

**NERSBA Early College Technology Center**

**Wednesday, August 20, 2025**

**4:30 PM**

1. **Open Session**
   1. **Call to Order: Mr. Benjie Forrest, Chair**
   2. **Invocation/United States Pledge of Allegiance: Mr. Julius Walker**
   3. **Roll Call: Mrs. Inga Stotesberry**

**Present**: Benjie Forrest, Brian Busch, Julius Walker, Simon Griffin, Jerry Phelps, Joyce Moore, Kendall Paramore, Jason Davis, Gene Scott, Sherrie Gilliam

**Absent**: Ethan Lenker, Melva Lilley, Steven Lassiter

* 1. **Approval of August 20, 2025 NERSBA Board Meeting Agenda: Mr. Benjie Forrest**

Mr. Kendall Paramore moved to approve the meeting agenda as presented by Mr. Davis. Mr. Simon Griffin seconded the motion, which was confirmed by a majority vote of the Board.

* 1. **Public Comments: None**

1. **NERSBA Scholastic Report: Mrs. Lisa Smith**

Mrs. Lisa Smith informed the board of items outlined below that currently are in place for the new school year:

* New “face-to-face” Health and PE course to be offered on-site at NERSBA
* Martin Community College will be providing an on-site American History instructor this year
* A new computer science course will be implemented this year at NERSBA
* NERSBA is completing the Safety Grant Camera & Badge Access Point to the Gymnasium
* New Radios with the FCC clearance are in place among respective faculty and support staff
* Vector Safe School Trainings for all faculty and staff are in place
* NERSBA has implemented the Securely Pass program
* NERSBA administrators have met with Martin Community College regarding the process of Cengage book codes
* Collaboration was implemented today with Mrs. Meredith Hill from the Department of Public Instruction to schedule professional development with Digital Learning for NERSBA faculty
* Mrs. Whitney Hernandez, our NC East Alliance STEM Coordinator has met with Mrs. Lisa Smith to develop a program of professional development as related to Science, Technology Engineering and Math for respective NERSBA Early College faculty

Mr. Davis also informed the board of the following informational points:

* AJ Gamboa will be recognized with the Silver Award at the National FFA Convention for his work with the National FFA Proficiency Award Program
* Popular Chapel Church will hold a community prayer service on Sunday evening at NERSBA
* On September 13th Popular Chapel Church youth group will be on the NERSBA campus for a volunteer service project
* Mr. Davis also complimented Mrs. Lisa Smith, Mrs. Inga Stotesberry, Dr. David Jenkins, and the faculty and staff at the NERSBA Early College for a smooth opening of school, exceptionally well done.
  1. **Legislative Review: Mr. Benjie Forrest, Chairman**

Mr. Forrest and Mr. Davis informed the board that our legislation is outlined within both the North Carolina House and Senate Budget. With similar wording in both budgets, we are very

hopeful this legislation will be ratified within the North Carolina 2025-2026 budget as a recurring line item.

Mr. Davis informed the board that our Cooperative and Innovative High School Funding has been approved within one of the mini-budgets approved in late July by the North Carolina General Assembly.

1. **Financial Report: Mr. Hal Davis**

Mr. Davis presented the following informational point of interest as related to our fiscal operations at

NERSBA:

* 1. **Fiscal Information**
* Mr. Davis reported that NERSBA will be one of the final schools in the state to receive state funds. The funding for schools that are designated for Cooperative and Innovative High Schools is forthcoming and earmarked for NERSBA.
* Mr. Davis thanked Dr. Busch and Martin Community College for all they have done to provide instructors’ onsite in addition to supporting the welding program along with the Edu-Cart Virtual Instruction.

1. **Information Items: Dr. David Jenkins/Mr. Hal Davis**
   1. COGNIA Accreditation Planning Dr. Jenkins/Principal Lisa Smith

* Mrs. Smith informed the board that the first process for accreditation with COGNIA is the candidacy review visit on the NERSBA campus. They will meet with students, parents, and some participants virtually, as well as conduct an executive review.

There are assurances and various items that need to be completed and submitted for review prior to the visit.

* 1. **2025 Facilities Summer Improvement Project Review: Mr. Davis**

Mr. Davis informed the board of the following notes in informational points:

1. Ceiling Tile/Lighting Projects

All the lights and tiles have been replaced in hallways and a few classrooms.

1. Gym/Main Campus HVAC Project

We are still waiting for the informational quote for installing three-phase service in the gymnasium.

1. Painting/Carpet Projects

Dr. Jenkins has relocated his office to the back hall. The office has been painted, and carpet has been put down.

1. We welcome Mrs. Donna Matthews (Data Manager/Coordinator) and Mrs. Whitney Hernandez (NC East Alliance Stem Coordinator)
2. **NERSBA Enrollment By Public School Unit: Mr. Hal Davis**

Mr. Davis informed the board of Projected Enrollment Data by Public School Unit for the new school

year:

**Martin County 22 Scholars**

**Pitt County 53 Scholars**

**Tyrrell County 15 Scholars**

**Washington County 54 Scholars**

**Total Enrollment 144 Scholars**

1. **National FFA Convention: Mr. Kendall Paramore**

Mr. Kendall Paramore provided an update regarding the National FFA Convention scheduled

for late October including funding efforts he as implemented to date.

1. **Vehicle Purchase: Mr. Hal Davis**

Mr. Davis informed the board that he is in the process of purchasing a 2020 Chevy Van 3500 Series with 26,000 miles from Deacon Jones AutoGroup in Smithfield to transport our students for specific events.

Mr. Davis also noted that we are looking at another bus with the assistance of the Washington County school bus garage to resolve our transportation issues. Mrs. Smith assured the board that we have been very frugal with these expenditures. .

1. **UMO Program: Dr. Jason Davis**

Dr. Jason Davis reported that Ms. Madelyn Willham, a former state FFA officer and teacher with Rowan County Schools will be teaching the GE 115 and Lab course work, meeting in person for the labs throughout the semester with students enrolled in the University of Mount Olive Program.

**5.0 Action Items: Mr. Benjie Forrest, Chair/Mr. Hal Davis**

**5.1 June 25, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes Approval:**

Mr. Kendall Paramore moved to accept the June board meeting minutes as presented by Mr. Davis. Mr. Gene Scott seconded the motion, which was confirmed by a majority vote of the board membership.

**5.2 Door Project/Hardware Specialties**

Mr. Davis presented a final quote from Hardware Specialties in Greenville regarding the door and related hardware project for NERSBA. This quote would include the replacement of all doors in the 1937 building and student center. Mr. Kendall Paramore moved to accept the quote as presented by Mr. Davis. Mr. Jerry Phelps seconded the motion, which was confirmed by a majority vote of the board.

**6.0 Closed Session: NCGS 143.318.11(5)/Personnel**

Mrs. Sherrie Gilliam moved to go into closed session per the statutes listed above. Dr. Brian

Busch seconded the motion to enter into closed session at 5:20 PM.

Mrs. Stotesberry, Mrs. Smith, and Dr. Jenkins were dismissed from the meeting.

**Open Session**:

Upon returning to open session, the board approved the recommendation from Mr. Davis for

Ms. Jamie Miller to be approved as a substitute teacher at NERSBA.

**7.0 Announcements: Mr. Hal Davis**

Mr. Davis informed the board of the following announcements and future NERSBA Events:

* 1. August 18: Begin MCC Fall Semester
  2. August 26: Begin UMO Classes @ NEC
  3. September 1: Labor Day Holiday
  4. September 11: COGINA Accreditation Visit
  5. September 17: Board of Directors Work Session @ 4:00 PM

(Strategic Planning) & Board Meeting @ 4:30

* 1. October 2: Conclude First Grading Period
  2. October 4: NERSBA FFA Fall Festival
  3. October 16: Regional College Fair @ Martin Community College, 10:00 AM
  4. October 27-31: National FFA Convention @ Indianapolis, Indiana

**8.0 Motion to Adjourn: Mr. Benjie Forrest**

After entertaining a motion to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Forrest, Mrs. Joyce Moore moved to adjourn the

August Board of Directors Meeting at 5:45 PM. Following a number of seconds from the board membership,

the motion to adjourn was approved.

**Respectively Submitted,**

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**Administrative Assistant Date**