



**NERSBA Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, January 21, 2026
4:30 PM NERSBA Technology Center**

1. Open Session

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

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

1.3 Roll Call: Mrs. Inga Stotesberry

Present: Benjie Forrest, Brian Busch, Julius Walker, Ethan Lenker (by phone), Simon Griffin, Melva Lilley, Joyce Moore, Steve Lassiter, Gene Scott, Sherrie Gilliam

Absent: Jerry Phelps, Kendall Paramore, Jason Davis

1.4 Approval of January 21, 2026 Board Meeting Agenda: Mr. Benjie Forrest, Chairman

Mrs. Joyce Moore moved to approve the January board meeting agenda as presented by Mr. Benjie Forrest, Chairman. Mr. Simon Griffin seconded, with the motion confirmed by a majority vote of the board membership.

1.5 Election of NERSBA Board of Directors Officers for 2026: Dr. David Jenkins

Dr. Jenkins informed the board of the need to elect board officers for the 2026 calendar term. After a brief discussion, a nomination was made by Dr. Steve Lassiter for Mr. Benjie Forrest to continue in his role as board chairman and Dr. Brian Busch to continue as vice-chairman. Mrs. Sherri Gilliam seconded the nominations. With no other nominations, a motion to close nominations was made by Mr. Simon Griffin and confirm the election of Mr. Forrest and Dr. Busch respectively, followed by a second from Mr. Gene Scott. The motion to elect Mr. Forrest and Dr. Busch passed with a majority vote of the board membership.

1.6 Introduction of Mrs. Christy Twiddy, Math Faculty Member.

Mrs. Christy Twiddy introduced herself as our new math teacher at NERSBA. Mrs. Twiddy is filling the roll of Mrs. Connie Smith who retired from NERSBA on December 31st. Mrs. Twiddy is an experienced math teacher from DH Conley High School in Pitt county. She is a UNC Graduate and experienced math educator. Mrs. Twiddy is excited to be a part of the NERSBA Early College instructional team.

1.7 Public Comments: None

2.0 Scholastic Report: Principal Lisa Smith

2.1 Mrs. Lisa Smith informed the board of the following:

- NERSBA had a very successful fall semester semester that concluded before Christmas break.
- The 2026 spring semester has had a great start with fourteen scholars participating in remediation for two days and retesting which followed from the fall semester.
- We are continuing the COGNIA Accreditation process, with all stakeholder surveys completed.

- Our school has been working with the town of Jamesville and has been approved for the Sunset Street adjacent to our campus facility to add signage and school crosswalks since we are utilizing the Gymnasium, Greenhouse, and Welding shop every day. We are waiting on the North Carolina Department Of Transportation to complete this process, which is scheduled to be completed by the end of June 2026.

3.0 Financial Report: Dr. David Jenkins/Principal Lisa Smith

3.1 Dr. David Jenkins reported that Mr. Davis is continuously monitoring our fiscal operations and we are on-target for expenditures and receipts at this point of the scholastic calendar.

3.2 Review of Local Chart of Accounts: Principal Lisa Smith

A printout of the local chart of accounts was provided to board members for review.

4.0 Informational Items: Dr. David Jenkins

4.1 Mr. Kip Brandenburg, with The Garland Company

Mr. Brandenburg presented a visual outline of the roof issues of the 1937 Building of recommend repairs that needed at this point in the service life of the current roofing fixture. The board will need to develop a plan moving forward to address these needs as outlined by Mr. Brandenburg and the Garland Company.

4.2 AgriScience/FFA Chapter: Ms. Maria Dickinson

Ms. Maria Dickinson enlightened the board members (per Mr. Davis request) of FFA events and activities the NERSBA FFA Chapter/Scholars have been involved with from March 2025 through July 2026.

4.3 NERSBA Early College Policy Manual Review and Updates: Dr. David Jenkins

Dr. Jenkins informed the board that he is currently reviewing our board policies, which were developed five years ago to make certain they are current and up to date with the North Carolina School Board Association policies.

Dr. Jenkins hopes to provide an update on policies to be reviewed and approved by the board in February.

4.4 NERSBA Early College 2026-2027 Scholastic Calendar Proposal: Dr. David Jenkins

Dr. Jenkins provided the board a copy of the 2026-2027 Calendar Proposal for review. This calendar proposal will be included as an action item during the February board of directors meeting.

4.5 Faculty & Staff issues with Orbit (Payroll periods): Principal Lisa Smith

Mrs. Smith informed the board that a majority of our faculty are paid on an eleven month contract. These teachers begin employment in mid-July, receiving a full paycheck in late July. Our eleven-month faculty receive a final paycheck in late May with their term of employment concluding in mid-June.

The Orbit System, which is the State of North Carolina's Retirement System only recognizes full months of Employment so our teachers are showing a lapse in their Orbit account of .5 months of credit for their service from July until December.

We have been informed that Orbit conducts an audit in January, and the credits are adjusted at that time with .5 credits of service added back to individual teacher accounts at that time. This issue has been a concern for effected faculty.

Mr. Davis is working with our faculty and Pitt county schools to develop a solution to this issue. One remedy is to alter the current pay schedule for our 11-month employees so they would receive their first payment of the scholastic calendar in August and having a final installment completed in late June meaning that employees would work a month-and-a-half before receiving their initial paycheck of the school year.

In addition, the current pay schedule effects teacher retirement time as well should a faculty member elect to retire mid-year as noted by Dr. Steve Lassiter.

4.6 Exit Lighting/Exit Hardware Update: Mrs. Lisa Smith

Mrs. Smith informed the board that NERSBA employee Mr. Curtis Spencer has been changing our exit lights to get meet building code per the recently completed Fire Marshall Report. He along with Mr. Vachael Hooker have also upgraded door hardware in our gymnasium area.

5.0 Action Items: Mr. Benjie Forrest, Chair

5.1 November 19, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes Approval: Dr. David Jenkins

Mr. Gene Scott moved to accept the November board meeting minutes as presented by Mr. Benjie Forrest. Dr. Brian Busch seconded the motion, which was confirmed by a majority vote by the NERSBA Board of Directors.

5.2 Stronger Connections Grant (Contract approval with MCS Department) Mrs. Lisa Smith

Mrs. Smith informed the board this grant provides funding for our Medical Support Person, Social and Emotional Learning, Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS), and law enforcement presence on campus on a contracted hourly basis. Mrs. Lisa Smith has been working with the Martin County Sheriff, Mr. Drew Robinson on developing a process to secure a law enforcement presence on our NERSBA campus.

We have that funding available through the Stronger Connections Grand until June 30th. NERSBA will be working through a third-party vendor, "Extra Duty Management," to have off-duty officers on our campus at various times during the school day and after-school activities beginning February 1st.

5.3 NC State FFA Convention/Request for Overnight Approval:

Dr. Jenkins noted this event will be held in June 2026 with an overnight stay currently scheduled. Mr. Simon Griffin moved to approve the request as presented by Mrs. Lisa Smith. Mr. Gene Scott seconded the motion, which was confirmed by a majority vote of the board membership.

5.4 Surplus Property Proposal: Dr. David Jenkins

Dr. Jenkins informed the board that NERSBA has two buses that we would like to dispose of as we no longer use them for transportation purposes. The buses are "parked" due to the fact that repairs are costly with several attempts to repair the buses to no avail. Mrs. Sherrie Gilliam moved to accept the sale of the two buses. Mrs. Melva Lilley seconded the motion, which was confirmed by a majority of the board membership.

6.0 Announcements: Mrs. Lisa Smith

Mrs. Lisa Smith informed the board of the following events on the NERSBA scholastic schedule:

- 6.1 February 4th: Class of 2026 Applications for Graduation Due, 3 PM
- 6.2 February 5th: State FFA Tractor & Truck Driving Contest @Southern Farm Show, Raleigh
- 6.3 February 16th: Presidents' Day/NERSBA Virtual Instructional Event
- 6.4 February 16-21: National FFA Week
- 6.5 February 18th: Board of Directors Meeting @ 4:30 PM
- 6.6 February 22nd: NERSBA @ Syracuse vs NC State Women's Basketball Game @ 2:00 PM

7.0 Motion to Adjourn:

After final comments by our board Chairman Mr. Benjie Forrest, Mrs. Joyce Moore moved to adjourn the meeting @ 5:27 PM. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Melva Lilley, which was confirmed with a unanimous vote of the board membership.

Respectively Submitted,

Inga Stotesberry, Administrative Assistant

Date