



NERSBA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 18, 2026
4:30 PM

1. Open Session

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

1.2 Invocation/United States Pledge of Allegiance: Mr. Kendall Paramore

1.3 Roll Call: Mrs. Inga Stotesberry

Present: Benjie Forrest, Brian Busch, Simon Griffin, Joyce Moore, Kendall Paramore, Jason Davis, Gene Scott, Sherrie Gilliam

Absent: Julius Walker, Ethan Lenker, Jerry Phelps, Melva Lilley, Steve Lassiter

1.4 Approval of February 18, 2026 Board Meeting Agenda: Mr. Benjie Forrest, Chairman

Mr. Kendall Paramore moved to approve the February board meeting agenda as presented. Dr. Brian Busch seconded the motion which was confirmed by a majority vote by the board membership.

1.5 Public Comments: None

2. Scholastic Report: Mrs. Lisa Smith, Dr. David Jenkins

2.1 NERSBA 2025-2026 Scholastic Update: Mrs. Lisa Smith, Dr. David Jenkins

Mrs. Lisa Smith and Dr. David Jenkins presented the following informational items to our board:

- NERSBA was featured in an article published by “EdNC” which is a monthly publication serving all of North Carolina.
- Our accreditation process continues with our school gathering information for narratives to be submitted this summer.
- Monday (February 16th), faculty visited North Pitt High School for Professional Development Rounds. After returning to campus, respective teachers participated in professional development at NERSBA with NCDPI Digital Teacher Learning with Meredith Hill.
- Scholars and faculty are celebrating National FFA Week each day this week with a different theme each day.
- NERSBA is preparing for the ACT with all Juniors on February 24th.

Dr. David Jenkins:

Dr. Jenkins reported the Roanoke Beacon recently published an article on NERSBA graduate, Sidney Gainey Jalahi who is now an extension agent with Edgecombe County Cooperative Extension Service.

Dr. Jenkins also noted that Mr. Javian McMillan, NERSBA graduate, will be enrolling in the School of Veterinary Medicine at North Carolina State University this fall.

3. Financial Report: Mrs. Renee Dunn/Mr. Hal Davis

3.1 Mrs. Renee Dunn informed the board of the following informational points of interest:

- Mrs. Dunn informed the board that we have expended 62% of our state fiscal allotment to date.
- In addition, Mrs. Dunn reported that NERSBA has expended 54%, of our local budget at the present time with the respect to the current scholastic calendar.

Mrs. Dunn noted that she was confident of our fiscal standing to date.

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

Mr. Davis stated that once we complete the pay periods for February, Mrs. Dunn and himself will reconcile all salary projections through June 30th. The Finance Committee will then meet with Mrs. Dunn as a group to hopefully make necessary expenditure adjustments for the remainder of the school year in addition to beginning work on the 2026-2027 school year operational budget.

While we still do not have a formal budget for fiscal year 2025-2026, it is now time to begin preparing for the financial needs associated with the 2026-2027 school year. Our audit presentation will be delivered during our March board meeting.

3.2 Finance Committee Meeting: Mr. Hal Davis

As noted earlier, our audit presentation for the 2024-2025 school year will be presented at our March board meeting.

4. Informational Items: Dr. David Jenkins/Mr. Hal Davis

4.1 A “Once in a lifetime” Personal & Professional Development: Mr. Travis Wester

Mr. Travis Wester presented his experience and highlights from his hiking trip through the Grand Canyon during late December and early-January. He and two experienced friends hiked 36 miles during a four-day period. Mr. Travis Wester noted during his presentation that he and his friends chose growth over comfort. Mr. Wester presented a picture slide and highlighted leadership overcoming as follows:

- Choosing growth over comfort
- Hiked the Bright Angel Trail
- Hiked the Havasupai Gardens
- Hiked to Phantom Ranch
- Haul out to the South rim
- Took months of preparation
- Planning does not remove fear

The Doubt:

- Am I ready
- What if I can't finish
- Mountain Lions
- Doubt comes before growth
-

The Descent:

- Steep switch backs
- Muscle Ache
- No quick way out
- The cost of growth is comfort

Phantom Ranch:

- A place to stop
- Rehydrate
- Reassess
- Realize you're capable of more than you thought

The Climb Out (The Hard Part):

- Steeper
- Colder and colder as we ascended
- Mentally harder than physically
- Cardio was terrible

Reaching the Rim:

- Exhausted
- Proud
- Changed
- Confidence comes after action

The Leadership Lesson:

- Uncomfortable/Unsafe
- Doubt/Truth
- Action builds confidence

What is the FFA Moto? FFA Connection?

- Learning to Do- Planning and Preparation
- Doing to Learn- The Hike itself
- Earning to Live- Confidence and Grit
- Living to Serve- Using growth to Lead Others

Mr. Wester also shared with his students the following informational points:

FFA Call to Action is to:

- Run for Office
- Compete
- Speak Up
- Do Something That Scares You

4.2 Policy Updates/NC School Boards Association: Mr. Hal Davis/Dr. David Jenkins:

Mr. Davis informed the board that it has been five years since we had Dr. Larry Price review, advise, and develop our operational policies, and insure that our policies are in line with the North Carolina School Boards Association.

Many changes and revisions have happened within that five-year period. Dr. David Jenkins is now in the process to review all of our policies to evaluate their alignment with the current NCSBA policies moving forward. Mr. Davis informed the board that this will be a very timely process as he and our board completes a review of all nine chapters of the North Carolina School Boards Association Policy Manual.

Our board will begin a review of our policy manual during a work session scheduled for 3:45 PM on March 18th prior to our March board meeting. The review will begin with an audit of the 1000 policies.

4.3 NC FFA Tractor & Truck Driving Contest/2027 State FFA Convention: Mr. Hal Davis

The contest was postponed due to the weather. A make-up date for this event has not been scheduled to date.

Mr. Davis also informed the board that the North Carolina State FFA Convention is scheduled to be held in Charlotte, NC during June of 2027.

4.4 Classroom Ceiling Tile/Lighting Project: Mr. Hal Davis

The process of replacing ceiling tiles and light fixtures in all classrooms along our main hallway is currently underway

4.5 Phone/Security System Upgrades/Scholastic Yearbook Provider: Mr. Hal Davis

- Our phone system is integrated to our current security system. We are in the process of resolving issues we are experiencing, such as not being able to hear the intercom announcements, and fire alarms sounding during period of high moisture and in-climate weather.
- Our vendor for student/staff pictures is Strawbridge out of Durham, NC.

At 5:10 PM, a medical emergency involving one of our members occurred, and the board meeting was paused. At 5:30 PM board meeting resumed.

4.6 Remote Instruction Plan Review: Mr. Hal Davis

Mr. Davis reported that NERSBA has a Remote Instructional Plan in place as required by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. Copies of this document were provided to the board membership.

5. Action Items: Mr. Benjie Forrest, Chair

5.1 January 21st, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes Approval:

Mr. Kendall Paramore moved to approve the January minutes as presented by Mr. Hal Davis. Mr. Simon Griffin seconded, with the motion confirmed by a majority vote of the board membership.

5.2 2026-2027 Scholastic Calendar Proposal: Dr. David Jenkins

The 2026-2027 NERSBA Scholastic Calendar was presented for review by our board membership during the January board meeting.

Upon the request and recommendation by Mr. Davis, Mr. Kendall Paramore moved to accept the 2026-2027 calendar proposal as previously outlined. Mrs. Joyce Moore provided a second with the motion to adopt the calendar proposal confirmed by a majority vote of the board membership.

5.3 Agreement with the Martin County Sheriff's Department: Principal Lisa Smith

Mrs. Smith outlined a request for the NERSBA Early Colleg that a third-party vendor (Extra Duty Solutions) secure all duty officers with the Martin County Sheriff's Department to support our campus during the school day and after-school activities, including graduation and similar events. This expenditure is an integral part of our Safer Schools Grant.

Mr. Kendall Paramore moved to accept the request as presented by Mrs. Lisa Smith. Dr. Jason Davis seconded, with the motion confirmed by a majority vote of the board membership.

5.4 Faculty/Staff issues with Orbit(Payroll Periods) Mr. Hal Davis, Principal Lisa Smith

Mr. Davis presented to the board an issue that NERSBA faculty were having regarding credits in their Orbit Retirement Accounts. With NERSBA faculty beginning employment in mid-July, Orbit does not recognize their time of service until annual audits are completed in January or February. This issue is of concern with faculty not having their retirement credits updated in a timely manner.

Mr. Davis met with Mrs. Renee Dunn and Mr. Sonny Barr to review this issue earlier this month. Options to address this issue would include delaying the initial employment period for faculty until the First of August and beginning the school year on a later date (which would set back the conclusion of the fall semester. Teacher pay periods must align with initial employment dates due to possible tort claims and workman's compensation issues.

Mr. Barr and Mrs. Dunn both noted during the meeting that faculty could request an individual audit report through Orbit as they deem appropriate to attain an up-to-date account of their retirement credits. This process would resolve this issue on an individual basis.

Mr. Davis informed the board that instructions to request individual audits for respective faculty would be communicated with all NERSBA employees moving forward.

5.5 NERSBA Roofing Update: Mr. Hal Davis

Mr. Davis informed the board that options for the 1937 Building have been provided previously. They include costs assessments ranging from \$4,500.00 for cleaning/pressure washing the roof to \$130,000.00 to replace the roof on the 1937 Building.

Mr. Hal Davis recommended power washing at \$4,500.00 for a short-term solution. Following discussions, Dr. Brian Busch moved to accept Mr. Hal Davis' recommendation to power wash for \$4,500.00. Mr. Kendall Paramore seconded, with the motion confirmed by a majority vote of the board membership.

5.6 Surplus Computer Equipment: Mr. Hal Davis

Mr. Davis informed the board that we have outdated computer equipment that is no longer in use.

Dr. Brian Busch moved to authorize Mr. Davis to dispose of the the surplus computer equipment ad deemed appropriate as presented by Mr. Hal Davis. Mr. Kendall Paramore seconded, with the motion confirmed by a majority vote of the board membership.

5.7 Request for overnight field trip/FFA Mega Conference (Greensboro) March 21st-22nd:

Mr. Hal Davis requested approval for the NERSBA FFA Chapter to attend the FFA Mega Conference scheduled for late March in Greensboro, NC.

Mrs. Joyce Moore moved to approve the request as presented by Mr. Hal Davis. Mrs. Sherrie Gilliam seconded the motion which was confirmed by a majority vote of the board membership.

6. Announcements: Principal Lisa Smith

- 6.1 February 22nd NERSBA @ Syracuse University vs NC State Women’s Basketball game @ 2PM
- 6.2 February 27th Class of 2026 Commencement Attire Order Delivers @ 12:15-1:15 PM
- 6.3 March 3rd Jamesville Precinct Balloting, Performance Arts Center@ 5:30 AM to 8:30 PM
- 6.4 March 5th Conclude Third Grading Period for the 2025-2026 scholastic calendar
- 6.5 March 6th Faculty Designated Workday/Scholar Holiday
- 6.6 March 7th Ms. Roanoke Beauty Pageant/Performing Arts Center @9AM
- 6.7 March 9th Report Cards Home to Parents
- 6.8 March 17th Coastal Envirothon, Cool Springs Park/Craven County
- 6.9 March 18th Martin County Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner @ 6 PM, Senator Bob Martin Center
- 6.10 March 21/22 NC State FFA Mega Conference, Greensboro, NC

7. Motion to Adjourn

Mrs. Joyce Moore moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Kendall Paramore seconded, with the motion confirmed by a majority vote of the board membership.

Mr. Kendall Paramore held a special prayer lifting up the board for member in a medical emergency, Mr. Hal Davis, the passing of his brother in January, and Mr. Curtis Spencer’s wife's continued health concerns, and him as the caregiver.

The board meeting was adjourned at 5:50 PM.

Respectively Submitted,

Inga Stotesberry, Administrative Assistant

Date