

Northeast Regional School of Biotechnology and Agriscience Board Meeting Minutes

Date: August 20, 2014

Place: Vernon James Research and Extension Center

Time: 4:30 PM

Present: David Peele, Mac Hodges, Benjie Forrest, Joe Landino, Norris Tolson, Paul Spruill, Dwight Respass, Lynn West, Michael Dunsmore, Ethan Lenker, Jean Woolard, Julius Walker, Simon Griffin, Matthew Babcock, Karen Clough

Absent: Kenneth Harrell

Chairman David Peele called to order the August meeting of the Board of Directors for the Northeast Regional School of Biotechnology and Agriscience at 4:30 pm on August 20, 2014. The meeting was held at the Vernon James Research and Extension Center in Plymouth, NC. Inga Spruill proceeded with the roll call. Resource personnel present were Principal Hal Davis, Andrew Harris, Joyce Loveless and De McKenzie of NC New Schools. Others present were Jewel Tetterton of the Vernon James Center, NERSBA faculty and staff members Tracie Asby, Christy Gardner, Cole Watkins, Jessica Giorgione, Jennifer Loeffler, Jessica Lunsford, Tiffany Hudson of the Roanoke Beacon and Mr. & Mrs. Aurthur Johnson.

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

Chairman Peele presented the agenda for approval. With no additions or deletions Vice Chairman Hodges moved to approve the agenda followed by a second from Matthew Babcock. The motion to approve the agenda passed unanimously.

Chairman Peele offered the July minutes for consideration and noted that the minutes were posted to the NERSBA website. Vice Chairman Hodges noted that he and Benjie Forrest were not present at the last meeting and would not vote due to their absence. Norris Tolson moved to approve the minutes followed by a second from Joe Landino. The motion to approve the minutes was passed unanimously by the board membership.

Public Comments:

None

Installation of New Board Members:

Mrs. Denise Moulden, Clerk of Court, swore in the new board members Paul Spruill, Jean Woolard, and Karen Clough. The new board members were welcomed by Chairman Peele at the conclusion of the ceremony.

Financial Report:

Michael Cowin, finance officer with Pitt County Schools, was not present at the meeting. Principal Hal Davis spoke on his behalf. Principal Davis noted that Mr. Cowin is back at Pitt County working diligently for our school audit that is scheduled next week. Principal Davis gave credit for all the time and hard work that Mr. Cowin and his staff puts forth for our school and continues to do an exceptional job assisting NERSBA with our financial matters.

Introduction of New NERSBA Faculty:

Principal Davis asked the new faculty to stand and be recognized as he introduced each new staff member.

- Christy Gardner, Technology Instructional Facilitator, formerly with Washington County Schools
- Cole Watkins, Agriscience Education Instructor, from Orange County, Mount Olive University
- Jessica Giorgione, Science Instructor, formerly with Edenton Chowan Schools
- Jessica Lunsford, Career Development Coordinator

Principal Davis recognized these new faculty and staff members for doing an outstanding job along with current faculty with providing leadership, guidance and direction to our students, parents, faculty and making our school a better place to work every day. Principal Davis thanked the new staff for being a part of our school.

NC New Schools Update:

Joyce Loveless, Senior Director for School Services with NC New Schools and Early College Director for the state, serves dual roles. She will be presenting the Cooperative and Innovative Application process and Senate Bill 849.

Senate Bill 849:

Notwithstanding the requirement of Part 9 of Article 16 of Chapter 27 115c of the General Statutes of the 2014-2015 school year, the Northeast Regional School of Biotechnology and Agriscience shall be designated as a Cooperative Innovative High School.

To maintain the designation as a Cooperative Innovative High School beyond the 2014-2015 school years the board of directors NERSBA shall apply with a local board of trustees for approval as a Cooperative Innovated High School.

At the conclusion of the presentation by Mrs. Loveless, Vice Chairman Hodges moved to approve the concept to make application for the grant process to make NERSBA a Cooperative and Innovative School followed by with a second from Dr. Dunsmore. During discussion on the motion, Dr. Lenker offered his help with the application along with Dr. Dunsmore help. Ms. Loveless also noted that her office would provide resources as needed. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Loveless introduced Mr. De McKenzie from the NC New Schools Organization who is going to support the Northeast Regional School this year as the Education Innovation Specialist. Mr. McKenzie presented the following time-line and organizational structure for his support of the school:

Time line of Education Innovation Specialist Support for School Impact Plan follows:

- June: Finalize Impact Plan
 - July: Organize School Support Team
 - August: Fall School Support Team
 - September: Analysis of Assessment and Instructional data against impact goals
 - October: Reflect/Adjust Progress
 - February: Evaluate Progress/Refine or Redesign impact goals
 - March: Analysis of Assessment and Instructional data against impact goals
 - April: School Planning Process February through May.
 - May: Evaluate Progress/Refine or Redesign impact goals
 - June: EOY School Support Team
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- ***Phase 1: Review Data***
 - ***Phase 2: Self- Assessment***
 - ***Phase 3: Impact Goals***

2014/2015 Goals:

- Increase academic expectations (rigor) by providing challenging discovery that is scaffold to challenge learners beyond comfort level to increase their depth of knowledge.
- Provide the infrastructure and design of the school, relocate current facilities to common location to promote more effective learning and teaching

With no further discussion Mr. McKenzie stated that he is looking forward to working with NERSBA as the Education Innovation Specialist.

NERSBA Curriculum Committee: by Lynn West

The curriculum committee met on August 11th at the Jamesville campus. Parents believe the Jamesville campus provides a safe environment and all students are together.

Students that have enrolled at Beaufort County Community College will be able to continue their college courses this semester thanks to Dr. Britt, president at Martin Community College, since we are now in their service area. Hopefully we will be able to receive services with Pitt, Beaufort and Martin Community Colleges in the near future. A meeting will be scheduled in late-September with all three community colleges to plan options and opportunities for next year.

Students who do not qualify for the community college course with a GPA of 3.0 or other appropriated scores can take classes through the North Carolina Virtual Public School program.

Faculty and staff are beginning to develop and structure a curriculum guide. This will resource will include graduation requirements, academics offerings, etc.

Some committee members believe there is a need for new terminology as to what you will call our fifth year students.

The curriculum committee feels they are still on target. The next meeting curriculum meeting is scheduled for September 4, 2014 at the Jamesville site.

NERSBA Personnel Committee Report: Norris Tolson

Mr. Tolson reported that the committee is still working together with busy schedules through emails lately. He has had a good conversation with Dwight, Hal and himself and the evaluation process will continue throughout the school year.

USDA Planning Grant: Norris Tolson

Mr. Tolson reported the job has been posted to our NERSBA website. We announced this last month at the meeting. No candidates have applied as of yet. A mail box has been set up for Dr. Peele at the Jamesville site as stated by Mr. Davis.

NERSBA Fund Rising Committee: Joe Landino

Mr. Landino reported there was a meeting at 11 am for the committee prior to the board meeting. Dr. Dunsmore has asked to be removed from the committee. Present for the meeting was Joe Landino, Tom Harrison, Beth Foster, Paige Harris, and Matthew Babcock. A suggestion was made from Mr. Babcock to change the name to Capital Campaign and was named Chairman for Capital Campaign Committee.

Mr. Landino made a suggestion for Mrs. Clough to be on the Capital Campaign Committee. Mr. Landino stated the next report will be made by Mr. Babcock and they will get things in line as of now and the next meeting date. The next meeting date has not been set and will communicate via email prior to next board meeting.

NERSBA Building/Facilities Committee:

Chairman Peele noted that the minutes stated that the man at the end down there is the Chairman of the Committee and he didn't object to it. Mr. Spruill stated that no he didn't but did see that. If they have a discussion about the USDA application, then he would be the Chair.

Chairman Peele asked Mr. Tolson had he visited the school in Smithfield. Mr. Tolson stated he was planning to on Monday.

New Business: Principal Hal Davis

NERSBA Transition to Jamesville Campus (NERSBA West) Update:

Principal Davis thanked everyone again that had a part to play in the transition to Jamesville site that made it very successful. The first week of school has been very positive going into a new site, new facility, new routines and establishing new procedures. He can't say enough about Martin County Schools and what they have done for us and particular Mr. Ron Melchiorre, superintendent of Martin County Schools and Mr. Gary Speller, maintenance director for Martin County Schools.

NERSBA Student Enrollment Update:

Mr. Davis reported that as of August 20, 2014, 165 scholars were enrolled at the school.

NERSBA Agricultural Engineering Laboratory/HVAC:

Mr. Davis requested that board to address the issue of heat for the existing former high school building and physical upgrades for the existing agriculture shop. These facilities are in need of attention in the near future. After debate and discussion regarding both of these facilities, Dr. Peele asked the facilities committee to meet with representatives from Martin County Schools to address these issues and to make a formal report back to the board during the September NERSBA board meeting.

NERSBA Open House:

Mr. Davis reported that a formal open house has been scheduled for Tuesday September 9th at the Jamesville location from 5:00 until 8:00 PM. Invitations have been sent to public officials from the five-county NERSBA service area. Mr. Davis extended an invitation for all board members to attend this event or visit the school at any time.

Mr. Davis also informed the board that funds outlined in the budget resolution for the 2014-15 school year to purchase technology and furniture would be encumbered in the very near future.

Dr. Peele asked Mr. Davis about activity buses and transportation for scholars to various field trips and the Vernon James Center/Tidewater Research Station. Mr. Davis noted that there were funds in the 2014-15 budget in the amount of \$7,000.00 allocated to purchase a used bus that he will begin working on in the near future.

Chairman Peele announced the next board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday September 17th at 4:30 PM at the Vernon James Center.

With no further discussion, Vice-Chairman Hodges moved to go into closed session as outlined by N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 followed by a second from Mrs. West. The motion passed with all board members voting in the affirmative.

At the conclusion of the closed session, Mrs. West moved to accept the personnel recommendation to employ Christy Gardner as the Instructional Technology

Support Specialist. The motion received a second from Mr. Joe Landino. With no discussion the motion passed unanimously by the board.

Norris Tolson moved to give Chairman David Peele authority to proceed with recruiting support help with the construction process of a facility for NERSBA. The motion received a second from Mr. Dwight Respass. After discussion the motion passed by a unanimously by the board.

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 PM.

Minutes submitted by: Inga Spruill