

## **Northeast Regional School of Biotechnology and Agriscience Board Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** July 22, 2015

**Time:** 4:30 pm

**Place:** NERSBA Jamesville Campus

**Present:** Mac Hodges, Julius Walker, Joe Landino, Benjie Forrest, Dwight Respess, Kenneth Harrell, Ethan Lenker, Jean Woolard, Simon Griffin, Matthew Babcock, Karen Clough, Jerry Phelps

**Absent:** Paul Spruill, Don Phipps

Chairman Hodges called to order the July meeting of the Northeast Regional School of Biotechnology and Agriscience Board of Directors at 4:30 pm on July 22, 2015.

Inga Spruill proceeded with the roll call.

Julius Walker led the board in prayer and the United States Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Hodges presented the agenda for board approval. With no additions or deletions, Matthew Babcock moved to approve the agenda followed by a second from Kenneth Harrell. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Hodges offered the June board meeting minutes for consideration and noted the minutes were posted on the NERSBA website. Simon Griffin moved to approve the minutes followed by a second from Benjie Forrest. The motion passed unanimously by the NERSBA board membership.

Principal Davis added an addendum to the minutes with respect to the poll vote that was taken regarding employment for NERSBA faculty and staff in early July. Chairman Hodges asked for a motion to accept the addendum since this was a phone poll to act on individuals for hire. Jean Woolard moved to adopt the addendum followed by a second from Simon Griffin. The motion to approve the addendum passed unanimously. (See copy of this email in file).

**Public Comments:** None

**Finance Report:** Principal Davis stated that Mr. Cowin could not attend the meeting and reported for Mr. Cowin that the budget still stands the same since the General Assembly has not confirmed a state budget. There is a conferee committee that will hopefully be working to complete this process in the very near future.

**NERSBA Board Membership Committee Update:** Jean Woolard

Mrs. Woolard noted this issue has been a work in progress. She will be working with the board attorney from Pitt County Schools to facilitate this process. She is hoping to reconvene this committee and present formal recommendations at the next board meeting.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

Principal Davis presented the NERSBA 2015-2016 projected enrollment by LEA, grade level, gender and race. The school is working with each LEA transportation director to schedule bus routes for the new school year.

**Martin Community College Memorandum of Understanding:**

Principal Davis presented the board of directors a copy of the proposed Memorandum Of Understanding with Martin Community College for review. The Martin County Community College Board of Trustees have reviewed the document and voted to approve the proposal earlier.

During discussion regarding the proposed document, the issue of students having to meet specific criteria for enrollment in math and science classes was brought to the attention of the full board. Chairman Hodges asked Mr. Davis to confer with Dr. Btitt, MCC President; to clarify this issue and report back at the August board meeting. Chairman Hodges asked all board members to communicate with Mr. Davis by Wednesday July 29th and email Principal Davis with any additional concerns board members had regarding the Memorandum of Understanding with Martin Community College.

**NERSBA Personnel for 2015/2016:**

Principal Davis provided the board members a list of contact information for all NERSBA faculty and staff. The new hires will attend the board meeting in August for formal introductions.

**General Information Items: Provided**

Items provided to board members:

- Faculty/Staff Sign In/Out sheet

- 2015/2016 Academic Planning Calendar
- NERSBA Faculty Meeting Dates
- NERSBA Program Area Meeting Schedule For 2015/2016
- Scholastic Calendar

Principal Davis also mentioned NERSBA will be attending the Northeastern AgFest at the Bob Martin Center in Martin County on November 12, 2015.

The NERSBA calendar has been previously designated that day as a Home Satellite Day. Principal Davis asked the board if they would consider moving that day to the 13<sup>th</sup> of November in order for NERSBA scholars and faculty to attend the Ag Fest. Benjie Forrest moved to accept the request followed by second from Karen Clough. The motion to change the dates of the scheduled home satellite day passed with a majority vote of the board membership.

**NERSBA Facility Organization for 2015/2016:**

Principal Davis noted that with the start of the school year and welcoming a new class of scholars, some minor organizational changes were being made with respect to classroom assignments at NERSBA. These changes will facilitate faculty collaboration and working together to attain curriculum goals and scholastic objectives.

**NERSBA Board of Directors Retreat:**

The fall board retreat is scheduled for August 4, 2015 from 12:15 pm to 3:30 pm. Dr. Nancy Barber will have an assistant from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction to review our schools Vision and Mission goals. Chairman Hodges encouraged all board members to attend this retreat.

**NERSBA Scholastic Policies and Procedures/Student Handbook:**

Principal Davis presented the NERSBA Scholar Handbook for board review and approval. He noted that students, parents and community members need to be informed of specific scholastic policies and procedures implemented by NERSBA.

Principal Davis emailed a copy of the proposed handbook to all board members earlier hoping for board approval of this document prior to the arrival of scholars on August 3rd.

Chairman Hodges stated this is a work in progress we have to start somewhere and hopefully this will be the “NERSBA BIBLE” for the upcoming school year.

After an initial presentation by Mr. Davis, Dwight Respass noted concerns regarding tobacco use as a classification Level III offense. Principal Davis replied the zero tolerance for tobacco products/drug products follows guidelines outlined by from the state board policy from North Carolina School Boards Association.

Karen Clough noted the zero tolerance in their LEA it's handled on a case by case basis. Tyrell County has gone away from zero tolerance. Ethan Lenker stated the Pitt County Schools' board does not agree with zero tolerance due to setting kids up for failure.

Chairman Hodges stated on behalf of the board that line item d on page 16 needs to be revisited and moving it to a level I offense.

Jerry Phelps also questioned Principal Davis regarding the fact that if we have a zero tolerance and a student makes an offense where does that student go? Ethan Lenker commented that Pitt County does not have to take students who are long-term suspended back during their suspension period. Karen Clough stated we don't need to set students up for failure at zero tolerance level.

Chairman Hodges noted we need to accept the document and we can change it as we need to with the amendments. Matthew Babcock moved to accept the scholar document as presented followed by a second from Benjie Forrest. Matthew Babcock moved to amend the motion to note that all languages for zero tolerance to be replaced with wording which represents case by case basis in agreement with state & federal law. Dwight Respass seconded the amendment. After further discussion, the amendment passed unanimously by the board membership.

Dwight Respass presented an amendment to remove the sale, distribution, or use of tobacco products from level 3 to a level 1 on page 16. Simon Griffin seconded the amendment. Matthew Babcock noted that based on the definition that in this document, a level 2 might be more appropriate place for that being a level 2 encompassed a non-compliance with reasonable request of any authorized school personnel.

Dwight Respass stated he would certainly accept that as a friendly amendment. Matthew Babcock stated, and that kind of also fits more into what Principal Davis presented to the board. It would be a more general punishment of 1 to 3 days suspension from school. The amendment passed unanimously by the board membership.

With no further discussion, chairman Hodges asked the board to vote on the motion to approve the handbook policies as amended. The motion passed unanimously by the NERSBA board of directors.

#### **NERSBA Program Area Presentations:**

Principal Davis informed the board that he has organized program area presentations regarding the instructional program at NERSBA throughout the school

year. Mrs. Everette and Mr. Watkins will attend the board meeting in August to talk about their experiences with the CASE Institute this summer

The next scheduled board meeting is set for August 19, 2015 at 4:30 pm at NERSBA Jamesville Campus.

Benjie Forrest moved to go into closed session (NC G.S. 143-318.11(S)/facilities lease agreement and (NC GS 143-318.11(6)/personnel followed by a second from Jean Woolard. The motion passed unanimously at 5:45 pm followed by a 5 minute break before closed session.

Respectively submitted,

Inga Spruill  
August 19, 2015