

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

Date: February 20, 2013

Present:

David Peele
Benjie Forrest
Kenneth Harrell
Joe Landino
Mac Hodges
Josh Bledsoe
David Peoples
Janie Spencer

Time: 4:30 pm

Place: Vernon James Research and Ext. Center

Absent:

Supt. Joe Davis
Michael Dunsmore
Lynn West

Chairman David Peele called to order the meeting of the Board of the Northeast Region High School for Biotechnology and Agriscience at 4:30 pm on February 20, 2013 at the Vernon James Research and Extension Center. Melinda White proceeded with roll call. Resource personnel present are Rebecca Stanley, NC New Schools Project, Hal Davis, Principal of the Northeast Regional School of Biotechnology and Agriscience, Jean Woolard, NC State Board of Education Cheryl Young, County Attorney/Assistant County Manager for Washington County and Mary Wayt from the Roanoke Beacon Newspaper. Also present were Washington County Commissioners Buster Manning, Bill Sexton and Tracey Johnson.

Benjie Forrest led the Board in prayer and in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Peele presented the agenda for additions and or deletions. It was noted that David Peoples had to leave early so he asked if the agenda could be adjusted to allow him to present earlier. Under new business an additional item was added – purchase of activity bus. Mac Hodges motioned with a second from Kenneth Harrell to approve the agenda as amended. With no further discussion, the motion is approved unanimously.

Chairman Peele then offered the January minutes for consideration. He noted that they are posted on the school website. David Peoples motioned that the minutes be approved with one minor change – on page 3 Washington County Manager Jerry Rhodes name is listed at Richard and needs to be changed. With no other corrections a second to approve the minutes as presented with one correction is made by Benjie Forrest. Mac Hodges noted for the record that because he was not present at the last Board meeting he will not be voting. Motion approved unanimously.

Monsanto Fund America's Farmers Grow Communities Check Presentation:

James Marsh, local representative with Monsanto presented a check for \$2500.00 to Mike Harris, local farmer, who in turn presented the check to the Northeast Regional School of Biotechnology and Agriscience. Any farmer located in an Agricultural county, which is a county of 25,000 acres or more can enroll to apply for \$2500 from Monsanto and then in turn can choose to give the money to any group in their county of their choosing. Mike Harris chose to present the money to the Northeast Regional School.

Old Business:

Update on the Articles of Incorporation:

Chairman Peele reported that he was successful to engage an attorney, David Liggitt, corporate attorney for Avoca, to do the articles of incorporation at no charge to the Regional School. Joe Landino presented a list of 7 names to serve as the Board Members for the Northeast Regional Biotechnology and Agricultural Educational Foundation. The names are Mark Phillips, Northeast Biotechnology Center, Greenville NC, H.L. Stephenson III, attorney with Ward and Smith, Ken Cherry, Cherry Seed Farms, Columbia, NC, Heber A. Respass, Respass Farms, Plymouth, NC, Van Rogerson, President and Chief Executive Officer with Northeast NC Economic Commission, Joe Landino, member of Blackland Farm Managers and NERSBA Board and David Peele, President of Avoca. Motion is made by David Peoples with a second from Kenneth Harrell to accept the Board Members as presented. David Peoples calls for the question and with no further discussion the Board is approved with a unanimous vote. David Peele noted that he will forward the list to David Liggitt to proceed with the articles of incorporation.

Update on NERSBA Instructional Facilities for 2013-14 Academic Calendar:

Joe Landino reported that the Finance Committee met to discuss funds available for the leasing of the Windows of the World Facility located in Roper. The committee agreed that \$1750 per month could be paid for rental of the facility. Jean Woolard, Hal Davis and Joe Landino presented the offer of \$1750 to the Washington County Board of Commissioners during open session in February to rent the facility. The Washington County Board countered with an offer for the school to rent the facility for \$1800 per month for a period of 13 months with an option to renew the lease at the end of the 13 months. It was noted that Principal Davis would like to be in the facility by June 1st, 2013. A motion is made by Joe Landino with a second by Janie Spencer to rent Windows on the World for \$1800 per month for 13 months with an option to renew the lease after 13 months. Cheryl Young, attorney for Washington County noted that the only limitation that will be noted in the contract is the facility needs to be available as a polling location during elections. Windows on the World is an approved facility by the Board of Elections and by Raleigh. It is generally used twice a year for primaries but it was noted that there is not a primary next year. It was also noted that the school will be responsible for minor maintenance, housekeeping, ground maintenance and utilities. With no further discussion the motion is approved unanimously.

Update on Clean Water Management Trust Fund Grant Application – David Peoples:

David Peoples reported that as decided at the last board meeting not to pursue a grant from the Clean Water Management Trust Fund but to pursue a planning grant from the NC Rural Economic Center. The necessary documents to apply for this grant have been prepared and will be presented at their next meeting in February.

Update on Meeting with Supt. Davis, Washington County School – Mac Hodges

Chairman Peele took executive privilege and added point E under old business to allow Mac Hodges, Finance Chair to discuss a recent meeting held with Supt. Davis, Washington County Schools. He reported that they had an open and candid conversation and that some issues could not be resolved until Supt. Davis had to meet with his Chair and his board members. One of the issues discussed was fees owed by the Northeast Regional School to Washington County Schools. One of the fees is for the counselor that is shared with Washington county schools who works with NERSBA one day a week. It was noted that as of today, (Feb. 20th) that a bill has not been received for the counselors services to the school. It was noted that it was communicated to Supt. Davis that when a bill is received that it will be paid. The other issue noted is fees owed for Food Services. It was again communicated that when a bill is sent for payment of food services that it will be paid. Bus transportation was another issue discussed. It was communicated to Supt. Davis that this is covered under the State Transportation budget. Chairman Peele noted that because the Northeast Regional school is classified as an early college high school and funds are available to cover the additional 20 days that the Northeast Regional school meets that is not part of partnering 5 Lea's school calendars. Supt. Davis was asked to work with the State transportation director, Derek Graham to work the additional funding out in regards to transportation. Mac Hodges reported that the main focus of the meeting was to discuss the day to day services provided to the school by the financial department of Washington County Schools. It was noted that it was reiterated to Supt Davis that it is the intention of the Board to work with Washington County schools to pay what was justifiable for the finance dept. of Washington County schools providing the day to day services to the school. Supt. Davis will meet with his finance director and do cost analyses to see what the costs involved are and report back at a later date. It was emphasized by Mr. Hodges and Chairman Peele to Supt. Davis that it is the intention of the Board to work with together with Washington County schools to do what is best for the students. It was suggested by Mr. Hodges that a yearly joint meeting be considered to allow Washington County Schools and the NERSBA board to come together and discuss issues at hand instead of them being disseminated in the community. Chairman Peele noted that the only odd thing, in his opinion, is it is uncommon for one school system to write invoices to another school system. Chairman Peele noted that he comes from the business world and in the business world you don't generally ask for invoices. He noted maybe the NERSBA board was remiss in not being proactive in asking Washington County for the invoices for counselor services but that it was made clear to Supt. Davis that it is understood that the Board has financial responsibilities to Washington County School System that includes paying for the counselor and food services and bus transportation (if the State of NC does not pay for bus services) and includes working out a memorandum of understanding of how the financial component is going to work between the school and Washington County schools. Chairman Peele noted that it was a very productive and cooperative meeting and that in two to three weeks he and Mr. Hodges will meet again with Supt. Davis and come back with a recommendation from the Finance Committee to the Board as to what the memorandum of understanding will look like and at that time catch up everything that is owed to Washington County schools for counselor, food and financial services at one time. Chairman Peele also noted that there are several versions of Senate bill 125 "floating around". Chairman Peele provided to every one of the Board members an official copy of Senate Bill 125. The two major differences from earlier copies and the official bill is that an earlier copy says that Washington County will be the fiscal agent for the school where the official signed version says that one of the participating Lea's will

be the fiscal agent. In the resolutions that each county passed to ask to be a member of the regional school which was approved by the State Board of Education, Washington County indicated in their resolution that they agreed to be the fiscal agent to the School. Supt. Davis asked the question is it cast in stone that Washington County Schools always has to be the fiscal agent. Dr. Peele consulted the DPI attorney, who indicated that Washington County Schools can elect to not be the fiscal agent for the school by passing a resolution at a school board of education meeting at which time it comes back to the NERSBA board who will consult with the other 4 participating counties and then transfer funds to the county who agrees to be our fiscal agent. The other question asked by Dr. Davis is how the students are proportioned between the 5 LEA's. Senate Bill 125 discusses that students are allocated to this school based on the total percentage of the population of their county. If one of the participating counties does not make their allocations then it is recalculated and the other four counties can have more students attend the school. It was noted that a focus was not made to recruit students specifically from Washington County but that an effort was made and will be made this year to recruit students from all 5 counties equally. Chairman Peele then asked if anyone had any questions. Jean Woolard then asked Chairman Peele to address the misconception of ADM money and how much follows the student. Chairman Peele explained that in creation of the regional school a commission was appointed by the legislature and their task was to figure out what the governance would look like in a regional school and write a report to submit to the legislature. In the initial report it was indicated that the ADM money would be split 70 percent to go to the regional school and 30 percent would go to the home county that the student resided in. The Legislature considered the report and drafted Senate bill 125 but said that they would not pay twice for a student to go to school in NC so it was decided that the ADM money would follow the student wherever the student went to school. Tracey Johnson, Washington County Commissioner then asked about recruitment and a recent 8th grade class that recently visited the Vernon James Center for recruitment. It was reported that the teacher from the school that visited made initial contact with the administrative assistant at the Vernon James Center who in turn forwarded the request to Mark Clough, potato breeder with NC State. He arranged a tour for the students and asked Principal Davis and Benjie Forrest, Eastern Region Agricultural Education Director to make brief comments about the Center and the school at the beginning of the tour. The visit was never intentionally intended as a recruitment trip. Jean Woolard also wanted to touch on a misconception that the public is not welcome to school board meetings. She noted that the Board and school are using public money and that anything done is open to the public and that the public is invited to come to Board meetings.

Report from Principal Davis:

Personnel - Principal Davis reported that Connie Smith will be joining the faculty in early March as the new math teacher. He also reported that she has already been involved in staff development by attending Lenses on Learning at Wayne Community College.

Golden Leaf Foundation Grant Award

Principal Davis apprised the Board that he and Chairman Peele have completed the financial reports required for the 1st reporting period for the Golden Leaf Grant and are waiting on a response from Golden Leaf regarding their submission.

Technology Update:

Principal Davis reported that the 1:1 initiative is going very well under the direction of Julie Gurganus, technology facilitator. He also reported that the students are taking NC virtual public schools classes online as well as an online college success class with Pamlico Community College.

Parental Advisory Committee:

Principal Davis introduced Gerald Wynn, one of the members of the Parental Advisory Committee. He provided the Board with a list of the members of the committee by LEA as well as an agenda of the last meeting held.

Student Recruitment for 2013-14:

Principal Davis provided a handout showing the Student Enrollment Process dated February 4th, 2013. He has begun the recruiting process in all of the partnering LEA's, Beaufort, Martin, Pitt, Tyrrell and Washington County. He reported that he has had good response in all the partnering counties and that Beaufort County and has invited him back to present at two parent night meetings. An open house will be held on March 14th to allow parents and students to attend that have questions about the school. Application submission deadline is March 21st. He is hoping to have interviews completed by April 12th with the idea of knowing who the new class of students will be by May 1st, 2013. This will help facilitate the transportation piece as the transportation directors from the partnering counties have indicated that they would like to meet in May to develop a regional transportation plan.

Student Involvement with Extracurricular Activities:

Principal Davis reported that he has received inquiries from the present class concerning involvement in sports and extracurricular activities. He asked for input from the Board regarding direction in responding to questions from students and parents in offering students the opportunity to return to their home counties to participate in extra curricular activities as he is aware that the school is at least two years away from allowing the students to participate in extra curricular activities. David Peoples asked Principal Davis if he had met with the Superintendents from the other counties to find out if 1) will the partnering LEA's allow NERSBA students to participate in their programs 2) would they be absorbing the cost or will they expect a stipend to allow NERSBA students to participate in their programs as ADM money follows high school athletics is not with the student and 3) would the partnering LEA's allow the students to return on a short term basis or would it be for a long term commitment. He feels that until those three questions are answered that he is not in position to give any guidance. Benjie Forrest noted that ADM money cannot be used for athletics. He reported that local fund dollars can be used for athletics. (I.e. build an athletic facility, buy uniforms etc.) but that State ADM money is not geared toward athletics. Principal Davis reported that he has not had conversation with any of the other Superintendents but that he believes with the High School athletic association that a bill was passed in the General Assembly to allow home school students to go to their area high schools to participate in athletics. Mac Hodges agrees with David Peoples that he would like Principal Davis to meet with the other 5 Superintendents and get input from them regarding these three

questions and bring additional information back to the Board for their consideration. Joe Landino would also like to hear input from the Parental Advisory Board. Benjie Forrest said that he would be interested to know how many students the school would lose if sports are not offered. Mac Hodges asked Janie Spencer, board member with Tyrrell County if their early college students are allowed to participate in sports. She reported they are. Mac Hodges reported that early college students in Beaufort County are not allowed to participate in sports. Jean Woolard feels that it would be a logistical nightmare to transport kids to their respective counties to participate in athletics. Chairman Peele noted that as the school grows and more students are attending that there may be a creative way during the school day to allow the students to have intramurals and or athletics on campus. Chairman Peele asked Rebecca Stanley, NC New Schools Project if she knows of other Early Colleges that allow students to go back to their base school to participate in athletics. She indicated that there are some early colleges and middle colleges that allow students to go back to their base schools to participate but that they are located in bigger cities and are closer to their base schools and are not 5 counties wide. Greene County does not allow their students to go back to their base schools but there is so much interest that they have started their own intramural teams and are playing other early colleges and support heavily community activities.

Relay for Life:

Principal Davis asked for approval from the Board for students to be involved and participate with Relay for Life at the Vernon James Center. Benjie Forrest motioned with a second from Joe Landino. Motion approved unanimously.

School Pictures/Academic Brochure:

Principal Davis reported that he has several parents ask about school pictures. He has contacted and has been working with Life Touch to develop a proposal to have school photograph session as well as work with the school on a year by year basis to develop an academic brochure that will highlight all of the students and some of the activities that the students are involved in during the year. A motion is made by Benjie Forrest with a second by Kenneth Harrell to allow for school pictures and an academic brochure. With no discussion the motion is approved unanimously.

NERSBA FFA Chartering Ceremony:

Principal Davis apprised the Board and public members present of the NERSBA FFA Chartering Ceremony that will be held Thursday, February 21, 2013 at 7 pm. State FFA Officers will be attending as well as state FFA representatives.

College of Ag and Life Science Donor Appreciation Program:

Principal Davis reported that Buffy Everette as well as several FFA students attended the College of Ag and Life Science Donor Appreciation Program which was a fund raising activity for the College of Agriculture and Life Science at North Carolina State University.

Satellite Day:

Principal Davis reported that the second satellite day on Monday, February 18th. He reported that these have been very successful and is hoping to incorporate more of these in next year's school calendar to continue to help with transportation costs.

Principal Davis also reported that Dr. Carl Crozier will have students working with him in the field tomorrow, February 21st, taking soil samples. He reported that Dr. Crozier has been very receptive and instrumental in working with the students and offering them hands on experiences.

He also reported that the students will be taking a field trip in March to Elizabeth City State University, Coast Guard Station and airship industries.

Chairman Peele added that Michele Oros grant writer with Beaufort is working with Principal Davis and his staff to help them develop and apply for a grant from Burroughs Wellcome that fosters and encourages agricultural education experiences outside the classroom. Mac Hodges interjected that Ms. Oros is an employee of Beaufort County Schools but that she is providing her services on her own time and that she has the full support of the Beaufort County Superintendent. Benjie Forrest then asked with the Boards permission if Ms. Oros could investigate the Biodiesels 4 Schools program that Pitt County Schools is involved with. It would require NERSBA to seek out the restaurants in the surrounding area to see about collecting used cooking oil and to see what potential money is available and would connect the school with the business world and promotes the green industry of agriculture.

Activity Buses:

Mac Hodges reported that Beaufort County has two surplus activity buses for sale. They are listed on Govdeals.com. He is not sure how much longer they will be listed. His suggestion is to wait and see if a bid is submitted. The minimum bid for one of the buses is \$2500 and for the other bus is \$2000. A bus would allow students to be transported between Windows on the Worlds and the Vernon James Center next year or to transport students to the field for field work. Principal Davis has seen one of the buses located at Bath Elementary school and reported that it was in good condition. Kenneth Harrell motioned with a second from Benjie Forrest to authorize Principal Davis to purchase the bus for up to a maximum amount of \$2500. David Peoples asked about the funding source. Chairman Peele said that it would come from the available funds for this year. It was reiterated that the maximum amount that can be spent on the bus is \$2500. Motion approved unanimously.

Other Items:

Rebecca Stanley asked to add Katherine Peele Executive Vice-President with LS3P associates, an architect firm, to the next board agenda to present school designs to the Board.

Chairman Peele reported the next Board meeting will be Wednesday, March 17th, 2013.

Joe Landino said that he has been asked which group of students will be attending classes at Windows on the World. Principal Davis reported that students currently attending at the Vernon James Center will stay at the Vernon James Center and new incoming students will attend Windows on the World.

With no further business a motion is made by Benjie Forrest with a second from Joe Landino to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Peele adjourned the meeting at 5:50 pm

Minutes submitted by: Melinda White