

*Northeast Regional School
of
Biotechnology and Agriscience
Board Meeting Minutes*

Date: November 20, 2013

Time: 4:30 pm

Place: Vernon James Research and Ext. Center

Present: Mac Hodges
Benjie Forrest
Norris Tolson
Joe Landino
David Peele
David Peoples

Absent: Kenneth Harrell
Lloyd Armstrong
Lynn West
Michael Dunsmore
Ethan Lenker

Chairman David Peele called to order the meeting of the Board of the Northeast Regional School of Biotechnology and Agriscience at 4:30 pm on November 20, 2013 at the Vernon James Research and Extension Center. 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 Tony Habit, President of NC New Schools, Katherine Peele from LS3P Associates Architect Firm, Dean Price from Green Circle NC, Carla Lewis from Race to the Top, Michael Cowin, Finance Officer with Pitt County Schools, and Mary Waytt from the Roanoke Beacon.

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

Chairman Peele introduced Norris Tolson representing North Carolina State University as a new member of our Board of Directors.

Chairman Peele presented the agenda for additions and or deletions. Two additions were brought forth by Chairman Peele. Lloyd Armstrong has replaced Janie Spencer from Tyrrell County on the Board of Directors. Superintendent Dr. Ethan Lenker from Pitt County Schools is replacing Superintendent Joe Davis of Washington County Schools. Chairman Peele stated that Pitt County Schools will be our fiscal agent and welcomed all that attended the Board of Directors meeting. Approval of the agenda was accepted as presented.

Chairman Peele offered the September minutes for consideration and approval and noting the minutes are posted on the NERSBA website (there was no board meeting in October). David Peoples moved to accept the minutes with a second from Joe Landino to approve minutes as presented. The motion passed with a majority vote.

Public Comments: None

Finance Report—Michael Cowin:

Michael Cowin presented each board member a detailed budget summary for NERSBA as of November 12, 2013. Mr. Cowin explained NERSBA has a budget of \$970,806.04 funding from state and local average daily membership, RttT, Golden Leaf, and Carnegie Grant fund sources. Expenditures to date totaled \$321,108.91. NERSBA currently has obligated \$534,372.10 of which a vast majority of this amount is for salary and benefits, rent, leases on equipment and audit. Mr. Cowin is positive about the current budget as noted with constant communication between himself and Principal Davis on a weekly basis.

Chairman Peele asked about the Golden Leaf Foundation grant check of \$63,000.00. Mr. Cowin replied all paper work on his side has been completed and is working closely with Miranda Dalton from the Golden Leaf Foundation to finalize this process.

Mr. Cowin compliments NERSBA'S staff and administration for support. Together they have made the changes necessary in a short amount of time over to Pitt County Schools. Chairman Peele questioned, who does Pitt County Schools auditing? Mr. Cowin replied that Carr and Riggs in Goldsboro is handling the audit for Pitt County Schools, Next year audits will be combined to hopefully yield a costs savings for NERSBA.

Chairman Peele stated Representative Paul Tine filed an amendment to allow the State of North Carolina to pay for the principal's salary for Regional Schools. We will not receive this money the current calendar year, but next calendar year and will roll forward after that. The Department of Public Instruction will actually pay for our Principals salary during next year's budget year. We protested it strongly several times a received many opinions from DPI lawyers, but not in our favor this year. Benjie Forrest asked if compensation would be on Tier III salary or Mr. Davis' actual salary. Chairman Peele answered that reimbursement would be on Principal Davis' current salary. Mac Hodges moved to approve the financial report as

presented with a second from Dwight Respass. The motion was approved unanimously.

Biodiesel For Schools: Mr. Dean Price

Principal Hal Davis of NERSBA introduced Dean Price with Green Circle NC on presenting the idea of a school fundraiser for NERSBA. Green Circle NC is an oil recycling company that serves as a school fundraising company as well as an oil recycling company. They have been working with Pitt County Schools for one and a-half years under contract. Green Circle NC reaches out to area restaurants to donate or sell back their used cooking oil to the schools. Mr. Price believes this idea can be replicated throughout the state.

As of last summer to present there are 200 vendors participating with this program including restaurants, schools and recycling sites. Chairman Peele questioned, Michael Cowin regarding the financial benefits to Pitt County Schools. Mr. Cowin replied their first payment to Pitt County Schools was December 2012. Monthly payment range is \$3000.00 to \$5000.00 a month. Pitt County's School intention is to grow the program as much as possible to make it a part of their school curriculum.

If the board chooses to move forward with Green Circle NC it would be very easy for NERSBA to participate with. Michael Cowin stated that Green Circle, NC is in Johnston County, Durham County and Chapel Hill-Carboro at the present time.

Chairman Peele stated the next step would be to review the contract for specific details. Benjie Forrest moved to move forward to partner with Green Circle NC to use as a fundraiser. Joe Landino seconded the motion. After additional discussion, the motion was approved by the board.

NC New Schools Instructional Visit: October 24, 2013

Principal Davis commented that Dr. Tony Habit and his team from New Schools visited our school on October 24, 2013. Dr. Tony Habit thanked NERSBA for hosting the visit. The goal of the visit was to focus on teaching and learning at NERSBA. Dr. Habit stated to Chairman Peele that the goal of the visit was to understand the school, values of the school, and enhance involvement.

Dr. Tony Habit introduced Katherine Peele, an expert on facilities for new schools. Mrs. Peele is the Executive Vice President of LS3P Architect Firm presenting on building of school designs. Mrs. Peele has been with the firm 25 years. They've designed over 1600 schools in North Carolina to date.

Mrs. Peele noted that digital dash boards can be utilized in new construction to show energy used for students to monitor. There are a lot of ideas when creation NERSBA'S new school facilities there are many steps.

- Vision—30 to 50 people to plan a vision/goal challenges to set a plan in place (a large group of stakeholders)
- Creating a program or education specification
- Making determination of total students to grow to
- Understand organization –how you want you spaces to adjacent to others (flexible spaces)
- Design decision
- Budget
- Create Project
- Funding Options

Some funding options may exist through the USDA and private lending institutions for the school.

New Business by Principal Hal Davis:

NERSBA East Site:

NERSBAS East Site is currently operating below our budget projections for the utility cost. Principal Davis asked the Board with help with the future direction with respect to facility planning at the December board meeting.

NERSBA TECHNOLOGY REVIEW:

Technology review funding was approved by E Rate funding which will save considerably for internet and phone cost.

Race to the Top Review/SERVE Visit:

Ms. Carla Lewis, visitor from UNC Greensboro, is completing a review and report regarding how our school has utilized Race-to-the-Top funds. Mrs. Lewis, spoke about her report for NC New Schools and will meet with students, faculty and partners and will be finalizing her report on the school in the very near future.

Carnegie Foundation Film Update:

Ms. Lindsay Dyson from New Schools Organization was on campus last Thursday producing a film about NERSBA. Ms. Dyson spent a lot of time talking with students, teachers, parents and research staff members at the school. Dr. Habit stated that Mrs. Dyson was excited about the school after being on campus. Dr. Habit thanks NERSBA for making this film production possible.

2012–2013 NERSBA Testing Data:

Testing Data for North Carolina for the 2012–2013 school year has been released with more information to come in January with the State Report Card. Principal Davis forwarded the board a handout outlining test data for the Northeast Region of the state outlining each LEA performance composite throughout the region. Mr. Forrest commented that NERSBA ranks third in the region with overall composite scores for the 2012–2013 academic calendar.

Critical Schools Response Plan:

Principal Davis noted that the school is still working to develop the Critical Response Plan along with Emergency Management in Washington County.

Student Recruitment Plan for 2014–2015:

Principal Davis presented the NERSBA Student Recruitment Plan for the 2014–2015 school year. Formal presentations within schools are scheduled for late January with applications due March 20, 2014.

NERSBA Satellite Conference Day Update:

We next satellite day is scheduled for 27th of November. Principal Davis reviewed the concept of the satellite day program for new board membership outlining the success of this program.

Beaufort County Agribusiness Expo: Northside High School 11/26/13:

Principal Davis thanked Mac Hodges, Beaufort County Schools and Beaufort County Farm Bureau for putting together an outstanding program with the Beaufort County Agribusiness Expo at Northside High School.

Fall Semester Exam Schedule: December 16–19, 2013:

Semester exams are scheduled December 16–19, 2013. NERSBA will be concluding the semester on December 20, 2013 with a satellite day. The 2014 spring semester will begin on Tuesday January 7, 2014.

NERSBA Industry Education Day: March 20, 2014:

The Industry Education Day is set for March 20, 2014. This will be held at the Vernon James Center.

Personnel Recommendation:

Principal Davis recommended Mrs. Kelly Plouch for a substitute teacher for NERSBA staff. Mrs. Plouch lives in Bath, North Carolina. She has been very helpful with our east campus. Mac Hodges moved to accept the recommendation with a second from Benjie Forrest. With no further discussion the motion was approved unanimously.

Mac Hodges extended to all Board members an invitation to the Beaufort County Agriculture Expo 2013, November 26, 2013 from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm at Northside High School.

Next Scheduled Board Meeting: December 18, 2013:

Chairman Peele announced the next scheduled board meeting is to be held December 18, 2013. Chairman Peele asked Mac Hodges to lead this meeting due to the fact that he will not be there. Mac Hodges accepted to lead the meeting.

Adjournment:

Benjie Forrest commented that traditionally the NC Farm Bureau has been a supporter of public education. One of those ways is supporting Agriculture In The Classroom noting the NC General Assembly saw fit in year past to help support that particular project. Due primarily to the effort of Mac Hodges, Farm Bureau has really taken an approach to educate young people in public schools making sure there is an agriculture focus in all grades of education in public, private and charter schools.

Meeting adjourned at 6:14 pm.

With no further business a motion to adjourn was made by Benjie Forrest. The motion passed with a majority vote. The meeting was adjourned at 6:14 pm by Chairman Peele.

Minutes submitted by: Inga Spruill.

