

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

Date: October 15, 2014

Place: NERSBA Jamesville Campus

Time: 4:30 PM

Present: David Peele, Mac Hodges, Benjie Forrest, Joe Landino, Norris Tolson, Dwight Respass, Michael Dunsmore, Ethan Lenker, Jean Woolard, Julius Walker, Simon Griffin, Karen Clough.

Absent: Paul Spruill, Lynn West, Kenneth Harrell, Matthew Babcock

Chairman David Peele called to order the meeting of the Board of Directors for the Northeast Regional School of Biotechnology and Agriscience at 4:35 pm on Wednesday October 15th. The meeting was held in the technology center at the Jamesville campus.

Inga Spruill proceeded with the roll call. Resource personnel present were Hal Davis, Principal, Julie Gurganus, Tracie Asby, Buffy Everette, Ginny Paul, Jessica Giorgione, Will Prettyman, Cole Watkins, Jessica Lunsford, Connie Smith, Stacy VanderMeeden, and Christy Gardner all faculty members at NERSBA. Andrew Harris from NC New Schools, Tiffany Hudson and Mary Wayt of The Roanoke Beacon and Brenda Monty of The Enterprise were also in attendance.

Chairman Peele presented the agenda for approval. With no additions or deletions, Vice-Chairman Mac Hodges moved to approve the agenda as presented followed by a second from Joe Landino. The motion to approve the agenda passed unanimously.

Chairman Peele offered the September minutes for consideration and noted that the minutes are posted on the NERSBA website. Norris Tolson moved to approve the minutes followed by a second from

Julius Walker. The motion to approve the minutes as presented passed unanimously by the board membership.

Public Comments: None

Special Presentation: Mrs. Mary Wayt, The Roanoke Beacon

Mary Wayt presented Principal Hal Davis an “upgrade” to an A+ for a Report Card that was given by her in the past for various government entities which Principal Davis in the past was given an A. Principal Davis was greatly appreciative of the honor.

Jean Woolard thanked the Roanoke Beacon, Mary Wayt and the staff for covering NERSBA throughout the last two years. Principal Davis also recognized coverage in the Harvest edition of NERSBA by Brenda Monty from the Enterprise.

Finance Report: Michael Cowin

Principal Davis stated that Mr. Cowin would not be attending the meeting and would be making a full report at the November meeting. Mr. Cowin did want to make note that all information needed to complete the financial audit for the 2013–14 school year has been sent to Carr, Riggs and Ingram and that he would have some preliminary comments about the audit process at the December meeting.

NERSBA Curriculum Committee Report: Michael Dunsmore reported that the staff had been working hard with Martin and Beaufort community colleges to get the memorandum of understanding and carrier pathways established. Martin Community College is allowing NERSBA to continue to take classes with Beaufort County Community College during the 2014–15 school year.

Benjie Forrest reported that the partnerships are developing and are working with NERSBA very well but still have concerns about the NC State University relationship with respect to developing and approving a formal memorandum of understanding. Tracie Asby noted that the school is currently planning on an initial core group of students to enroll in courses with NC State University during the 2015 spring semester.

Cooperative and Innovative Schools Grant Update:

Julie Gurganus and Tracie Asby reported the grant was submitted on time with a few clarifications needed by the Department of Public Instruction. The grant was accepted pending NC State Board of Trustee approval in November.

New Business:

Principal Davis provided an update sheet outlining NERSBA Informational Points of Interest to Board membership. Mr. Davis also provided a copy of the end of course test data, 501 (3) (c) status and the retreat agenda that was held on September 18th.

Andrew Harris spoke about the boards' retreat. He stated the retreat was a positive and great event for everyone involved.

Norris Tolson commented that State Board of Education Chairman William Colby was impressed with the school during the retreat. He was excited with what is going on at NERSBA and believed these examples should be used all over North Carolina. Norris Tolson also stated that the legislative visit went very well with students and staff doing a great job.

Chairman Peele added the most pressing issue at this time was facilities. Unfortunately with Senator Harry Brown who is our biggest champion in the legislature with respect to NERSBA having to leave at 12:00 didn't hear the big speech about why we need a new facility.

Principal Davis stated that he received a thank you e-mail from Syngenta regarding the field trip taken with the juniors in September and provided a copy of this to all board members.

Faculty Curriculum Discussions:

Buffy Everette explained the Biotechnology & Agriscience program.

Cole Watkins, Agriscience teacher note he teaches horticulture and plant science and works to incorporate biotechnology skills throughout his curriculum area.

GINNY PAUL, Science teacher she has been with NERSBA since the very first day. She is glad to see solidification in the curriculum and how she believes all areas are flowing together at this time and are really starting to see the connections in our classrooms. One of the goals in the Science Department is to work closely with the Agriscience teachers and create a mirage of the subject areas at NERSBA.

Jessica Giorgione, Science teacher added that faculty meet together regularly to make sure we are teaching core subject areas as a team. We are helping students build skills so we can make sure we are on the same page.

Will Prettyman, Social Studies teacher incorporates critical thinking skills and literacy skills, breaks down articles in other courses and processes and how they go about delivering the North Carolina Course of Study. He noted that he would like to see the engineering component built up more as a STEM school here at NERSBA.

Stacy VanderMeeden, Humanities/English, relates science and history with more critical thinking. She noted that English is a cross over between Science and History.

Connie Smith, teaches math along with Christi Rogerson. They use the Core Plus through Glenco. This is shown the real world first to get scholars to see the connections and brings students to the rules of generalization in the Math. We also have brought in things from the VJC field trips and collected soil samples and shucked corn counted data for corn yield which was tied into with Syngenta compared to traditional verses GMO's.

A request was made from Chairman Peele to have a needs list from each staff to provide at next board meeting.

After formal presentations of faculty, the board participated in a tour of the building and individual teacher classrooms at NERSBA.

At the conclusion of the tour, Mrs. Tracie Asby presented a follow-up power point outlining the following:

Where do we go from here?

- **History**
 - Connect laws with Agriscience—what is currently happening in legislation
- **Language Arts**
 - Incorporate discussions relating to Agriscience—make any connections with reading & time periods
- **Science**
 - Agriscience material is directly related to the curriculum—Biology (Horticulture & Animal Science). Earth & Environmental (Agriscience Apps).
- **Mathematics**
 - Teachers have attended summer PD with Syngenta
 - Lesson Plans were developed around Agriscience
 - Syngenta lessons are used in mathematics classrooms
 - Annual visit to the VJC to work with researchers—directly related to date

What is the “vision” for Agriscience curriculum at NERSBA?

- “Hands-on” Agriscience Lessons
 - Lessons provide a “hands on” approach…note “sit and get”
- Agriscience Connections in Lesson Plans
 - Each unit/topic has a connection to Agriscience
- Cross-curriculum projects
 - Projects involving Language Arts, History, Science & Mathematics

Next Steps: What is needed?

- **Agriscience**

- Connections for “Animal Science” experiences
 - Set up portable greenhouse for “Horticulture”
 - Time to work with all teachers to incorporate Agriscience into the curriculum
- **Language Arts**
 - Time to plan cross–curriculum projects
- **Science**
 - Purposeful planning with Agriscience teachers for times that the Science & Agriscience curriculum “overlap”
 - Basic science lab materials
 - Purposeful planning to utilize lab space/materials at the VJC and Pitt BioTech Lab
 - Science Fair with an Ag focus

Next Steps: What is needed?

- **History**
 - Time to plan cross–curriculum projects
 - PD–incorporating materials into curriculum (Drone & 3–D printer)
- **Mathematics**
 - Tables–for “hands–on” learning & group collaboration
 - Access to data collection opportunities (VJC, greenhouse on site, field in Martin County, etc.)

Mr. Davis reminded the group of the Beaufort County Ag–Fest set for Tuesday, November 25, 2014 from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm which will be conducted at Northside High School.

The next scheduled board meeting will be held at 4:30 PM on November 19, 2014 at the NERSBA Jamesville Campus.

With no further business a motion is made by Benjie Forrest to adjourn with a second by Dwight Respass. With a majority vote the meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Inga S. Spruill