



## **NERSBA Board of Directors Policy Review Work Session**

**Wednesday, August 19, 2026**

**3:45 PM**

**(Review of Updates/Revisions for NERSBA 8000/9000 Series Board Policies)**

## **NERSBA Board of Directors Meeting Agenda**

**4:30 PM**

### **1. OPEN SESSION @4:30 PM**

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

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

**1.3 Roll Call: Mrs. Inga Stotesberry**

**Present:** Benjie Forrest, Brian Busch, Simon Griffin, Jerry Phelps, Melva Lilley, Joyce Moore, Kendall Paramore, Jason Davis, Steve Lassiter, Gene Scott (by phone)

**Absent:** Julius Walker, Ethan Lenker, Sherri Gilliam

**1.4 Approval of August 19, 2026 NERSBA Board Meeting Agenda: Mr. Benjie Forrest, Chair**

Mr. Kendall Paramore moved to approve the August 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 Foundation By-Laws Presentation/Legislative Update: Mr. James Norment, Ward & Smith, PA**

Mr. James Norment, along with Ms. Marley Petterson, presented NERSBA's new bylaws for the NERSBA Foundation and the General Assembly Legislative Initiatives for questions and discussion. During this virtual session, Mr. Norment and Ms. Peterson presented the framework for moving forward with implementing the legislative agenda for both the NERSBA Early College scholastic operations in addition to the NERSBA Foundation.

In addition, Mr. Davis informed the board that Dr. David Jenkins and himself attended the NERESA (Northeast Regional Education Service Alliance) Superintendents' Council Meeting prior to the board meeting on August 19<sup>th</sup>. Discussions regarding our NERSBA Early College to include the following school systems was the focus of the presentation by Mr. Davis and Dr. Jenkins:

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Beaufort County, Bertie County, Camden County, Dare County, Edenton-Chowan County, Gates County, Halifax County, Hertford County, Hyde County, Martin County, Northampton County, Perquimans County, Pitt County, Tyrrell County and Washington County.

**3. NERSBA Scholastic Report: Principal Lisa Smith**

**3.1 NERSBA Early College 2026-2027 School Opening Review: Principal Lisa Smith**

Mrs. Lisa Smith presented the following informational points of interest to our board membership:

- NERSBA has moved forward with completing our third week of school. It has been a very successful beginning of the school year to date
- NERSBA has transitioned to Chromebook platforms with a very smooth rollout
- Our school has implemented redefined procedures and expectations for students and staff
- Additions of clearly identified crosswalks on Sunset Street have been installed
- OLR has been a huge success; all new scholars/parent have completed it, and we are working with our returning scholars to update their data
- Online Payments rollout has been a great success parent/students are using the portal for payments
- College classes are up and running, with Martin Community College starting classes on the 17th and the University of Mount Olive beginning their on-campus schedule on the 24<sup>th</sup> of August

**3.2 NERSBA Scholar Enrollment by Public School Unit: Mr. Davis**

Mr. Davis provided information outlining a breakdown of student enrollment by Public School Unit totaling 150 scholars at our NERSBA Early College.

**3.3 NERSBA Fire Alarm Installation for Gymnasium/Agri-Engineering Lab: Mrs. Lisa Smith**

Mrs. Lisa Smith informed the board that we now have fire alarm coverage in our gym and engineering laboratory. It has been tested and system schematics finalized.

**3.4 NERSBA/Town of Jamesville Access Road Update: Mr. Davis**

Mr. Davis noted that ongoing discussions continue with the Jamesville township attorney, Martin County Schools, NERSBA, and the North Carolina Department of Transportation regarding the access road connecting Jamesville Elementary School and the NERSBA Early College. The respective parties are also trying to resolve student drop-off and pick-up access points for Jamesville Elementary School.

**4. NERSBA Financial Report:**

**4.1 2026-2027 NERSBA Financial Report: Mr. Steve Harrell, Mr. Hal Davis**

Mr. Steven Harrell, Pitt County Schools Finance Officer, presented the current financial document as a point of reference for our NERSBA Fiscal Operations to date:

|             | Planning Budgets | Expenses     |
|-------------|------------------|--------------|
| State Funds | \$1,868,937.00   | \$211,407.09 |
| Local Funds | \$378,905.93     | \$32,719.65  |
| Grants      | \$616,000.00     | \$0.00       |
| Federal     | \$106,538.37     | \$6,331.65   |
| TOTAL       | \$2,970,381.30   | \$250,458.39 |
|             |                  |              |

Mr. Harrell pointed out that our state budget allotment is short compared to last year by \$80,000.00 due to the new funding formula. He hopes that once all state funds have been allocated our budget picture will be enhanced.

Mr. Forrest and Mr. Davis will be meeting with Mr. Jeffrey Elmore, legislative liaison with the North Carolina General Assembly to review the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction Funding Model for NERSBA, and the schedule for receiving our state allotments.

**4.2 NERSBA Early College Local Chart of Accounts Review: Mr. Davis**

Mr. Davis provided a document outlining our NERSBA Local Chart of Accounts totaling \$34,511.30 with funds deposited at Southern Bank and Trust Company in Plymouth, NC.

**4.3 NERSBA Finance Committee Meeting Schedule: Mr. Davis**

Mr. Davis informed the board that he would be scheduling a meeting with our NERSBA Finance Committee in the near future to review our state funding and begin work on specific budgetary allocations within our fiscal chart of accounts.

**5. NERSBA Informational Items: Mr. Davis**

**5.1 NERSBA Early College Roofing Project Update: Mr. Hal Davis**

Mr. Davis informed the board that our roofing project has been completed with work completed by Garland Company. He is very proud of the work put forth with this endeavor and the improvement this has made to our scholastic facility.

**5.2 North Carolina Safer Schools Conference Review: Mr. Hal Davis**

Mr. Davis provided a brief overview of the North Carolina Safer Schools Conference held during the first week in August at the Greenville Convention Center. Mr. Davis informed the board of the many sessions and topics as related to safe learning environments for scholastic operations.

**5.3 NERSBA Immunization Compliance 100%: Mr. Hal Davis**

Because of our online registration (OLR), parents could upload their child's most recent Immunization Record which has enhanced our maintenance of our Health Records for students enrolled at our NERSBA Early College. Mr. Davis offered a big thank you and congratulations to Mrs. Donna Matthews, Data Manager/SIS Coordinator at NERSBA, and Ms. Kayla Vernelson as a backup contact for their work throughout this process.

**5.4 NERSBA Strategic Plan, 2025-2030 (September 16<sup>th</sup> Work Session): Mr. Hal Davis**

Mr. Davis informed the board that he would like to present a review of our 2025-2030 NERSBA Strategic Plan during a special work session at our September 16<sup>th</sup> Board of Directors Meeting. Mr. Davis informed the board that the work session would begin at 3:45 PM that afternoon.

**5.5 NERSBA COGNIA Accreditation Status: Mrs. Lisa Smith**

Mrs. Lisa Smith provided an overview of our COGNIA Accreditation Program as noted:

- We started the formal process for COGNIA Accreditation during the fall of 2025
- Our Candidacy Review was conducted in November 2025
- The process of gathering requested information for accreditation began in January 2026
- Stakeholders have been deployed twice for input/tools implementation and trained
- Collection of data continues with composing the narrative for the thirty-plus items and related survey instruments

- We are striving to have the process compiled during the Fall of 2026

It has been an arduous journey, but a good one. This is not just a national accreditation but also an international accreditation recognition that is highly sought after. Mrs. Smith and our faculty look forward to the completion of the initial assessment and attainment of our COGNIA Accreditation credentials.

## **6.0 Action Items: Mr. Benjie Forrest**

### **6.1 NERSBA July 15, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes Approval: Mr. Benjie Forrest**

Mr. Kendall Paramore moved to approve the July board meeting minutes as presented by Mr. Davis. Dr. Steve Lassiter seconded the motion, which was confirmed by a majority vote of the NERSBA board membership.

### **6.2 Approval of NERSBA Early College 6000/7000 Series Policies: Dr. David Jenkins**

Mr. Simon Griffin moved to approve the new policies as presented by Dr. Jenkins. Mr. Kendall Paramore seconded the motion, which was confirmed by a majority vote of the board membership.

## **7.0 NERSBA Early College Academic Program Announcements: Mrs. Lisa Smith**

Mrs. Lisa Smith informed the board of the following important NERSBA events:

|     |                            |                                                                                                                                       |
|-----|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7.1 | August 19 <sup>th</sup>    | NERSBA Board of Directors Work Session @ 3:45 PM<br>NERSBA Board of Directors Meeting @ 4:30 PM                                       |
| 7.2 | August 26 <sup>th</sup>    | NERSBA Scholastic Photographs                                                                                                         |
| 7.3 | August 27 <sup>th</sup>    | NERSBA FFA Meeting                                                                                                                    |
| 7.4 | August 28 <sup>th</sup>    | NERSBA Virtual Instructional Day                                                                                                      |
| 7.5 | September 7 <sup>th</sup>  | National Labor Day Holiday                                                                                                            |
| 7.6 | September 16 <sup>th</sup> | NERSBA Board of Directors Work Session @ 3:45 PM<br>NERSBA Board of Directors Meeting @ 4:30 PM<br>(Mrs. April McNair, Southern Bank) |

## **8.0 Closed Session: NCG.S. 143.-318.11 (6) (Personnel)**

At 5:43 PM, Mrs. Joyce Moore moved to go into closed session per status above. Mrs. Melva Lilley seconded the motion, which was confirmed by a majority vote of the board membership.

### **Open Session:**

At 5:48 PM, Mr. Jerry Phelps moved to accept Mr. Davis's personnel recommendations. Mr. Kendall Paramore seconded the motion, which was confirmed by a majority vote of the board membership.

## **9.0 Motion to Adjourn: Mr. Benjie Forrest**

With no further business before the board, Mrs. Joyce Moore moved to adjourn the board meeting at 5:48 PM. Mrs. Melva Lilley seconded the motion, which was confirmed by a majority vote of the NERSBA board of directors.

**Submitted by: Mr. Hallet S. Davis Jr., Executive Director**

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**Hallet S. Davis, Jr. Director/NERSBA**

**Date**