



NERSBA Board of Directors Meeting
NERSBA Technology Center
Wednesday, May 21, 2025
4:30 PM

1. OPEN SESSION

1.1 Call to Order/Welcome: Mr. Benjie Forrest, Chair

NERSBA Board Chairman, Mr. Benjie Forrest called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM.

1.2 Roll Call: Mrs. Inga Stotesberry

Board Members Present:

Benjie Forrest, Julius Walker, Ethan Lenker, Simon Griffin, Joyce Moore, Jason Davis, Steve Lassiter, Gene Scott, Sherri Gilliam

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

1.4 Approval of May 21, 2025 NERSBA Board Meeting Agenda: Mr. Benjie Forrest, Chair

Mrs. Joyce Moore moved to approve the May board meeting agenda as presented by Mr. Davis. Dr. Steve Lassiter seconded the motion, which was confirmed by a majority vote of the board membership.

1.5 Public Comments: None

2. NERSBA SCHOLASTIC REPORT: DR. DAVID JENKINS

2.1 NERSBA Early College Scholastic Report: Dr. David Jenkins

Dr. David Jenkins informed the board that NERSBA has completed the current spring semester with students completing final exams today.

2.2 NERSBA Early College Strategic Plan, 2025-2030: Dr. Larry Price

Mr. Davis informed the board that preliminary work with developing our NERSBA Early College 2025-2030 Strategic Plan has been completed. He thanked the students, faculty, parents and board membership who helped to develop this plan and asked Dr. Larry Price to present the plan to our directors.

Dr. Larry Price presented the NERSBA Early College 2025-2030 Strategic Plan to the board, highlighting the various aspects of the plan as identified:

- Strategic Plan
- Team
- Mission & Vision Statement
- Core Beliefs & Values
- Priorities & Issues
- Significant Findings
- Plan Matrix

2.3 Class of 2025 Commencement Review: Dr. David Jenkins

Dr. Jenkins informed the board that the NERSBA Early College graduated 34 scholars on Saturday (May 17th) with one of our biggest classes and attendance at our ceremony.

2.4 A Very Big Surprise: Mr. Hal Davis

Mr. Davis noted that NERSBA had two-sophomore scholars walk with the Martin Community College graduates who received their certificates in the Orthopedic Technology Program during ceremonies held on May 16th. The scholars were enrolled with evening classes at the school. Mr. Davis also informed the board that NERSBA Class of 2025 graduates Rowan Savary, Riley Wynne, and Dawson Cross, received special awards during the college commencement. Mr. Davis noted that we are all very proud of our NERSBA graduates.

3. NERSBA Financial Report: Mr. Michael Hardy

3.1 2024-2025 NERSBA Early College Fiscal Report

Mr. Hardy updated the board of our NC Capitol Management Trust Fund for the month of April. He will be providing the board quarterly updates on the status of this account throughout the school year.

3.2 2023-2024 Fiscal Audit Presentation: Mr. Michael Jordan, PLLC

A draft for management review of the 2023-2024 audit report was presented by Mr. Michael Jordan. As of June 30, 2024, the Cash, Capital Assets, Governmental Funds, Revenues, State Public School Fund Revenues, Expenditures, and Long Term Debt have an estimated 1.6 million dollar budget. The Audit Report is unmodified; with no material or significant weaknesses identified.

Mr. Davis thanked Mr. Hardy and Inga Stotesberry, faculty and staff, for being detailed and following through with all fiscal requests as related to our financial accounting, receipts and disbursements at our NERSBA Early College.

3.3 NERSBA Early College 2025-2026 Budget Resolution: Mr. Michael Hardy

Mr. Hardy presented to the board a resolution which outlined the expenditures of funds until the North Carolina General Assembly approves a state budget for the 2025-2026 school year. The budget resolution is noted below:

In accordance with the General Statute 115c-434, Northeast Regional School of AgriScience and Biotechnology hereby authorizes an interim fiscal appropriation for the purpose of paying salaries and the usual ordinary expenses of the administrative unit for the interval between the beginning of the fiscal year and the adoption of the 2025-2026 budget resolution, interim appropriations so made and expended shall be charged to the proper appropriations in the 2025-2026 budget resolution.

Mrs. Sherri Gilliam moved to approve the budget resolution as presented by Mr. Hardy. Mr. Gene Scott seconded the motion, which was confirmed by a majority vote of the board membership.

3.4 NERSBA 2025 Legislative Update: Mr. Benjie Forrest, Chair

Mr. Davis and Mr. Forrest presented to each board member an informational packet of the proposed legislation as related to NERSBA from the North Carolina General Assembly. Mr. Forrest reported that the House and Senate will have to resolve differences in both chambers as related to the new fiscal budget.

Our lobbyist, Mr. Jackson Stancil, has been working to promote our scholastic vision and mission and informed the board there is still work to be done regarding the governance of the school, specifically the future appointment of members to the board.

Mr. Forrest also reported the legislation outlines opening enrollment of NERSBA students up to the 17 counties in northeastern North Carolina, addressing the funding sources and transportation. The schools “Cooperative and Innovative High School” status is included as a recurring item within the proposed state budget at this time.

4.0 NERSBA Informational Items: Dr. David Jenkins

4.1 COGINIA Accreditation Update

Dr. Jenkins informed the board that the initial meeting regarding the formal application for NERSBA to be accredited by COGINIA is scheduled for June 3rd. He will provide the board an update on this meeting during the boards’ June meeting. This application will be a year-long process.

4.2 2025 Summer Improvement Projects: Mr. Hal Davis

Mr. Davis informed the board that a number of projects were underway for the summer including:

- The HVAC unit serving the technology center and middle section of the building will be replaced
- Main entrance, administrative office, and hallway lighting and ceiling tile projects are scheduled for the month of June
- Boiler work to replace a valve in the gymnasium is to be completed the first week of June
- Vacant light poles on campus are scheduled to be removed by Dominion Energy

4.3 Review Of The 2024-2025 School Year: Dr. David Jenkins

Dr. David Jenkins presented the following reference points as an update for the board regarding the recently completed scholastic calendar:

- We have had a good school year, with the transition of Mrs. Lisa Smith to NERSBA Early College Principal has been great.
- Our scholastic mission statement measures success and we have seen growth.
- Referencing the Martin Community College Graduation program, NERSBA had twenty (20) students who received an associate’s degree either in arts or in science, and technical certificates which is exciting.
- We had one student who received a full-ride scholarship to Appalachian State University, (Mr. Bo Samson).
- Mr. Davis presented information regarding our 2024-2025 yearbook and noted a plaque received for the merits of our production and sales thanks to Ms. Jennifer Marrow and her yearbook committee.
- Mrs. Joyce Moore noted that NERSBA graduate Carlos Coates received his associate's degree online while in the military, and this was mentioned at the Martin Community College Graduation.

5.0 NERSBA Action Items: Dr. David Jenkins

5.1 Approval of April 16, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes: Mr. Benjie Forrest, Chair

Mr. Simon Griffin moved to approve the April 16, 2025, board meeting minutes as presented by Mr. Hal Davis. Dr. Ethan Lenker seconded the motion, which was confirmed by a majority vote of the board membership.

5.2 NERSBA 2025-2030 Strategic Plan: Mr. Benjie Forrest, Chair

Mrs. Joyce Moore moved to approve the 2025-2030 NERSBA Early College Strategic Plan as presented by Dr. Larry Price. Mr. Julius Walker seconded the motion, which was confirmed by a majority vote of the board membership.

Mr. Davis informed the board that the administrative team at NERSBA would provide the board an annual review of the progress and achievements attained with the NERSBA 2025-2030 Strategic Plan.

5.3 2023-2024 NERSBA Fiscal Audit: Mr. Benjie Forrest, Chair

Dr. Ethan Lenker moved to accept the 2023-2024 Fiscal Audit as presented by Mr. Michael Jordan earlier during the meeting. Mr. Gene Scott seconded the motion, which was confirmed by a majority vote of the board membership.

Mr. Davis noted the board would need to meet via conference call in June to complete a final budget amendment for the scholastic calendar.

5.4 New Faculty/Staff Employment/Authority to Employ Vacant Positions for 25/26: Mr. Hal Davis

Following a formal request by Mr. Davis as related to filling any vacant positions between now and the July board meeting, Mrs. Sherri Gilliam moved to approve the request as presented by Mr. Davis with respect to any vacant faculty/staff positions. Mr. Julius Walker seconded the motion, which was then confirmed by a majority vote of the board membership.

5.5 NERSBA Parking Fee for 25/26—NERSBA Commencement Admission Ticketing: Mr. Hal Davis Parking Fee:

Mr. Davis offered for the boards' consideration, a proposal to access a student parking fee in the amount of \$25.00 effective with the 2025-2026 school year to support general repairs on the designated student parking areas on the campus.

Mrs. Joyce Moore moved to approve the student-parking fee assessment in an amount of up to \$25.00. Dr. Ethan Lenker seconded the motion, which was confirmed by a majority vote of the board of directors.

Commencement & Admission Fee:

As related to the schools' annual commencement, Mr. Davis recommended that each student starting with the NERSBA Class of 2026 Commencement, would receive four (4) graduation tickets for use by individual student guests as deemed appropriate at no charge to the student/family. A fee would be set for ticket purchases at \$10.00 each for any additional tickets requested by individual students based on the seating capacity of the NERSBA Performing Arts Center (approximately 450 seats).

After a general discussion by the board membership, the directors did not support any assessment of a ticket fee for respective NERSBA graduates or to be imposed on their families at this time.

Mr. Davis noted that he would present this idea to our NERSBA Parental Advisory Committee and review this issue with our board after receiving their input at a later date.

Dr. Jason Davis commented on the number of projects that require funding and for the board to consider a professional fundraiser to solicit funding to support NERSBA. Mr. Davis noted that we are still in the process of acquiring our tax-exempt status (501(c)(3)) to support that initiative.

5.6 NERSBA Class of 2025 Commencement Date Adjustment: Mr. Hal Davis

Mr. Davis recommended that the board move forward with scheduling the NERSBA 2026 Graduation to Saturday, May 23rd, which is also Memorial Day weekend. Mrs. Sherri Gilliam moved to accept the recommendation as presented by Mr. Davis. Dr. Steve Lassiter seconded the motion, which was confirmed by a majority vote of the board membership.

6. Closed Session: NCGS 143.318.11(5)/Personnel

Mr. Julius Walker moved to go into closed session as related to the statute outlined above. Mr. Simon Griffin seconded the motion, which was confirmed by a majority vote of the board membership.

7. Open Session

Upon returning to open session, the board by consensus, approved to employ Mr. Hal Davis as the Executive Director at the NERSBA Early College for the period of July 1st of 2025 until June 30th of 2026.

8. Announcements: Mr. Hal Davis

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| 8.1 | May 19-23 | NERBSA 2025 Spring Semester Final Exam/Test Administration |
| 8.2 | May 26 th | National Memorial Day Holiday |
| 8.3 | May 28-29 | NERSBA Class of 2026 Formal/In the Round Photographs |
| 8.4 | June 9 | Designated Annual Leave/Conclude Employment for 11-month Faculty |
| 8.5 | June 11 | NERSBA Board of Directors Meeting, 4:30 PM (Tentative) |
| 8.6 | June 16-20 | NC School Boards Association Leadership Conference |
| 8.7 | June 23-26 | NC State FFA Convention, Raleigh Convention Center |
| 8.8 | July 4 | Independence Day Holiday |

9. Motion to Adjourn

After the conclusion of formal announcements by Mr. Davis, Mrs. Joyce Moore offered a motion to adjourn the meeting. Following a number of seconds from the board membership, Mr. Forrest called for a vote. With all attendees voting in the affirmative; the meeting was adjourned at 6:20 PM by Chairman Forrest.

Respectively Submitted

Inga Stotesberry, Administrative Assistant Date