



NORTHEAST REGIONAL SCHOOL of Biotechnology and Agriscience

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

NERSBA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

4:30 PM

NERSBA Technology Center

1. OPEN SESSION – 4:30 PM

- 1.1 Call to Order: Mr. Julius Walker, Chair called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.
- 1.2 Roll Call: Dr. Melanie Stanley conducted the roll call
 - 1.2.1 Present: Julius Walker, Mac Hodges, Kenneth Harrell, Joe Landino, Jean Woolard, Ephraim Smith, Don Phipps, Ethan Linker, Paige Harris, Sandy Maddox
 - 1.2.2 Tardy: Jerry Phelps
 - 1.2.3 Absent: Karen Clough, Simon Griffin, Paul Spruill, Dwight Respass, Ann Britt
- 1.3 Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance: Mr. Benjie Forrest held the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

2. AGENDA

- 2.1 Approval of Board Meeting Agenda: Mr. Julius Walker asked for the motion to approve the agenda.
 - 2.1.1 Motion made by Mac Hodges
 - 2.1.2 Second made by Jean Woolard
 - 2.1.3 The Board approved the agenda unanimously.
- 2.2 Public Comments: There were no public comments.
- 2.3 Cooperative and Innovative Schools Presentation: Mr. Dee McKinzie, NCDPI provided an overview of NC Cooperative Innovative High Schools (CIHS). Mr. McKinzie is part of the DPI team that oversees CIHS. He explained that the purpose of CIHS is to expand to students' opportunities for educational success through high quality instructional programming. Through the Career College Promise (pre-legislation 2011), there are 3 types: CTE pathway, College Transfer, and CIHS. The CTE pathway is available to all students beginning in the 9th grade who have a specified GPA. The College transfer is available to 11th and 12th graders who have a 3.0 GPA. The CIHS programs are offered to students in grades 9-13. Currently there are 116 total CIHS programs, including NERSBA. A CIHS program must partner with a higher education institution. NERSBA has partnered with Martin Community College; as well as, the University of Mount Olive. The students in a CIHS program must graduate with a certificate, college diploma or Associate's Degree. In addition, the master schedule of the school looks different than other traditional high schools. The CIHS programs currently outperform traditional high schools by boasting a 95% graduation rate, 90% of students meet or exceed growth, and 90% of the programs received an "A" or "B" on their school report card. According to the NERSBA legislation (see handout), the guidelines for CIHS programs are as follows: admit students who are at risk of dropping out; admit students who would benefit from accelerated academic instruction; admit no more than 100 students per grade level; partner with institution of higher education; and be located on the campus of the higher education institute unless approved by the governing board. Mr. Smith asked how much more per student does CIHS cost? The response was that \$313,000 in additional funding to CIHS schools was provided to 82 of the 116 schools. Mr. McKinzie continued that "accountability is the key." Mr. Landino asked "what happens to the CIHS if it does not meet the specified criteria?" If a CIHS program does not meet the criteria outlined by the legislation, then it may lose funding. Mr. Smith asked if the CIHS program must be accredited. Mr. McKinzie responded that they must be accredited through the accrediting agency. Mrs. Woolard asked if there are any CIHS programs located within an existing high school. Mr. McKinzie indicated that there were a few; such as the Academy of Andrews Aviation in Greensboro does such. Mr. Harris asked: "do college faculty teach in these schools?" Mr. McKenzie indicated that the high school courses are front loaded during the initial 2 years of the program and the last 2 years are focused on college courses. Mr. Smith asked how is a CIHS program different from

the other 2 programs (CTE pathway and College Transfer)? According to Mr. McKenzie, the CIHS program is open to all college courses offered at the higher education institution. Mr. McKenzie provided handouts that included the legislation with regards to CIHS programs.

- 2.4 NERSBA Europe Trip Update: Mrs. Kristie Hardison provided an overview of the upcoming trip to Europe through EF Tours. Mrs. Hardison and Mrs. Asby handed out a sample of the tour schedule. The participants will depart from NERSBA by charter bus on Saturday, March 4 at 8:15 a.m. Forty-five of the 52 participants traveled by the charter bus. The participants have received a t-shirt and wear EF Tour bracelet at all times. The bracelet has the emergency contact phone numbers on them (EF Tours, Mrs. Hardison's and Mrs. Newman's phone numbers). Mr. Hodges asked: "Have all passports been approved?" Mrs. Hardison indicated that all participants have their passports. Mr. Forrest asked "how much money has been raised for this trip?" Mrs. Hardison indicated that some students had raised \$600-\$700 in order to go on the trip. Mr. Hodges asked "is there any agriculture-related component for this trip?" Mrs. Hardison replied that the tour schedule did not necessarily reflect an agriculture component; however, the cuisine and the culture experienced on the tour could technically be considered an agriculture component. Mrs. Harris indicated that her son was going on the trip and she has been very impressed with the professionalism and organization skills of the NERSBA staff. There have been multiple parent/participant meetings since they have been planning for this trip since Spring 2016. Mr. Forrest added that he endorses this trip and appreciates the staff offering the students this opportunity; so that they can have an international experience. Mrs. Woolard inquired if anyone speaks French. Mrs. Hardison indicated that the tour guide from EF Tours does so. Mrs. Harris added that it is well known that the drinking age in Europe is age 18. The NERSBA staff has addressed this and all of the participants had to sign a document prohibiting them from drinking alcohol. Mr. Walker thanked the staff for all of their hard work in planning this trip. Mr. Davis added that these 3 ladies (Mrs. Hardison, Mrs. Asby, and Mrs. Newman) spent a lot of time in the planning process of this trip. He is appreciative and supports this endeavor.

3. DISCUSSION (Action)

- 3.1 Approval of December Board Meeting Minutes: Mr. Julius Walker asked for a motion to approve the January 2017 board meeting minutes.
- 3.1.1 Mrs. Woolard made the motion to approve the board meeting minutes from January 2017.
- 3.1.2 Mr. Hodges second the motion.
- 3.1.3 The Board approved the motion unanimously.
- 3.2 NERSBA 2016-17 Operational Budget Update: Mr. Hal Davis indicated the Mrs. Baggett will not be attendance for this meeting. He provided a brief overview of the budget documents that he received from Mrs. Baggett via email (see handout). State funds: Budget \$1,925,819. The Year to Date expenses are \$1,112,282, which is on target for this time of the year. Federal Funds: \$36,398. The YTD expenses are \$14,915 which is 41% of the total budget spent. Local funds: \$329,482. The YTD expenses are \$111,283 which is 34% of the total budget spent. Local Revenues: Budget: \$329,481. At this time \$232,190 have been received from the 5 LEAs. At this time only 3 counties have submitted their quarterly funding, but it is still early in the quarter. G5 Grant: Budget \$30,187. The YTD expenses are \$6,527. Most of these funds will be used for staff development during the summer. The NERSBA administration is planning a joint staff development opportunity with MCC. Mr. Davis indicated that Mrs. Baggett will provide a more detailed budget at the next board meeting. Also, the finance committee will be meeting in the near future with Mrs. Baggett. That date will be sent to the committee members once it has been confirmed.
- 3.2.1 Mr. Hodges made the motion to accept the budget as reported by Mr. Davis.
- 3.2.2 Mr. Landino second the motion.
- 3.2.3 The motion was passed unanimously by the Board.
- 3.3 NERSBA Board of Director Terms: Mrs. Jean Woolard, Mr. Julius Walker, Mrs. Karen Clough
- 3.3.1 Mr. Forrest made the motion to table this discussion until the March meeting.
- 3.3.2 Mr. Smith second this motion.
- 3.3.3 The board passed the motion to table this until March 2017 was passed unanimously.
- 3.4 NERSBA Series 4000 Board Policies: Dr. Melanie Stanley provided the board with the Series 4000 board policies.
- 3.4.1 Mrs. Woolard made the motion to table this until April 2017 meeting.
- 3.4.2 Mr. Forrest second the motion.
- 3.4.3 The board passed this motion unanimously. The board also requested that the attorney attend at this time.
- 3.5 NERSBA Spring Graduation Date Proposal: Mr. Davis proposed that the NERSBA graduation be moved from May until Saturday, June 17, 2017. Mr. Davis explained that this is because several of our students will still

be taking NERSBA courses until the end of the semester. Moving the date will provide all students the opportunity to complete all course requirements prior to the graduation date.

- 3.5.1 Mrs. Woolard made the motion to accept the proposal that graduation be moved to June 17, 2017.
- 3.5.2 Mr. Harrell second the motion.
- 3.5.3 The board approved that the graduation be moved to June 17, 2017 unanimously.
- 3.6 NERSBA Lock Fee Recommendation: Mr. Davis proposed that we charge the students a \$4 lock fee. Several parents and students have requested that they be allowed to use the lockers located in the halls of NERSBA. The students carry several backpacks, including their laptops throughout the day.
 - 3.6.1 Mr. Hodges made the motion to approve charging the students \$4 for a lock fee.
 - 3.6.2 Mr. Lenker second the motion.
 - 3.6.3 The board passed the motion unanimously.

4. DISCUSSION (No Action)

- 4.1 Martin Community College/University of Mount Olive Update: Dr. Melanie Stanley indicated that 95% of NERSBA students are enrolled in college courses. Students are taking courses offered through MCC, BCC, PCC, and the University of Mount Olive. She reiterated that according to the data provided by MCC in January, NERSBA students hold over 650 seats in various courses offered online and on the MCC campus. NERSBA staff is working closely with UMO and MCC staff to develop schedules for the 2017-2018 school year.
- 4.2 2017-18 NERSBA Academic Calendar Update: Mr. Davis provided the board with a calendar update (see handout). He indicated that on February 16, 2017, 24 students will be traveling to Raleigh for Legislative Day. At 1:00 p.m., these students will be meeting with Senator Harry Brown. Please see the handout for more information with regards to NERSBA scholar presentations, outreach programs, and staff meetings.
- 4.3 NERSBA Series 7000 Board Policies: Dr. Melanie Stanley reminded the board that the Series 7000 will be discussed and hopefully passed in a future board meeting along with the Series 4000 board policies.
- 4.4 NERSBA Outreach Program: Mr. Davis indicated that NERSBA will be holding a community outreach session with local youth ministers on Thursday, February 23, 2017. The faculty and students will be presenting to the ministers the vision of NERSBA. In addition, the ministers will be taking a tour of the school and engaging in the lesson activities in each of the classrooms.
- 4.5 Food Bank of Eastern North Carolina: Mr. Davis indicated that he has been approached by several ministers wanting to operate a food bank here at NERSBA. This food bank will be open 1 day per month from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Individuals and families can come to NERSBA during this time to pick of food items for home use. Mrs. Woolard wanted ensure that this food bank would not interfere with the instructional day. Mr. Davis said since more emphasis had been placed on volunteering, this would provide an opportunity for several students to volunteer their time in between classes to help those in need.
- 4.6 NERSBA Beginning Teacher Audit: Mr. Davis explained that Mrs. Sonya Rhinehart and her colleague conducted the 5-year audit of the beginning teacher program on January 27, 2017. This audit is held every 5 years to evaluate the school's support of beginning teachers. This audit was conducted on the support provided to NERSBA's new teachers during the 2015-16 school year. During that school year, NERSBA had 2 beginning teachers: Mr. Cole Watkins and Ms. Brooke Gurganus. The audit team reviewed teacher evaluations and other documents provided by the NERSBA staff. Ms. Rhinehart met with Mr. Davis and Dr. Stanley and reviewed their findings. A formal report will be mailed within the next week. Mr. Davis is going to ask Mrs. Rhinehart to attend a board meeting to present these findings.

5. REMINDERS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 5.1 NERSBA Operational Schedules/Events: Mr. Davis provided an overview of the upcoming events (please see handout). Mr. Davis indicated that there were 2 vacancies from Tyrell County on the Parental Advisory Committee. He has appointed Mrs. Donna Spencer and Mrs. Jennifer Swiatkowski to fill these vacancies.
- 5.2 National FFA Week Activities: February 18 through February 24, 2017 is recognized as National FFA Week. The NERSBA FFA officers have planned several activities throughout this week to celebrate FFA. Some of the students will be working with Jamesville Elementary to provide lessons on agriculture to students in grades K-2. The books for these lessons were donated to Jamesville Elementary classrooms by the Martin County Farm Bureau. In addition, they will hold an Ag Olympics for students in grades 3-5. The culminating activity will be held on Friday, February 24 beginning at 10:00 a.m. The FFA officers have invited Mr. Jason Brown, a former NFL player who now is a full-time farmer in North Carolina. Mr. Davis extended an invitation for all board members to attend a meet and greet session with Mr. Brown at 9:45 a.m. just prior to him presenting

to the students. Mr. Brown spoke at the National FFA Convention in 2016. Mr. Davis provided the board with a brief biography of Mr. Brown.

5.3 March NERSBA Board of Directors Meeting Date: March 15, 2017 @ 4:30 PM

6. NERSBA Closed Session

At 5:55 p.m. Mrs. Woolard made a motion to go into closed session to discuss issues relative to the following sections. Mr. Forrest second the motion. The board approved the motion unanimously.

- 6.1 (NC G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1)/Privileged Information): Mr. Davis indicated that NERSBA spends an extensive amount of money on faculty/staff travel. The administration proposed that a vehicle be purchased for the faculty/staff to use to transport small groups of students. Mr. Davis has found a 2012 Chevy Impala that has 26,000 miles for \$13,400 which includes tax and title fees. Local funds will be used to purchase the vehicle. Mr. Phelps stated that he thought this was a great idea. Mrs. Woolard asked "Can this vehicle be used to transport some students instead of running a bus for small groups?" Mr. Davis replied that it could be used for such a purpose, but mainly it will be used by the administration to travel to the required meetings. Dr. Stanley can also use this to travel to MCC, which she does daily.
- 6.2 (NC G.S. 143-318.11(5)/Facilities Lease Agreement): Mr. Davis indicated that MCC, NERSBA, and the Martin County commissioner are still discussing the transfer of the property. Hopefully, this will be resolved in the next few months so that NERSBA can move forward with some plans for a greenhouse.
- 6.3 (NC G.S. 143-318.11(6)/Personnel): Mr. Davis announced that Mrs. Christy Gardner had resigned her position as instructional facilitator to take a position teaching in an elementary school. Mr. Davis recommended to the board to hire Ms. Ana Martinez-Gomez as an instructional facilitator to fill the vacancy left by Mrs. Gardner's resignation.

At 6:20 p.m. Mr. Forrest made a motion for the board to come out of closed session. Mr. Phelps second the motion and the board approved the motion unanimously.

Mr. Smith made the motion to approve Mr. Davis proceeding to purchase the vehicle discussed in the closed session using local funds. Mr. Forrest second the motion. The board approved the motion unanimously.

Mr. Lenker made the motion to approve the personnel report as presented; including hiring Ms. Martinez-Gomez as instructional facilitator. Mr. Forrest second the motion. The board approved the motion unanimously.

Mr. Davis added the on February 25, several students will be participating in the Science Olympiad and Simon Harris will be recognized at the Eagle Scout ceremony on this date as well at 11:00 a.m.

7. Adjourn

- 7.1 Motion To Adjourn
 - 7.1.1 Mr. Forrest made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 p.m.
 - 7.1.2 Mr. Phelps second the motion.
 - 7.1.3 The board approved to adjourn the meeting unanimously.