



NERSBA Board of Directors Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, July 16, 2025
NERSBA Technology Center
4:30 PM

1. Open Session

1.1 Call to Order: Mr. Benjie Forrest, Chair

1.2 Roll Call: Mrs. Inga Stotesberry

Present: Benjie Forrest, Brian Busch, Julius Walker, Ethan Lenker, Simon Griffin, Jerry Phelps, Joyce Moore, Kendall Paramore, Steve Lassiter, Gene Scott, Sherrie Gilliam

Absent: Melva Lilley, Jason Davis

1.3 Invocation/United States Pledge of Allegiance: Mr. Julius Walker

1.4 Approval of the July 16, 2025 NERSBA Board Meeting Agenda: Mr. Benjie Forrest

Mr. Kendall Paramore moved to approve the meeting agenda as presented by Mr. Davis. Mrs. Joyce Moore seconded the motion, which was confirmed by a majority vote of the board.

1.5 Public Comments: None

2. A Unique View of Current/Future Student Needs: Ms. Rachael Candesco, NC Teacher of the Year

Mr. Hal Davis introduced Ms. Rachel Candesco, from Welcome Middle School in Pitt County. Ms. Candesco was recently named as the North Carolina Teacher-Of-The-Year for the 2025-2026 school year. Ms. Candesco addressed the board regarding her concerns with respect to the current and future needs of students and her initiatives to resolve respective issues during her tenure as the North Carolina Teacher-Of-The-Year.

3. NC East Alliance/NERSBA Collaborative Agreement (Stem Outreach Coordinator):

Mr. Hal Davis/Dr. Ethan Lenker

Dr. Ethan Lenker presented a Memorandum of Understanding between North Carolina East Alliance and the NERSBA Early College regarding the creation of a Stem Outreach Coordinator, which is a fully-funded paid position with respective state benefits. The North Carolina East Alliance will reimburse NERSBA every 6 months for the position's full salary (Mrs. Whitney Hernandez). This will be an annual contract with a continuing term.

4. NERSBA Scholastic Report: Mrs. Lisa Smith, Principal/Dr. David Jenkins

4.1 NEC Scholastic Update:

Dr. David Jenkins informed the board of the following:

- NERSBA was well represented at the State FFA Convention held in Raleigh during late June. Scholars had a great experience at the event with AJ Gamboa receiving a First Place State Award

and a Silver Award on the National Level for his efforts with the FFA Agricultural Proficiency Award Program.

- Our NERSBA Early College is making final preparations for the start of the new school year scheduled for Monday, August 4th of 2025.

4.2 NERSBA Legislative Update: Mr. Benjie Forrest

- Mr. Forrest informed the board the North Carolina General Assembly has briefly adjourned for the summer
- Our legislative initiative outlining expansion of NERSBA to all public school units in North Carolina remains in debate by both houses of the General Assembly

5. NERSBA Financial Report: Mr. Michael Hardy

5.1 2024-2025 NERSBA Early College Fiscal Report

Mr. Hardy reported that local appropriations from the 2024-2025 school year were distributed to the NERSBA Early College as outlined below by individual counties/sources:

Martin County	\$71,092.94
Pitt County	\$78,402.00
Tyrrell County	\$7,242.74
Washington County	\$67,794.00
Red Light Ticket Collections	\$7,589.57
Total	\$232,121.35

5.2 2025-2026 Fiscal Update: Mr. Michael Hardy

Mr. Hardy reported that all school systems across North Carolina are currently waiting for the 2025-2026 State Budget to be approved. NERSBA is currently working from the Interim Budget Resolution approved by the board in May. Mr. Hardy informed the board that NERSBA had approximately \$800,000.00 in fund balance with additional expenditures during the year in the amount of \$180,000.00 placing our current fund balance at approximately \$620,000.00. Fortunately, enrollment at NERSBA has increased this year, and we should be receiving state, local and federal additional funds to off-set these expenditures.

6. NERSBA Informational Items: Dr. David Jenkins/Mr. Hal Davis

Dr. Jenkins and Mr. Davis provided information on the following items to our board:

6.1 COGNIA Accreditation Update: Dr. Jenkins

A preliminary visit by representatives from COGNIA is scheduled for September 11, 2025. We are hoping to receive initial accreditation from this organization prior to the conclusion of the 2026 Spring Semester.

6.2 2025 NERSBA Facilities Summer Improvement Projects: Mr. Davis

1. Ceiling Tile/Lighting Project
Ceiling tiles and new lighting has been installed within the main office, hallways, and classrooms.
2. Gymnasium/Main Campus
Mr. Davis reported that a heating and cooling unit has been replaced by David Bowen Heating & Cooling. In addition, we have had boiler upgrades completed in the gymnasium by the Piedmont Service Group.
3. Paint/Carpet Projects
Mr. Davis informed the board that new carpet tiles and painting has been completed in Dr. Jenkins' office in the 1937 building. Dr. Jenkins has relocated his office to this area.

Mr. Davis also noted that Dominion Energy has removed light poles no longer used to support electrical lines throughout the campus area.

6.3 NERSBA 2025-2026 Projected Enrollment Data by Public School Unit: Mr. Davis

Mr. Davis informed the board that NERSBA has a projected enrollment of 145 scholars for the upcoming 2025-2026 school year as outlined below:

Martin County:	22 Scholars
Pitt County:	53 Scholars
Tyrrell County:	17 Scholars
Washington County:	53 Scholars
Projected Enrollment:	145 Scholars

6.4 NERSBA Board of Directors 2025-2026 Board Meeting Schedule: Mr. Hal Davis

Mr. Davis presented a schedule for all board of director meetings for the current school year to our board membership.

7. NERSBA Action Items: Mr. Benjie Forrest

7.1 Approval Of NERSBA May 21, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes: Mr. Benjie Forrest

Mrs. Joyce Moore moved to approve the May board meeting minutes as presented by Mr. Davis. Mr. Julius Walker seconded the motion, which was confirmed by a majority vote of the board membership.

7.2 NERSBA Consolidated Application for Federal Funds: Dr. David Jenkins

Dr. David Jenkins presented information relative to federal fund applications that are available to the NERSBA Early College during the 2025-2026 school year.

The NERSBA board of directors authorized Mr. Hallet S. Davis Jr. as the representative of the board to file any consolidated applications for Federal Funds, as well as any other future applications for Federal Funds. Dr. Brian Busch moved to approve the motion for authorization as presented by Dr. Jenkins. Mr. Julius Walker seconded the motion, which was confirmed by a majority vote of the board membership.

7.3 NC East Alliance Stem Coordinator Position: Mr. Benjie Forrest

Mrs. Joyce Moore moved to approve a liaison position to be funded through the North Carolina East Alliance as presented by Dr. Ethan Lenker. Mr. Kendall Paramore seconded the motion, which was confirmed by a majority vote of the board membership.

8. Closed Session: NCGS 143.318.11(5)Personnel

Mr. Sherri Gilliam moved to go into closed session. Dr. Brian Busch seconded, which was confirmed by a majority vote of the board membership upon the statute listed above.

Open Session:

Mr. Jerry Phelps moved to approve the personnel recommendation to employ Mrs. Donna Matthews as a data manager on a part-time basis as recommended by Mr. Davis. Mr. Kendall Paramore seconded the motion which was confirmed by a majority vote of the board membership.

9. Announcements: Mr. Hal Davis

Mr. Davis outlined the following dates and events on our future NERSBA Early College schedule:

- 9.1 July 28-29 NERSBA Scholar/parent/Faculty Orientation Sessions
- 9.2 August 4 First day of 25/26 school calendar
- 9.3 August 7 Junior/Senior/Super-Senior class meetings 9/11 AM
- 9.4 August 18 Begin Martin Community College Fall semester
- 9.5 August 20 Board of Directors Meeting @4:30 PM
- 9.6 August 26 University of Mount Olive Classes Begin At NERSBA
- 9.7 September 1 Labor Day Holiday

10. Adjournment: Mr. Benjie Forrest

After the conclusion of the formal announcements by Mr. Davis, Mrs. Joyce Moore moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Jerry Phelps seconded the motion, which was approved by the board. The meeting was then adjourned at 5:55 PM.

Respectively Submitted,

Inga Stotesberry, Administrative Assistant

(Date)