

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

Date: February 19, 2014

Time: 4:30 pm

Place: Vernon James Research
& Extension Center

Present: Mac Hodges
Benjie Forrest
Joe Landino
Norris Tolson
Lloyd Armstrong
Kenneth Harrell
Michael Dunsmore
Ethan Lenker

Absent: David Peele
Dwight Respass
Lynn West

The meeting was called to order by the NERSBA Board Vice-Chair Mr. Mac Hodges at 4:35 pm on Wednesday, February 19th.

Mr. Benjie Forrest led the board with invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice-Chair Mac Hodges presented the meeting agenda for board approval. Mr. Hodges requested that a closed session be added at the conclusion of the agenda. Mr. Norris Tolson moved to approve the agenda with a second from Mr. Kenneth Harrell. The motion to approve the agenda received a majority vote by the board.

Vice-Chair Hodges presented the minutes from the January 15, 2014 board meeting for approval. Mr. Norris Tolson moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Kenneth Harrell seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes received a majority vote by the board of directors.

Public Comments:

During public comments, Mrs. Bunny Saunders, Mayor of Roper addressed the board asking for a commitment to use property owned by the Roper Township as a potential site for NERSBA. During the January meeting, the board noted that this location would not be a good site for the school. After discussion by board members, the board affirmed their earlier decision not to move forward with this offer. Principal Davis was asked to forward that decision to Mrs. Bunny Saunders on Thursday, February 20th.

Financial Report: Michael Cowin

Mr. Michael Cowin, finance director with Pitt County Schools presented a budget report for NERSBA. During discussion of the budget report, Vice-Chair Hodges thanked Dr. Lenker, Superintendent of Pitt County Schools and Mr. Cowin for their support of the school. In addition, Mr. Cowin noted that the NERSBA Budget Committee had initiated work with a budget proposal for the 2014–2015 academic calendars. At the conclusion of the report, Mr. Kenneth Harrell moved to approve the report followed by a second from Mr. Joe Landino. The motion to accept the budget report received a majority vote by the board membership.

Special NERSBA Presentations:

Principal Davis presented the board with a special grant from the Walmart Foundation in the amount of \$1,500.00. These funds are to be used to support the FFA and instructional programs at NERSBA. After a formal check presentation, the funds were deposited into the FFA account at the school.

Principal Davis presented to the board a video that was produced by the NC New Schools organization through sponsorship from the Carnegie Foundation. This film outlines the instructional concept of NERSBA and is currently being utilized to promote the school within the five-county service area. All of the board members noted their support and appreciation for the NC New Schools and Carnegie Foundation in developing this video.

Old Business:

NERSBA Technology Plan: Mrs. Julie Gurganus

The 2014–2015 NERSBA Technology Plan was presented for approval. After a brief discussion, Mr. Joe Landino moved to approve the plan followed by a second from Mr. Kenneth Harrell. The motion to adopt the plan received a majority vote by the board membership.

NERSBA Instructional Facilities for 2014–2015:

Principal Davis noted that the school was still trying to outline plans for instructional facilities for the 2014–2015 academic calendars. He is hoping that formal options may be presented during the March board meeting.

Parental Advisory Committee Membership:

Principal Davis also noted that there was an opening from Beaufort County on the NERSBA Parental Advisory Committee. Vice-Chair Hodges asked Principal Davis to present a name to take before the Beaufort County School Board for approval in the near future to fill this vacancy.

NERSBA Board of Director Membership:

The Board also gave discussion to adding additional membership to the current board of directors. Additional discussion will be given to this issue during the March board meeting.

New Business:

Budget Plan for 2014–2015/NERSBA Budget Committee Meeting Report: Vice–Chair Mac Hodges noted that preliminary work had started with the development of an operational budget for the 2014–2015 school year. Additional budget work sessions are currently being scheduled in the near future by the NERSBA Budget Committee.

Principal Davis outlined several informational items for review by the NERSBA board. Spring semester Parent/Student/Faculty Conferences are scheduled from 5:00 to 8:00 PM on Tuesday, February 25th. Sophomore scholars will be completing a laboratory work session at the Pitt Community College Biotechnology Center on Friday, February 28th.

NERSBA will be hosting a Peer Review Visit on March 13th. This event is coordinated by the NC New Schools organization.

Mrs. Tracie Asby informed the board that several representatives from the school will be participating on a study visit to Charlotte County, Virginia March 22nd–27th. NERSBA along with other schools within the NC New Schools Biotechnology Network will be participating on this visit.

Principal Davis noted that student recruitment efforts for the 2014–2015 school year are underway and that information sessions are being conducted within individual schools. A New Student Orientation Session is scheduled for 7:00 PM on Thursday, March 20th at the Vernon James Conference Center.

Principal Davis also reported the school had started efforts to recruit new faculty to support an additional class at the school. He also informed the board that NERSBA would hear the status of the Education and Workforce Innovation Fund Grant in late March.

On a final note, Principal Davis informed the board that the school was making every effort possible to maintain the boards' intent to conduct a 200–day academic calendar. Recent snow and ice has forced numerous days to be curtailed or shortened. Principal Davis noted that the school was using Home Satellite Days as an effort to continue the instructional process when in–climate weather forced the cancellation of school.

Principal Davis informed the board that the next official meeting was scheduled for 4:30 PM on Wednesday, March 19th at the Vernon James Center.

Mr. Joe Landino moved to go into closed session followed by a second from Mr. Benjie Forrest.

At the conclusion of the closed session, Vice-Chair Mac Hodges asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Kenneth Harrell moved to adjourn the meeting followed by a second from Mr. Benjie Forrest. The motion to adjourn passed with a majority vote by the board.

Vice-Chair Mac Hodges adjourned the meeting at 6:25 PM.

Minutes submitted by: Inga Spruill, NERSBA Board Secretary.