourn the meeting with a second from Joe Landino. After a majority vote to approve the motion, the meeting was adjourned at 5:41 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Inga Spruill