

Northeast Regional School of Biotechnology and Agriscience Board Meeting Minutes

Date: April 15, 2015

Time: 4:30 pm

Place: NERSBA Jamesville Campus

Chairman Mac Hodges called to order the meeting of the Northeast Regional School of Biotechnology and Agriscience Board of Directors at 4:30 pm on April 15, 2015.

Inga Spruill proceeded with roll call.

Present: Mac Hodges, Julius Walker, Joe Landino, Benjie Forrest, Norris Tolson, Dwight Respass, Michael Dunsmore, Ethan Lenker, Jean Woolard, Matthew Babcock, Jerry Phelps.

Absent: David Peele, Kenneth Harrell, Paul Spruill, Simon Griffin, Karen Clough

Julius Walker led the Board in prayer and in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Hodges presented the meeting agenda for approval. Jean Woolard moved to approve the minutes followed by a second by Benjie Forrest. The motion to approve the agenda as presented passed unanimously by the board.

Chairman Hodges offered the March minutes for consideration and noted that the minutes were posted on the NERSBA website. Norris Tolson moved to approve the March board meeting minutes. Joe Landino seconded the motion which passed unanimously by the board.

Public Comments: none

Finance Report: Michael Cowin

Mr. Cowin was unable to attend the meeting. Principal Davis reported there have been no major budget changes with the exception of recent expenditures of purchases for the school. Work has begun on the development of a preliminary budget for the 2015-16 school year. The budget committee is to meet with Mr. Michael Cowin on Friday April 24th to continue work on the new budget.

NERSBA Curriculum Committee Update:

Principal Davis reported that the committee has not met since the last meeting a meeting is scheduled April 30, 2015 at 3:00 pm. The committee will make a formal presentation during the May board meeting.

Old Business: NERSBA Academic Awards

Principal Davis reported during the last board meeting there was discussion with respect to Valedictorian and Salutatorian recognition during the NERSBA graduation ceremony. Mr. Respass noted the consensus of the Parental Advisory Committee was Valedictorian and Salutatorian are troublesome and the committee would prefer to see graduates recognized by Honors and High Honors status during the commencement exercises. During the next board meeting the Curriculum Design Committee and Parental Advisory Committee will have specific recognitions designated for these awards for board approval.

New Business:

a. NERSBA Scholar Recruitment 201/2016

Principal Davis presented the board with a copy of NERSBA application data as of April 15, 2015. This data is broken down by LEA, gender, and race. He noted that interviews for potential scholars are almost complete with formal acceptance letters to be mailed by May 1, 2015.

b. NERSBA FFA Alumni Chapter

Principal Davis reported that a group of parents have approached him regarding the formation of an FFA Alumni Chapter and requests the board's endorsement of this organization. Chairman Hodges commented this is a very good program with lots of benefits that this school can receive by parents being involved in and affiliation with the FFA National and State Organizations.

Mr. Forrest noted the alumni will have its own tax id number and will be their own club to support FFA Chapter of NERSBA. It also couples you with North Carolina State University Agricultural Foundation that has a tremendous network. Mr. Forrest also pointed out that Chairman Hodges has been the State President of the FFA Alumni Association and the National FFA Alumni President.

Michael Dunsmore moved to approve the formation of an FFA Alumni Chapter followed with a second by Matthew Babcock. The motion passed unanimously by the board membership.

c. National FFA Convention Approval

Principal Davis asked the board for approval to start planning process for students to attend the National FFA Convention in late October. Mrs. Woolard moved to approve trip followed with a second by Jerry Phelps.

After discussion regarding missed school work and student opportunities to attend the convention, the motion passed unanimously by the board.

d. NERSBA June Board of Directors June Meeting Date

Principal Davis requested the board to consider moving the June 17th meeting to June 10th. June 17th falls during the State FFA Convention with several of our board members in attendance at this event. Mr. Forrest moved to approve moving meeting date as requested followed with a second by Michael Dunsmore. The motion passed with a majority vote of the board membership.

e. NERSBA Budget Committee Meeting Date

Principal Davis requested the NERSBA Finance Committee to meet on Friday, April 24th, at 9:00 am at Mr. Cowan's office at the Pitt County Schools Central Office.

The next scheduled board meeting is scheduled for May 20, 2015 at 4:30 pm at the NERSBA Jamesville Campus.

Vice chairman Walker moved to go into closed session under statute (NC G.S. 143-318.11 (5) Facilities Lease Agreement and (NC GS 143-318.11 (6)/ Personnel at 5:02 pm followed by a second by Mrs. Woolard. The motion for the board to go into closed session passed unanimously.

Open session at 6:00 pm

Mr. Babcock moved to recommend modification of the letter to be sent to North Carolina New Schools items to be redacted starting with paragraph 3 to further that goal through the bullets onto the next page ending with challenges leaving the last paragraph. Mr. Forrest seconded the motion.

Mrs. Woolard stated all you have to do is accept the changes as a friendly amendment. Mr. Forrest stated he would like it to go through the amendment process. Norris Tolson objected to the friendly amendment.

After discussion among the board, Chairman Hodges called for a vote on the amendment. Mr. Tolson voted no with rest of members in agreement to approve the amendment.

Chairman Hodges asked for additional discussion on the letter as amended. Mr. Forrest moved to accept the amended letter followed with a second by Michael Dunsmore. Mr. Tolson voted no with rest of members in agreement of the motion which passed with a majority vote.

Mr. Dunsmore moved to approve the personnel contract for Mr. Hal Davis as presented by Mr. Hodges. Mr. Forrest seconded the motion. During the vote regarding the contract for Mr. Davis, Mr. Tolson voted not to approve the contract with Mr. Babcock abstaining from the vote. The motion to approve the contract was approved by a majority vote of the board membership.

Michael Dunsmore moved to adjourn meeting at 6:15 pm followed by a second by Vice chairman Walker. The motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

Minutes submitted by: Inga Spruill