

**Northeast Regional School of Biotechnology and Agriscience  
Board Meeting Minutes  
November 19, 2014**

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

**Absent:** Simon Griffin, Matthew Babcock

Chairman David Peele called to order the November meeting of the board of directors for the Northeast Regional School of Biotechnology and Agriscience at 4:30 pm on November 19, 2014. The meeting was held at the NERSBA Jamesville campus.

Inga Spruill proceeded with roll call. Resource personnel present were Hal Davis, Principal of NERSBA, Julie Gurganus, Jessica Lunsford, Tracie Asby, Connie Smith, Christi Rogerson, Buffy White, and Cole Watkins; faculty members at NERSBA, NERSBA scholars Kaila Smith and Sierra Sutton, NERSBA parent Mrs. Kim Sutton, and Tiffany Hudson from the Roanoke Beacon.

Vice-Chairman Hodges led the board in prayer and the United States Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Peele presented the agenda for board approval. During discussion Mr. Forrest moved to add item 4A as an agenda item regarding election of board officers for the ensuing year to be in compliance with 115c-238.164 of the North Carolina General State Statutes. Mrs. Woolard seconded the motion. The motion to approve the addition of item 4A to the agenda received a majority vote by the board. With no further additions or deletions, the agenda was approved by the board.

Chairman Peele opened the floor for discussion regarding the statute and agenda item 4A as presented by Mr. Forrest. Mr. Forrest stated the statute addresses meeting rules and procedures for officers of public organizations and reads "the board of directors shall elect a chair and vice-chair from among their membership who shall serve a two-year term." Mr. Forrest also noted that our board has been out of compliance with this statute now for twelve months. He noted that Chairman Peele has done a tremendous job of leading our board and moving NERSBA forward in the initial stages of our development. Mr. Forrest then nominated Mac Hodges as our board chairman.

Mr. Tolson asked the chair to entertain a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Peele noted there was a nomination on the floor. Mrs. Woolard asked for the nominations for board chairmanship be closed.

During the discussion regarding board chair nominations, Mrs. West reported she has an award she wished to make during the meeting. Chairman Peele allowed Mrs. West to present the award.

Mrs. West stated that she and Mr. Matthew Babcock nominated the NERSBA Educational Foundation for the Non-Profit-Of-The-Year Award with the Washington County Chamber of Commerce. The NERSBA Educational Foundation was selected for that the award and was recognized last Thursday evening at the Washington County Chamber Banquet meeting. Mrs. West accepted the award on behalf of NERSBA and presented the plaque to Principal Hal Davis during the board of directors meeting.

Chairman Peele asked for a second to the motion for adjournment. With no second from the board membership, Chairman Peele stated the motion died due to the lack of a second.

Chairman Peele addressed the nomination of Mac Hodges to serve as chairman of the NERSBA Board of Directors. Mr. Paul Spruill asked the board to consider the issue that nominations for board chair had not been closed at that point in the meeting. Dr. Peele asked the board to vote on closing the floor for nominations for the board chairmanship. The board voted to close nominations by an 8 to 4 vote.

With the nominations for board chair closed, the board voted to elect Mr. Mac Hodges as board chair by a 7 to 4 vote.

Chairman Peele turned the board meeting over to the newly elected chairman Mr. Mac Hodges.

Chairman Mac Hodges offered the October minutes for approval and noted the minutes were posted on the NERSBA website. Dr. Dunsmore moved to approve the October minutes followed by a second from Mr. Harrell. The motion to approve the minutes received a majority vote by the board.

Mrs. Woolard stated to Chairman Hodges the board needed to elect a new vice-chairman for the NERSBA board of directors.

Chairman Hodges opened the floor for nominations for vice-chairman. Mrs. Woolard nominated Mr. Julius Walker as vice-chair followed by a second from Mrs. Clough. Mr. Forrest moved to close the nominations for the vice-chair. The motion to close nominations received a majority vote by the board. Mr. Julius Walker was elected vice-chairman of the NERSBA board of directors by a majority vote.

**Public Comments:**

Mrs. Kim Sutton, town clerk of Jamesville addressed the board acknowledging the community support for the school. The community is proud to have NERSBA located on the former Jamesville Middle School campus.

**Finance Report: Michael Cowin**

Mr. Cowin provided a detailed financial report for the 2014-2015 school year through November 17, 2014. The budget outlines the following revenues:

State Appropriations at \$216,632.25

Local \$216,632.25

RTTT \$42,638.94

Golden Leaf \$87,500.00

Carnegie \$34,439.16

Currently Year-To-Date actual expenditures stands at \$464,374.38. Currently obligated balance is \$775,716.81 with a projected balance of \$259,898.10.

Mr. Cowin stated from a financial standpoint the fiscal operations at NERSBA are strong. The audit has been completed with the auditor presenting their report during the December or January board meeting.

Mrs. Woolard complimented Mr. Cowin on managing NERSBA financials.

A motion was made by Mr. Harrell followed by a second by Mr. Landino to accept the November Financial Report. The motion to approve the Financial Report received a majority vote by the board.

**NERSBA Curriculum Committee Report: Lynn West**

Mrs. West noted the students and faculty at NERSBA have come a very long way in a short time and she is glad she was able to be here and to know that students will be enrolling in NC State University classes in the spring.

Mrs. Woolard commented that Mrs. West has been very vocal in Washington County for her support of NERSBA and at times that has been very tough for her when some of the Washington County board of education members have not been supportive of the school. Chairman Hodges thanked Mrs. West for serving on the NERSBA board of directors.

**Cooperative and Innovative Schools Grant Update: Julie Gurganus/Tracie Asby**

Mrs. Tracie Asby stated the Cooperative and Innovative Grant Application has received preliminary approval from the North Carolina State Board of Education. The NC State University Board of Trustees will be meeting later this week and will hopefully offer their approval to the grant application. The North Carolina State Board of Education will be making a final decision on the grant during their December meeting.

**NERSBA Soil Test Report: David Peele**

Through the services of Mr. Jimmy Hite of Hite and Associates, a Geotechnical Soil Test was completed on property adjacent to the Vernon James Center in October as a proposed location for a new NERSBA campus. This site passed the geophysical test and is suitable to support a school building as outlined in the report presented to Dr. Peele by Mr. Jimmy Hite.

**New Business:**

**National FFA Convention Review:**

Mrs. Buffy Everette and Mr. Cole Watkins, Agriscience teachers at NERSBA, introduced NERSBA FFA members Kaila Smith and Sierra Sutton to enlighten the board on their experiences during the National FFA Convention held this year in Louisville, Kentucky. NERSBA faculty and chaperones took 55 students to this event and were among 65,000 FFA members attending the National FFA Convention in late October.

**NERSBA/NC State University Course Offerings:**

Mr. Davis and Mr. Norris Tolson met with Dr. Sam Pardue from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at North Carolina State University on November 4th. Dr. Pardue outlined procedures for the school to enroll NERSBA scholars as non-degree students at NC State for the 2015 Spring Semester. Mr. Davis noted that NERSBA is following through with the directions provided by the university for student enrollment and course selections.

**2015-2016 NERSBA Operational Budget:**

Mr. Davis reminded the board of the need to start planning for the NERSBA operational budget for the 2015-16 school year in the very near future.

Also at the last month's meeting Mr. Davis was asked by the board to make a list of instructional needs and/or repairs by specific program area. A list was presented to all board members in detail with

expenditures totaling in the amount of \$113,590.00. Dr. Peele stated the board needed to appoint a committee to oversee and prioritize the list in categories:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Safety Priority
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Education Materials
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Physical Upgrades

He recommended the appropriate instructional dollars be directed to address those needs.

Mr. Hodges appointed the following committee members to oversee the Program Area Needs and assist Mr. Davis with this process:

- Michael Dunsmore
- Ethan Lenker
- Dwight Respass

**NERSBA Board Policy Development:**

Mr. Davis noted the board will need to appoint a committee to work with the North Carolina School Board Association Guidelines in making decisions on policies relevant to NERSBA. Dr. Dunsmore will contact Ms. Nancy Fountain with the North Carolina State School Boards' Association to set up a presentation for our NERSBA board during the December meeting.

**NERSBA Calendar Update:**

Mr. Davis presented the following informational item to the board for their review:

- NERSBA Peer Review: November 20-21, 2014
- November 24<sup>th</sup>: Technology Rollout Night for freshmen scholars
- November 25<sup>th</sup>: Beaufort County Ag Fest to be held at Northside High School
- November 26<sup>th</sup>: NERSBA Satellite Conference Day
- November 27<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>: Thanksgiving Holidays
- December 2<sup>nd</sup>: NERSBA Literary Fair
- December 4<sup>th</sup>: NERSBA Parental Advisory Committee Meeting
- December 5<sup>th</sup>: School Pictures
- NERSBA Fall Semester Exams are scheduled for December 8-12---a copy of schedule has been provided to board members
- NERSBA Science Exposition scheduled for March 26<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm
- NERSBA Scholar SAE Fair: planning for April date

Chairman Hodges asked for a motion to go into closed session. Mrs. West moved for the NERSBA board to go into closed session under statute (NC G.S. 143-318.11(6)/personnel) with a second from Mr. Landino. The motion passed with a majority vote by the board at 5:30 PM.

The meeting opened back into open session at 6:38 pm.

Mr. Hodges noted the December board meeting was scheduled for December 17, 2014 at the Jamesville Campus at 4:30 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 6:38 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Inga S. Spruill

