

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

Date: June 13, 2013

Present:

David Peele
Benjie Forrest
Joe Landino
Mac Hodges
Lynn West
Dwight Respass
Kenneth Harrell
Michael Dunsmore

Time: 1:30 pm

Place: Vernon James Research and Ext. Center

Absent:

Supt. Joe Davis
Janie Spencer
David Peoples

Chairman David Peele called to order the meeting of the Board of the Northeast Region High School for Biotechnology and Agriscience at 1:30 pm on June 14, 2013, at the Vernon James Research and Extension Center. Melinda White proceeded with roll call. Resource personnel present are Hal Davis, Principal of the Northeast Regional School of Biotechnology and Agriscience, Jean Woolard, David Noell, Finance Officer with Washington County Schools and Margo Lilley, Noah Wynn and Jamir Smallwood, NERSBA students. Also present are Mary Wayt from the Roanoke Beacon Newspaper.

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

Chairman Peele presented the agenda for additions and or deletions. With no additions or deletions a motion is made by Mac Hodges with a second from Benjie Forrest to approve the minutes as presented. Motion approved unanimously

Chairman Peele then offered the May minutes for consideration and noted that the minutes are posted on the NERSBA website and were emailed to the Board members before the meeting. The only correction noted is to add Supt. Michael Dunsmore present at the May meeting. With no further corrections the minutes are approved as amended.

Public Comments: None

NERSBA Student Presentation:

Noah Wynn, Margo Lilley and Jamir Smallwood came before the Board to ask for permission for NERSBA students to return to their home LEA's to participate in athletics. Margo Lilley presented first and indicated that a vote was taken of the NERSBA student population and that 60% of the students who wish to participate in sports are willing to supply their own transportation from the NERSBA campus to their home LEA's to play sports. Noah Wynn added that out of the 58 NERSBA students 65% of them would like to play sports somewhere in the future. The students feel that sports are another component that would allow them to build team work and leadership roles outside of the classroom. Margo Lilley added that going to their home schools

would reduce the cost to NERSBA of having to start their own sports program and would allow NERSBA students to interact with other students in their home LEA's and ultimately promote the program being offered at NERSBA. Chairman Peele asked how the students propose to get from the NERSBA campus to their home LEA's in a timely manner. Noah Wynn indicated that most schools release at 3:00 to 3:30 but this year NERSBA releases at 2:30 which gives students a solid 30-45 minute cushion which would allow the students to get back in time to participate. He also feels that the other schools that participate would be willing to make allowances for the students if they are 5 -10 minutes late. Lynn West asked about game days where students are normally released earlier and how will that impact the NERSBA day. Noah Wynn answered that with away games that yes, the students would need to be released earlier but that at least half of the games would be home games with away games only requiring the students to be released early approximately 7-8 times during the school year. He also noted that most of the teams played are local teams within close driving proximity. Margo Lilley also added that she feels that if the students are truly dedicated to being on a sports team that they would be willing to make up any work that is missed. Mac Hodges asked if permission was given would the students just participate in one sport or more than one sport. Noah Wynn answered that he feels if students were allowed to participate that they would be happy to start with participating in just one sport for the first year and then slowly develop to more than one sport. Mac Hodges asked how many students of those polled are from Pitt County. Supt. Dunsmore pointed out that Pitt County and Martin County are not a part of the East Coast Athletic Conference. Tyrrell County and Washington County would be in one conference, Pitt and Beaufort County would be in a separate conference in the South and Martin County would be in a separate conference in the West. Supt. Dunsmore also noted that he had received a call from the director of the High School Athletic Association. Supt. Dunsmore sits on the board of the Association and because NERSBA has an LEA number it would be treated as a high school and would be denied the ability to allow students to be released to play in their home LEA's. Due to language currently written in the bylaws of the high school athletic association there is litigation with home school students and charter school students in allowing them to return to their home LEA's to participate in sports due to boundary and recruiting issues. He feels NERSBA would be better served to sponsor an athletic program of its own. He feels the High School athletic association would not allow NERSBA students to return to their home LEA's to participate in sports until the current litigation is resolved. He pointed out that right now students cannot even transfer school to school within their own county for sports or extracurricular activities. Chairman Peele thanked the students for presenting their ideas and said the Board would look into the students playing sports and try to find a solution. Noah Wynn also wanted to add that future students are losing interest in attending NERSBA due to the fact that they might not be able to participate in sports. With no more comments or questions, the students were again thanked and left the meeting. After the students left, Supt. Dunsmore noted that the liability insurance would be a huge issue and in larger counties where there are multiple high schools there is policy in place for sharing athletes and academic eligibility as academic eligibility is different from county to county. Chairman Peele asked if a regional school could play in the same league as private schools. Supt. Dunsmore said that NERSBA could start its own team as an independent but the students would not have access to the post season competitions. Benjie Forrest also noted that the FFA Camping Program could be involved in allowing NERSBA to have intra mural teams to have competition against each other if it could be worked into the schedule. The Board agreed that it was a goal to look toward as the school achieves full capacity. Lynn West asked Mr. Respass, as the parent advisory committee member, what their thoughts are on this issue. He reported that this issue

has not been discussed in depth. He noted that it was briefly mentioned at one of the first meetings as a long term goal but nothing specific. Lynn West noted that at initial recruiting meetings it was told to the students and the parents that sports would not be an option until the school had reached capacity and that students needed to consider this before deciding whether to come to NERSBA. Benjie Forrest asked Principal Davis to offer his thoughts on the subject. He noted that this has been a subject that has been coming up over and over throughout the school year. He feels as the Board does that the school is not ready to provide a sports program. He feels that it will be worth pursuing when the school reaches capacity.

Finance Report – David Noell:

David Noell provided handouts showing the different fund accounts (ADM funds for the State, RTTT Stem fund, Central Office Admin fund, ADM Special Fund (local ADM funds) Carnegie Fund and Golden Leaf) and balances as of 5/31/2013. He also provided the PCN bank balance as of 5/31/2013. Lynn West asked if there is a bank that would not charge the school a \$75.00 per month service charge. He said that a Washington County school is looking into finding another bank that does not charge such a large monthly service charge. Chairman Peele noted that he has asked from Tracy Taylor for an estimate of what the local ADM fund carryover will be after everything is reconciled. David Noell will follow up on this with Tracy Taylor and report back to Chairman Peele. Principal Davis also noted that David Noell has found errors in transportation invoices that have been received from other LEA's and has saved NERSBA a considerable amount of money.

Old Business:

Balance of NERSBA invoice owed to Washington County Schools:

There is a balance of \$7,253.88 on an invoice for financial services provided by Washington County to NERSBA. Mac Hodges motions with a second from Michael Dunsmore to pay the balance owed on the invoice for financial services. With no discussion the motion passes unanimously.

2013-14 NERSBA Budget Proposal:

Mac Hodges reported that the finance committee has met on several occasions and has finalized a budget for approval for the 2013-2014 school year. A handout of the budget proposed is provided to the Board for their review before approval. Lynn West asked if the 6 months needed for Tracy Asbys salary is figured into the proposed budget since the Carnegie grant is only to pay for 18 months of her salary and 12 months has already been paid. Mr. Hodges noted that it is. Mr. Hodges noted that the budget will not provide for an online class facilitator so the administrative assistant that is hired as well as the teachers will be asked to help with this task. Supt. Dunsmore asked if the salaries proposed for the new teaching positions are based on a range – what will happen if a teacher is hired with numerous years of experience. Mr. Hodges noted that if that is the case then the budget will be tight. Chairman Peele interjected that this is one of the issues with this year's budget as teachers were hired this year with many years of experience and cost more money than what was originally budgeted for this year. Benjie Forrest asked what level of experience will be afforded by the salary range being offered in this year's budget. Principal Davis said that it will afford a teacher with 6-7 years of experience and offers some flexibility. Principal Davis said that he feels obligated to the school to get the very best teachers available. David Noell asked if he could make a comment on the fringe benefits being offered. He commented that he feels that the fringe needs to be projected at a higher rate due to the increase being projected in the upcoming State budget for retirement and health insurance premiums.

Lynn West asked if the same arrangement will be in place next year with the guidance counselor being provided from Washington County one day a week. Chairman Peele answered that a guidance counselor to be hired part time is included in the proposed budget. Benjie Forrest asked about career technical education dollars that NERSBA was told it would qualify for. He noted that LEA's get their formula in months of employment. He asked Principal Davis if he had researched it since the last finance meeting at which Principal Davis answered no. Lynn West noted that every LEA gets a base line of 50 months and then additional months of employment based on 95 students from grades 8-12. Benjie Forrest explained that the way CTE money is expedited out to the counties is that every system in the state that is it's own LEA gets 50 months of employment no matter how many students it has and then looks at all students in grades through 8-12 and for every 95 students an additional month of employment is given. He reiterated that this really needs to be researched. Principal Davis will call Rob Hines with DPI regarding this issue and report back to the Finance Committee. In regards to the budget, Mac Hodges reported that another school system has approached NERSBA about providing financial services for the 2013-14 school year. He asked the Board to give the Finance Committee permission to explore this opportunity and report back at next months meeting. Lynn West asked does Senate Bill 125 specify that Washington County will be the fiscal agent for the school. Chairman Peele answered that the final version of the bill states that one of the 5 participating LEA's has to be the fiscal agent. The finance committee will pursue this option and report back at the July meeting. A motion is made by Mac Hodges with a second from Kenneth Harrell to approve the budget as presented. With no further questions or discussion the motion is approved unanimously. Mac Hodges then makes a motion that the Board authorizes the Finance Committee to talk to the other school system that has shown interest in providing financial services to NERSBA for the 2013-14 school year. The motion is seconded by Kenneth Harrell. With no further discussion the motion is passed unanimously.

Financial audit for 2012-134:

Chairman Peele presents a quote from Pittard, Perry and Crone to do a financial audit for NERSBA for the 2012-13 school year. The amount quoted to do the audit is \$10,000. He noted that this will paid from the carry over money. Lynn West if this amount is in line to do an audit. Chairman Peele answered that he feels that it is reasonable amount. Kenneth Harrell asked if this had been advertised as he feels the amount is high compared to what Martin County schools has to pay. Principal Davis noted that the reason he approached Pittard, Perry and Crone is that they will already be auditing Washington County School and felt that it would be easier since Washington County is currently the fiscal agent for the school. Mr. Harrell noted that we can get Pittard, Perry and Crone to do it this year and investigate other options next year. Joe Landino asked if an audit was in next year's budget. Chairman Peele answered no. Kenneth Harrell motions that the quote be accepted as presented with a second from Joe Landino. With no further discussion the motion is approved unanimously.

Report from Principal Davis:

NERSBA Student Enrollment Update for 2013-14:

Principal Davis provided a handout that shows by grade level and LEA student enrollment for the 2013-14 school year. He noted that 120 students will be reporting for the new school year starting August 5, 2013. An orientation will be held for the freshmen class on July 29, 2013. Lynn West asked how many of the 65 students that have been offered enrollment has accepted. He replied that 65 students have accepted with a waiting list of students.

Personnel for 2013-14:

Principal Davis reported that he is in the process of interviewing personnel for the new positions needed for the 2013-14 school year. He asked for Board approval to hire teachers before the July meeting to allow them to attend workshops in July. Chairman Peele noted that with an approved budget with three positions available that he can proceed with hiring teachers as long as he stays within the approved budget.

NERSBA East Campus Site

Principal Davis reported that possession has been taken of the East Campus site and preparations have begun to prepare the campus for the 2013-14 school year.

NERSBA/Pitt Community College Biotechnology Workshop:

Principal Davis reported that students will be going on a field trip Monday June 17th to Pitt Community College to attend a biotechnology workshop. He also noted that a third of the student body will be attending the State FFA Convention June 18-20th, 2013.

NERSBA Board Meeting Schedule for 2013-14:

Principal Davis provided an outline of the NERSBA Board meeting schedule for the 2013-14 school year. Mac Hodges asked if the meetings will continue to be held on the third Wednesday of each month. Principal Davis answered yes. The meeting schedule will be posted on the school website.

NERSBA Vision and Mission Statement:

Principal Davis presented to the board a proposed NERSBA Vision and Mission statement. He noted that input was received from students, faculty and parents to develop this mission statement. He noted that Chairman Peele made some minor changes to the statement. A motion is made by Joe Landino with a second from Benjie Forrest to accept the Vision and Mission statement as presented. With no discussion, the motion is approved unanimously.

NERSBA Mascot:

Principal Davis presented two choices to the Board that have been narrowed down as choice for school mascot. The student and faculty are split 50-50 between mavericks and bulldogs with the parent advisory committee leaning towards the maverick. Michael Dunsmore motions with a second from Lynn West to approve the maverick as the school mascot. With no further discussion the motion is approved unanimously.

2013-14 Calendar:

Principal Davis provides to the Board a final printed version of the 2013-14 school calendar.

Chairman Peele noted that the next scheduled Board meeting is to be held July 17th, 2013 from 4:30 – 6:00 pm at the Vernon James Center.

Supt. Dunsmore was asked at the last board meeting to look into a policy and procedure manual for NERSBA and reports that he spoke with the School Board Association in regards to this and recommends to the Board to have the School Board

Association help in developing policies and procedures for NERSBA. He noted that the amount for them to develop this for Tyrrell County was \$19,000 and that it took a year to complete. He said it could be done in house but that it is a herculean project. He also noted that the School Board Association has attorneys on staff and that everything in the manual is reflected in state statute and federal law. Mr. Dunsmore will arrange for them to come and do a presentation at a future board meeting.

With no further business a motion is made by Benjie Forrest with a second from Michael Dunsmore to adjourn the meeting. The meeting is adjourned at 3:04 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Melinda White