

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

Date: June 18, 2014

Time: 4:30 PM

Place: Vernon James Research and Extension Center

Present: David Peele, Mac Hodges, Joe Landino, Norris Tolson, Dwight Repess,  
Lynn West, Michael Dunsmore, Kenneth Harrell, Ethan Lenker,  
Jean Woolard, Julius Walker, Simon Griffin

Absent: Benjie Forrest, Lloyd Armstrong, Matthew Babcock, Paul Spruill

Chairman David Peele called to order the meeting for the Board of Directors of the Northeast Regional School of Biotechnology and Agriscience at 4:30 PM on June 18, 2014. The meeting was conducted at the Vernon James Research and Extension Center in Plymouth, NC. Inga Spruill proceeded with the roll call. In addition to the board membership, parents Jennifer Perry and Paige Harris, NERSBA faculty member Tracie Asby, and Tiffany Hudson from the Roanoke Beacon Newspaper were in attendance.

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

Chairman Peele presented the agenda for additions and or deletions. With no additions or deletions Vice Chairman Hodges moved to approve the agenda followed with a second from Norris Tolson. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of the board.

Chairman Peele offered the May minutes for consideration and stated that the minutes are posted on the NERSBA website. Norris Tolson moved to approve the minutes followed with a second by Joe Landino to approve the May minutes as presented. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

**Public Comments:**

Paige Harris parent of Simon Harris and Jennifer Perry parent of Maurice Perry introduced themselves to the board members.

Chairman Peele entertained a motion to go into closed session at 4:35 PM to discuss facilities and personnel matters. Vice Chairman Hodges moved to go into closed session under statute NC G.S. 143-318 11(a)(5) and NC G.S. 143-318 11(a)(6). The motion passed with a unanimous vote of the board membership.

Chairman Peele at 5:42 PM stated that the board is back in open session with the following agenda items to be considered:

- Dwight Respass moved to authorize the Chairman to spend up to \$3,000.00 for engineering evaluations for a potential site(s) for our future school followed by a second from Lynn West. The motion passed unanimously.
- Vice Chairman Hodges moved that the NERSBA Board of Directors work towards an agreement to lease the Jamesville Middle School from the Martin County Board of Education effective July 1, 2014 and that the lease agreement be \$3,000.00 a month pending that issues with the lease agreement are resolved to the satisfaction of both boards. The motion received a second by Ethan Lenker. The motion received unanimous support from the board membership.

Vice Chairman Hodges stated this issue is just a temporarily move and that Washington County will become our permanent home eventually.

- Chairman Peele offered Principal Davis to make his recommendations regarding personnel.
  1. Sueman Lange resignation effective June 30, 2014.
  2. Jennifer Loffler hired as a English Teacher.
  3. Jessica Lunsford hired as a Guidance Counselor.
  4. Science Teacher position to be named at as soon as candidate references are finalized.
  5. Instructional Facilitator will be recommended to the board at the July board meeting.

Jean Woolard moved to approve the recommendations followed with a second from Julius Walker to accept the resignation and to employ teachers named and continue the process of interviews to fill vacant positions.

#### **Finance Report: by Michael Cowin:**

Mr. Cowin provided a detailed Financial Report to all Board members..

Mr. Cowin explained the Year-to-Date actual operations for NERSBA through June 17, 2014 balance is as following below.

- Current Budget at \$966,016.05
- Year to Date Spent \$824,445.86

- Currently Obligated \$61,691.82
- Available Fund Balance of \$79,878.37

Mr. Cowin noted the board needs to approve to a Continuing Resolution to allow Pitt County Schools to continue to pay the bills from the current operational budget. Vice Chairman Hodges moved to approve a continuing resolution followed by a second from Kenneth Harrell. The motion to approve a continuing resolution for the school passed unanimously by the board membership.

Chairman Peele stated he received an email for a bill of \$3,000.00 dealing with replacing a light pole. Principal Davis responded, that was an issue that occurred during a field trip to Pitt Community College. Mr. Cowin stated the payment regarding this issue was hand delivered to Greenville Utilities as of today (July 18<sup>th</sup>).

#### **NC New Schools Update: by Mr. Andrew Harris**

Chairman Peele stated that no one from New Schools was present at the meeting. Principal Davis noted that NC New Schools representatives were to inform the board of the legislative initiative to place NERSBA under the Cooperative and Innovative School designation through the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. Currently there is a bill in legislature that will allow NERSBA to have that designation during the 2014-2015 school year.

#### **NERSBA Curriculum Committee Update: by Lynn West**

Mrs. West provided an update from the initial curriculum committee meeting held on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Present were Andrew Harris, NC New Schools, Principal Hal Davis, Julie Gurganus, Tracie Asby, Melva Lilley, Julius Walker, Michael Dunsmore, and Lynn West. A time-line that was developed to plan and implement a curriculum for NERSBA. Career and College Pathway Programs, and college courses from N.C. State University have also been identified for students to enroll in. During the August meeting the focus will be to develop the memorandum of agreement between NERSBA and Beaufort Community College and memorandum of agreement between NERSBA and N.C. State University to deliver college courses.

Mrs. West noted that there are two pathways the students will follow in their courses with Beaufort Community College listed below.

- Associates in Science College Transfer
- Associates in Arts College Transfer

Chairman Peele asked Mrs. West who is on this Committee. Mrs. West noted that Mr. Davis, Mrs. Asby, Mrs. Gurganus, Andrew Harris , Melva Lilley,parent, Lynn West, Lydia Griffin, Student Representative, Julius Walker and Michael Dunsmore were serving on the committee.

#### **NERSBA Personnel Committee: by Chairman David Peele**

Chairman Peele stated that he was appointing a committee to complete a performance evaluation of the principal. The committee representatives are Norris Tolson, Michael Dunsmore and Dwight Respass.

#### **New Business:**

##### **Budget Plan for 2014-2015 & NERSBA Budget Comm. Report: Mac Hodges**

Vice-Chairman Mac Hodges asked Mr. Michael Cowin to give an update on the budget proposal for the 2014-2015 school year. Mr. Cowin stated that the NERSBA Budget committee has been meeting and will have a proposed budget for the Board to be presented at the next meeting for approval. This proposal includes a 55 student increase in membership which will be reflected in funding on Average Daily Membership for the next school calendar.

##### **Principal Hal Davis:**

Mr. Davis provided an update of the NERSBA 2014-2015 calendar to school board members noting that August 4, 2014 is a short time away for this school to do the things that need to be done in terms of making this move to Jamesville. He stated that we have accumulated a lot of furniture and equipment during the past two years. Mrs. Spruill has packed up everything she could and organized at the east site for the move. The staff will make their very best effort to have the school ready before August 4, 2014.

### **NERSBA Student Enrollment Information:**

Mr. Davis provided board members a breakdown of NERSBA Student Enrollment and Promotion Data by grade levels for 2012-2013, 2013-2014, and projected enrollment for the 2014-2015 academic calendar as noted below:

For the 2012-2013 (Initial NERSBA Freshman Class of 2017)

- # of students admitted August 13, 2012 was 60
- # of students promoted to grade 10 June 2013 was 56
- # of students returned to campus for 13/14 year was 49
- # of students current enrolled June 17, 2014 was 43
- # of students planning to return 2014-2015 year is 40
- # of students to be promoted to grade 11 are 40 (estimate waiting on state final exam scores)

For the Current Freshman Class of 2018

- # of students admitted August 5, 2013 was 65
- # of students to be promoted is 62 ( waiting on state final exam data for scores)
- #of students returning 2014-2015 year is 62

Upcoming New Class of 2019

- # of students admitted August 4, 2014 are 65

Chairman Peele asked Principal Davis, was it within normal expectations to lose 20 students or 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the class in the past two years? Principal Davis noted, that students withdrew from the school for the reasons noted below:

- Moved out of the state or out of the five county service area
- Went back to home school setting
- Medical reasons
- Not promoted
- Returned back to their LEA
- Personal reasons not to disclose

Principal Davis commented that with our current freshman class coming in for the 2014-2015 year the school completed a better job of recruiting and informing students and parents of the scholastic goals of NERSBA.

Chairman Peele stated maybe we should increase the freshman calls to 70 or 75 so we can get the right number to make up the 20% decrease. Principal Davis stated he would have to go back and look at the applications of students on the waiting list and see if the new facility will hold additional students based on class room facilities.

**NERSBA Rubric Review: May 28<sup>th</sup>**

Principal Davis thanked Mr. Walker, Mr. Landino and Mr. Tetterton for being a part of the rubric review held on May 28th. Principal Davis stated as soon as we receive the report back from New Schools we will share this information with the board members.

**State FFA Convention Raleigh NC: June 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>**

Students from NERSBA will be attending the State FFA Convention from June 17th-19<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Davis thanked Mr. Hodges for taking time out of his busy schedule with the Alumni Association and making it back for the board meeting.

**NC New Schools Summer Institute: June 23rd-27<sup>th</sup>**

There will be 6 faculty members plus he attending this in Charlotte Monday-Thursday.

**NC Carolina Career/Technical Education Conference: July 21st-24<sup>th</sup>**

Mr. Cole Watkins and Mrs. Buffy Everette will be attending this workshop in Greensboro July 21<sup>st</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>.

**R.J. Peeler FFA Camp: July 28<sup>th</sup>- August 1<sup>st</sup>**

Fifteen FFA members will be attending the R.J. Peeler FFA Camp at White Lake, NC July 28<sup>th</sup> through August 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Cole Watkins and Mrs. Buffy Everette will be supervising the students during this program.

**NERSBA New Student Orientation: July 29<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 PM**

An orientation session for new students and parents is scheduled for Tuesday July 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. This event will be held at the Jamesville Campus.

**NERSBA FFA Convention**

Mr. Davis requested for the board to attend the National FFA Convention to be held in Louisville, Kentucky in late October. Mr. Davis noted the board had

attended the event during the two previous years that the school had been in operation.

Jean Woolard moved to approve the NERSBA FFA Chapter to attend the convention followed by a second from Michael Dunsmore. The motion passed unanimously.

### **NERSBA Board of Directors Meeting Schedule for 2014/2015**

Principal Davis provided a calendar for upcoming board meetings for the 2014-15 school year with meetings to be held at the Vernon James Center.

Chairman Peele asked about the Golden Leaf Grant proposal. Principal Davis replied that the grant proposal was submitted in December and that we have been award \$175,000.00 over a two-year period.

Dr. Peele announced that the next scheduled board meeting would be held on July 16, 2014 at 4:30 PM at the Vernon James Center.

There being no additional business items, the meeting was adjourned by Dr. Peele.

Meeting adjourned at 6:27 PM.

Minutes submitted by: Inga Spruill