

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

Date: June 28, 2013

Time: 10:00 pm

Place: Vernon James Research and Ext. Center

Present:

David Peele
Janie Spencer
Joe Landino
Mac Hodges
Lynn West
Dwight Respass
David Peoples
Michael Dunsmore

Absent:

Supt. Joe Davis
Benjie Forrest
Kenneth Harrell

Chairman David Peele called to order the called meeting of the Board of the Northeast Region High School for Biotechnology and Agriscience at 10:00 am on June 28, 2013, at the Vernon James Research and Extension Center.

Chairman Peele called this meeting today to discuss the hiring of teachers. Math and science teachers have been identified to be hired but the salary being considered is more than what is proposed in the recently approved budget. Chairman Peele presents a PowerPoint presentation showing original budget approved by the board, a proposed budget with new hires being hired for 12 months, a proposed budget showing new hires being hired for 11 months, and a proposed budget with new hires being hired for 11 months and without a guidance counselor being hired on a part time basis which was included in the original budget. Each scenario shows the change (+ -) to the originally proposed budget. Chairman Peele noted that hiring teachers for 11 months as opposed to 12 months requires Board action. Chairman Peele also noted that there will be some fund balance carryover from the previous school year budget but is not in favor of tapping into the fund balance to allow for unexpected expenses. Lynn West asked if it was written anywhere that a guidance counselor has to be hired. Chairman Peele answered not to his knowledge, no. David Peoples asks three questions – 1) what is the affect of not having a guidance counselor. Principal Davis answers that as the school grows students will need a counselor to prepare them for college and to develop program studies. Chairman Peele asked is it imperative at the freshman and sophomore level – Principal Davis answered yes particularly at the sophomore level. He noted that the person identified for the counselor position was willing to work half time and was a good fit for what the school needs. 2) Mr. Peoples became aware of the program Teach for America when he visited Harvard and is this an option for hiring teachers for NERSBA. Lynn West noted that it costs approximately \$3000 that is paid per teacher to contract with Teach for America. Mr. Peoples asked Ms. West if Washington County had been successful with the teachers that they have contracted through Teach with America. She said for the most part yes. Chairman Peele noted that this would be a good option to use when planning for the 2014-15 school year but is not an option for this year. 3) If teachers are hired at 11 months instead of 12 months how does Principal Davis think the current staff will feel about this. Principal Davis

noted that current staff will continue to be hired for 12 months; it is only new staff that will be hired at 11 months. Mr. Peoples then asks if Carnegie and Golden Leaf funds can be applied for again. Chairman Peele answered that there will be the opportunity to apply for both grants again. He feels that Carnegie will be more likely to refund than Golden Leaf. He also noted that a grant has been applied for to assist with Ag Curriculum but that this will not help with teachers and/or classroom needs. Lynn West asked what happened to the Vident grant that was supposed to be received. Chairman Peele answered that it is reflected in the revenue sources in the approved budget. Chairman Peele also noted that there are some funds available to hire a counselor one day a week. Dwight Respass asked what the deficit to the budget would be if teachers were hired for 12 months with no guidance counselor hired. Chairman Peele answered approximately \$15,000. Mac Hodges asked if the proposed teachers have been asked if they are willing to accept 11 month employment as opposed to 12 month employment. Principal Davis answered that the teachers being considered are now currently employed as 10 month employees so they are actually gaining one month of employment. Jean Woolard commented on the Teacher for American Program and noted that in addition to the \$3,000 paid per teacher that the school also has to pay salaries and that she feels that pursuing teachers by this avenue will not help at all in the current budget situation. She also noted that proceeding with hiring the teachers for 11 months with the understanding that a guidance counselor will not be hired that it is not inconceivable that funds could not be found at a later date to hire a guidance counselor one day a week. Lynn West commented that she feels a counselor should be hired for at least two days a week – to be at the Vernon James Center one day a week and the east campus one day a week. Lynn West then asked about CTE money and months of employment that was discussed at the June 14th board meeting. Chairman Peele answered that CTE money is allocated back to the local LEA's and NERSBA has to go back to every participating LEA and figure out how many students proportionally are in CTE classes and bill them. He also noted that this would be in addition to ADM money. He said, according to DPI, that there is no such thing as getting another pool of CTE money. Supt. Dunsmore commented that if this option of billing the participating LEA' for ADM and CTE funds is pursued then Tyrrell County would have to pull out. Supt. Dunsmore also commented that the primary goal should be to get teachers in the classroom and then pursue a counselor at least two days a week as funds develop. He feels that as the second campus become operational that the school would have more success in searching and obtaining grant money to pay for the items that are currently taking away from instructional staff salaries. David Peoples moves that the board adopt the proposed budget with new hires hired for 11 months without a guidance counselor being hired. Michael Dunsmore seconds the motion. Lynn West commented that the need for a grant writer is more in need than a guidance counselor. Chairman Peele noted that Michele Oros, grant writer with Beaufort County is looking constantly for grants for NERSBA and works on an hourly basis. Dwight Respass asked if it will cause friction in hiring new teachers at 11 months with current staff being hired for 12 months. Principal Davis answered that he did not feel that it would be a problem. Mac Hodges calls for the question. Motion is approved unanimously. David Peoples then asked Chairman Peele if he has heard from Rebecca Stanley with New Schools Project, regarding how NERSBA can apply for lottery funds. Chairman Peele answered that he had not hear from Ms. Stanley and he would follow up with an email to Rob Hines with DPI. A motion is made by Mac Hodges with a second from Michael Dunsmore to adjourn the meeting. Motion is approved unanimously.

Submitted by: Melinda White