

**Meeting Minutes of
National Board of Directors and National Officers
of the National FFA Organization**

Alexandria, Virginia

January 24-26, 1999

Sunday, January 24, 1999

Reports were held at the National Agricultural Education Headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. This session included information on the FFA Evaluation process, National FFA board of directors retreat, 1997-98 Audit and 5-year budget projections, Research of FFA Participation, Revision Survey, Charters in Private Schools and National FFA officer selection process.

Monday, January 25, 1999

Committee meetings were held at the Agricultural Education National Headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. This session included meetings of the Finance, Policy, Constitution and Bylaws Standing Committees, and a Special Committee, FFA Organization & Evaluation: What and How?.

Opening Session:

The meeting of the Board of Directors and National Officers of the National FFA Organization was called to order at 11:45 a.m., by the National FFA president, Lisa Ahrens, at the Agricultural Education National Headquarters, in Alexandria, Virginia. Following is a listing of all who were present. Mac Hodges, vice president, National FFA Alumni Association, was unable to attend this meeting.

Board of Directors :

Larry D. Case, Chairperson of the Board and Coordinator, Agricultural & Rural Education, Office of Vocational and Adult Education, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C.

Belinda G. Chason, State Supervisor, Agribusiness & Natural Resources Education, Florida Department of Education, Tallahassee, FL

Ernie Gill, Program Manager, Agricultural Education, Colorado Community College & Occupational Education System, Denver, CO

Karen Hutchison, Education Associate, Agricultural Occupations, State Department of Public Instruction, Dover, DE

Barbara Kirby, U.S. Department of Education Representative; Assistant Director of Academic Programs, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC

Ronald L. Reische, Principal Consultant, Agricultural Education, Illinois State Board of Education, Springfield, IL

Nick Siddle, U.S. Department of Education Representative; Instructor - Agricultural Education, Sheridan High School, Sheridan, WY

Edgar A. Watkins, Jr., U.S. Department of Education Representative; Instructor - Agricultural Education, Armwood High School, Seffner, FL

John K. Wilkinson, U.S. Department of Education Representative; State FFA Executive Secretary, University of Georgia, Athens, GA

Officers of the Board of Directors :

Larry D. Case, National FFA Advisor and CEO; Coordinator, Agricultural & Rural Education, Office of Vocational and Adult Education, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C.
C. Coleman Harris, National FFA Executive Secretary; Education Program Specialist, Agriculture, Division of Vocational-Technical Education, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C.
K. Eugene Eulinger, National FFA Treasurer; Registrar, Linn State Technical College, Linn, MO

Board of National FFA Officers:

Lisa Ahrens, National FFA President, Osage, IA
Abby Dougherty, National FFA Secretary, Greenwood, IN
Andy Armbruster, National FFA Vice President, Central Region, Kiowa, KS
Emily Buxton, National FFA Vice President, Eastern Region, Warsaw, OH
Jose Santiago, National FFA Vice President, Southern Region, Camuy, PR
James Garner, National FFA Vice President, Western Region, Hanford, CA

Consultants:

Barry Anderson, President, National FFA Alumni Association, Aurora, NE
James Connors, Assistant Professor, Agricultural Education, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID
Mike Cox, NAAE Representative & Instructor - Agricultural Education, Allisonia, VA
David Howell, AAAE Representative & Professor and Coordinator, Adult and Occupational Education Program, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH
Linda Rist, Instructor – Agricultural Education, West Central High School, Hartford, SD
Hillary Smith, Past National FFA Officer, Perry, GA
Linda Story, Past President, FFA Alumni Association, Livermore, KY
Robert Terry, AAAE Representative & Associate Professor, Agricultural Education, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK
Russell Watson, NAAE Representative, Instructor - Agricultural Education, McMinnville, TN

Others present for all or portions of the meeting:

FFA, Foundation and the Agricultural Education National Headquarters staff participated throughout the week.

Cindy Fannon, State FFA Executive Secretary, Virginia FFA Association, Blacksburg, VA
Jana Register, State FFA Executive Secretary, Florida FFA Association, Gainesville, FL

1. **Reflections** - led by James Garner.
2. **Seating of Newly Elected Officers and Consultants**
Chairperson Case introduced and welcomed David Howell, Linda Rist and Russell Watson to the Board as consultants. Mac Hodges was unable to attend this meeting. All were welcomed with a round of applause.
3. **Review of Board Operating Procedures**
Chairperson Case briefly explained the Board process in regard to parliamentary procedure.
4. **Overview of National Officer Activities**
The national officers reviewed highlights of their activities thus far as they serve the FFA members across the country. The national officers were commended for a job well done and a round of applause followed.

MOTION: Moved by John Wilkinson, seconded by Karen Hutchison **and carried** to accept the report of the National FFA officers and commend them on a job well done.

5. Reports & Remarks - Consultants to the Board

Teachers — Mike Cox
Agricultural Teacher Educators — Jim Connors
FFA Alumni Association — Barry Anderson
All expressed appreciation at being a part of the group.

6. Reports on Matters as Related to FFA Board Operations

- a. NASAE — no report
- b. NAAE — Jay Jackman
- c. PAS — report provided in Tab 15
- d. The Council — Rosco Vaughn
- e. NYFEA – report provided in Tab 15

7. Review of and Adjustments to Agenda

No major changes were made to the agenda.

8. Recognition of Retiring FFA Board Members and Foundation Trustees

Belinda Chason, John Wilkinson and Eddy Watkins were recognized for their service.

9. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Moved by Andy Armbruster (Barbara Kirby), seconded by Abby Daugherty (Ron Reische) **and carried** to approve the July 17-19, 1999 minutes.

10. Report of National FFA Treasurer

Gene Eulinger reviewed the current financial report. He thanked Sue Springirth for her hard work.

MOTION: Moved by Jose Santiago (Nick Siddle), seconded by Andy Armbruster (Karen Hutchison) **and carried** to accept the report of the national FFA treasurer.

11. Nominating Committee on the Selection of the National FFA Organization Treasurer

Karen Hutchison presented the report for the process of selection of the national treasurer. Belinda Chason, Ernie Gill, John Wilkinson and Karen Hutchison served on the committee. Marion Fletcher, state supervisor of Arkansas, was recommended for the position.

MOTION: Moved by Andy Armbruster (Belinda Chason), seconded by Emily Buxton (John Wilkinson) **and carried** to approve the appointment of Marion Fletcher as the National FFA treasurer starting February 1, 1999.

MOTION: Moved by Emily Buxton (Ron Reische), seconded by Abby Daugherty (Ernie Gill) **and carried** to commend Gene Eulinger on a job well done.

MOTION: Moved by Jose Santiago (Barbara Kirby), seconded by James Garner (Karen Hutchison) **and carried** to approve the nominating committee report.

12. Program Development and Direction

Bernie Staller summarized the procedure for Program Development and Direction presentations. Team Leaders were directed to focus on major accomplishments, major issues and any funding request(s) which should be brought to the board. He also reviewed the core goals of the organization and the Board initiatives that have been set forth.

- a. David Doerfert presented an overview of the Student Services Team. The following are the motions brought before the board.

MOTION: **Moved by** Andy Armbruster (Belinda Chason), seconded by Abby Dougherty (Karen Hutchison) **and failed** to approve state officer selection research development. This topic will be discussed at the State Staff Inservice in February 1999. **Motion failed**.

MOTION: **Moved by** Andy Armbruster (Nick Siddle), seconded by Jose Santiago (Karen Hutchison) **and carried as amended** to create special-project funding status *up to \$50,000* for annual curriculum enhancements and promotion of the Experiencing Discovery, Growth and Excellence (EDGE) and Made for Excellence (MFE) Curriculum Development & Marketing student conferences.

MOTION: **Moved by** James Garner (Ron Reische), seconded by Emily Buxton (Emie Gill) **and carried** to accept the 1998 National Convention Delegate report.

MOTION: **Moved by** Andy Armbruster (John Wilkinson), seconded by Emily Buxton (Eddy Watkins) **and carried** to accept that the following serve as Adult Coordinators for 1999-2001 – Membership Recruitment and Participation committee: Donna Moore, executive secretary, NY and the Communications and Public Relations committee: Allen Talbert, teacher educator, Purdue University.

- b. Randy Bernhardt presented the report for the Teacher Services Team.

MOTION: **Moved by** Emily Buxton (Belinda Chason), seconded by Abby Dougherty (Nick Siddle) **and carried** to accept the report of the SAE Based Activities Task Force and direct them to move forward in developing program materials based on the current recommendations held within the report. These materials will be reviewed and additional policy changes will be identified for future board meetings.

MOTION: **Moved by** Abby Dougherty (Barbara Kirby), seconded by (Eddy Watkins) **and carried** to accept that the National FFA staff examine, evaluate and recommend to the Board of Directors alternatives for extending the benefits of membership and participation in the National FFA Organization to all of the Nation's agriculture students as part of a complete agricultural education program, and that Foundation special project funds or organization funds be used for this initiative.

MOTION: **Moved by** James Garner (Ron Reische), seconded by Emily Buxton (Belinda Chason) **and carried** to accept the following individuals as new CDE Superintendents: Mr. Walt Schuh, Prepared Public Speaking, 1/99; Dr. Robert Torres, Horse, 1/99; Mr. Troy

Selman, Agricultural Sales, 1/2000; Mr. Dennis Wallace, Extemporaneous Speaking, 1/2000; Dr. Rudy Tarpley, Meats Evaluation, 1/2000.

MOTION: **Moved by** Jose Santiago (John Wilkinson), seconded by Andy Armbruster (Karen Hutchison) **and carried** to accept Agronomy as an official Career Development Event as a special project of the National FFA Foundation and utilize the format presented as the method of delivering the event.

MOTION: **Moved by** Andy Armbruster (Nick Siddle), seconded by Jose Santiago (Karen Hutchison) **and carried** to accept the minutes of the National FFA Awards and CDE Advisory Board.

MOTION: **Moved by** Emily Buxton (Ernie Gill), seconded by James Garner (Karen Hutchison) **and carried** to accept the National FFA Program Revision, 1998 Survey Results and Recommendations Report.

MOTION: **Moved by** Abby Dougherty (Belinda Chason), seconded by Andy Santiago (Barbara Kirby) **and carried** to accept a maximum of \$10,000 to conduct research and conduct a pilot test of an Agricultural Education “Fellows” Program as a special project of the National FFA Foundation or, if unfunded, by the National FFA Organization.

- c. Dean Folkers presented the report for the Partner Development Team. He shared the team’s activities which includes the 1999 State Leaders Conference, to be held in Indianapolis on February 11-14, 1999. No board motions were presented.
- d. Bill Stagg presented the report for the Communications Resources Team. No board motions were presented.
- e. Bill Stagg presented the report for the National FFA Convention. No board motions were presented.
- f. Sue Springirth presented the report for the Fiscal and Human Resources Team. No board motions were presented.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, January 26, 1999

The meeting reconvened at 9:00 a.m. at the United States Department of Education in Washington, D.C., with an introduction of Patricia McNeil, assistant secretary for the Office of Vocational and Adult Education, U.S. Department of Education. She welcomed the Board for their first meeting at the Department. She indicated that the new Perkins Act will take agriculture, agricultural education and leadership reform into the 21st century. Larry Case recognized Robert Scott, who has been a wonderful friend to agricultural education. Mr. Scott complimented FFA and the positive impact the organization has made. **A photo session and a brief meeting was held with Richard Riley, secretary, U.S. Department of Education, in his office immediately after lunch.**

Program Development and Direction Team Leader Reports (continued from Monday)

- g. Bernie Staller provided the report for Janet Lewis and Jimmy Long for the Distribution Resources Team. No proposals for new activities were presented.
- h. Dennis Shafer presented the report for the Ventures Team via conference call. Major accomplishments were shared and discussion included a short survey regarding the future direction of the shopping mall. No board motions were presented.
- i. Gene Starr presented the report for the National FFA Alumni Association. Mr. Starr provided a very positive report, which includes a 10% growth in membership. No board motions were presented.
- j. Tammy Meyer provided the report for the National FFA Foundation. No board motions were presented.

MOTION: **Moved by** the Jose Santiago (Eddy Watkins), seconded by Emily Buxton (Belinda Chason) **and carried** to accept the reports of the National FFA Organization teams.

13. **Standing Committee Report — Policy, Constitution and Bylaws**

Belinda Chason, Chairperson, presented the report for the Policy, Constitution and Bylaws Committee. Ms. Chason thanked the Policy Committee for their contributions.

MOTION: **Moved by** Emily Buxton (Karen Hutchison), seconded by Abby Dougherty (Nick Siddle) **and carried** accept the following Constitutional amendment for consideration at the 72nd National FFA Convention. Change Sections B., C., D., and E. of Article VI. to sections C., D., E., and F., respectively, and add the following to Article VI., after Section A., *Section B. Discovery FFA Degree – To be eligible to receive the Discovery FFA Degree from the chapter, the member must meet the following requirements: 1. Be enrolled in agricultural education class for at least a portion of the school year while in grades 7-8. 2. Have become a dues paying member of the FFA at local, state and national levels. 3. Participate in at least one local FFA chapter activity outside of scheduled class time. 4. Have knowledge of agriculturally related careers and entrepreneurial opportunities. 5. Be familiar with the local FFA chapter program of activities and submit written applications for the degree. This degree need not be attained for a member to receive the Greenhand, Chapter, State or American FFA Degree.*

MOTION: **Moved by** Abby Dougherty (Karen Hutchison), seconded by Emily Buxton (Barbara Kirby) **and carried** to accept the following technical amendment which is required if the Discovery FFA Degree amendment is adopted by the delegates. Strike the word “four” and insert the word “five” in the first sentence of Section A., in Article VI. Add the words “*Discovery FFA Degree*”, before Greenhand in the second sentence and add the following sentence at the end of Section A., in Article VI., *The Discovery FFA Degree is intended for use in state associations and local chapters where middle school membership is offered. Receipt of this degree is not necessary in order to obtain the Greenhand FFA Degree or subsequent degrees.*

MOTION: **Moved by** Andy Armbruster (Barbara Kirby), seconded by Abby Dougherty (Karen Hutchison) **and carried** to accept the proposed constitutional amendment for the American FFA Degree to insert at the end of Article VI., Section E., American FFA Degree,

Item 2., "...at least three years (540 hours) of systematic secondary school instruction in an agricultural education program..." *"or have completed at least the equivalent of 360 hours of systematic secondary school instruction in agricultural education and one full year of enrollment in a postsecondary agricultural program,"* Further to add the word, "secondary" in front of "school last attended" at the end of this item. (These changes to take effect for the 2001 FFA award year and convention.)

MOTION: **Moved by** James Garner (Ernie Gill), seconded by Jose Santiago (Karen Hutchison) **and carried** to accept the proposed constitutional amendment for the American FFA Degree and strike from Article VI., Section E., American FFA Degree, Item 5., "\$3.33" and insert "*a factor of 6.67*" and strike the number "9000" and insert the number "16,500" in its place. The text would read: Any combination of hours x *a factor of 6.67* plus dollars must be equal to, or greater than the number 16,500. Hours used for the purpose of producing earnings reported as productively invested income shall not be duplicated as hours of credit to meet the minimum requirements for the degree.

MOTION: **Moved by** Jose Santiago (John Wilkinson), seconded by Abby Dougherty (Karen Hutchison) **and carried** to amend Division I., Section D., Item 1. in the Policy and Procedures Handbook by adding sub-item *f.*, *In the event a candidate is tardy to a round, the board superintendent and the adult consultants will make and enforce a ruling.*

MOTION: **Moved by** James Garner (Ron Reische), seconded by Emily Buxton (Nick Siddle) **and carried** to amend Division I., Section D., Item 1. in the Policy and Procedures Handbook by adding sub-item *g.*, *In the event that a nominating committee member fails to complete their committee duties in accordance with the National FFA Organization Code of Ethics, the board superintendent and the adult consultants can make and enforce a penalty including the potential dismissal from the committee.*

MOTION: **Moved by** Emily Buxton (Karen Hutchison), seconded by Andy Armbruster (Ron Reische) **and failed** to amend Division I., Section I., Item 3. in the Policy and Procedures Handbook by adding *a.* *Any member may apply for National FFA Star using the Star application a maximum of one time either when they receive the degree, or once thereafter, as long as they are a dues paid eligible member.* **Motion failed**

MOTION: **Moved by** Andy Armbruster (Ernie Gill), seconded by James Garner (Barbara Kirby) **and carried** to add "*Star in Agricultural Placement, Star in Agriscience*" to each citing in the National FFA Organization Policy and Procedures Handbook, Division I., Section I., Item 3. Star Awards. (This change to be made to initiate these two new stars programs for the 2001 awards year.)

MOTION: **Moved by** Abby Dougherty (Ron Reische), seconded by Emily Buxton (John Wilkinson) **and carried as amended** in the National FFA Organization Policy and Procedure Handbook, Division I., Section D., Item 1. by adding *Item 6. A candidate or nominating committee member may appeal the ruling by the Board Superintendent to the National FFA Advisor within two hours of the ruling announcement. The decision of the National FFA Advisor shall render a final decision within two hours and immediate adjustments to the selection process may be directed as a result of the appeal.*

MOTION: **Moved by** Jose Santiago (Karen Hutchison), seconded by James Garner (Barbara Kirby) **and carried** to accept the National FFA Organization Employee Handbook, as revised.

MOTION: **Moved by** James Garner (Ernie Gill), seconded by Andy Armbruster (Eddy Watkins) **and carried** to amend the Policy and Procedures Handbook by adding to Division I., *Section N., Conduct on Domestic and International Tours, Item 1. Domestic Tours, Item 2. International Tours and Item 3. Other Conduct.*

MOTION: **Moved by** James Garner (Karen Hutchison), seconded by Andy Armbruster (John Wilkinson) **and carried** to approve the report of the Policy Committee.

14. Standing Committee Report — Finance

Karen Hutchison, Chairperson, presented the report for the Finance Committee.

Ms. Hutchison thanked the committee members for their hard work.

MOTION: **Moved by** Jose Santiago (Nick Siddle), seconded by Emily Buxton (Barbara Kirby) **and carried** to accept the 1998 audit report as prepared by Stoy, Malone and Company, P.C.

MOTION: **Moved by** Andy Armbruster (Ernie Gill), seconded by Emily Buxton (Eddy Watkins) **and carried** to create a program manager position (salary level 9) on the Student Services Team to manage the delivery of select chapter-level personal growth/ leadership programs.

MOTION: **Moved by** Emily (Nick Siddle), seconded by Andy Armbruster (Ernie Gill) **and carried** to accept the following budget expenditures for the 1998-99 annual budget:
1. A one year pilot test of the VIP Tour Concept at \$9,775. 2. A three year plan to increase international understanding among state staff at \$15,000 per year. 3. Up to \$65,000, if special project funding is not available, to conduct initial investigations into the agriculture teacher shortage situation. 4. A comparative profile of agricultural education students/FFA members and the general student population (already completed by the Horatio Alger Association) at a one time cost of \$40,500.

MOTION: **Moved by** Jose Santiago (Ron Reische), seconded by Andy Armbruster (John Wilkinson) **and carried** to accept the 1999 capital reserve requests.

MOTION: **Moved by** James Garner (Eddy Watkins), seconded by Emily Buxton (Nick Siddle) **and carried** to adopt the 1998-1999 FFA Organization budget incorporating any budget changes mandated by action of this board; attachment 1.

MOTION: **Moved by** Andy Armbruster (John Wilkinson), seconded by Emily Buxton (Belinda Chason) **and carried** to accept pension fund management (403(b) and supplemental retirement plan).

MOTION: **Moved by** Abby Dougherty (Eddy Watkins), seconded by Jose Santiago (Ron Reische) **and carried** to accept the recommendation to the delegates that the 2000-2001 National FFA Organization dues be set at \$5.00.

MOTION: **Moved by** James Garner (Ernie Gill), seconded by Emily Buxton (John Wilkinson) **and carried** to approve the report of the Finance Committee.

15. Special Committee Report — FFA Organization & Evaluation: What and How?

Ron Reische, Chairperson, presented the report for the Evaluation Committee. Mr. Reische thanked the committee members for their hard work. He felt that the evaluation process would help with a complete planning process.

MOTION: **Moved by** Abby Dougherty (Barbara Kirby), seconded by Andy Armbruster (Eddy Watkins) **and carried** to approve a national evaluation task force comprised of National FFA agricultural education staff and professionals versed in evaluation to establish parameters, priorities and criterion for evaluation and develop the RFP for the creation and testing of an FFA evaluation model to report at the July 1999 FFA Board of Directors meeting with funding not to exceed \$15,000.

MOTION: **Moved by** Andy Armbruster (Belinda Chason), seconded by Emily (Barbara Kirby) **and carried** to elect Ernie Gill to the Governing Committee and elect Nick Siddle as the U.S. Department of Education representative to serve on the National FFA Foundation Board of Trustees.

16. Administrative and Legal Matters

Bernie Staller gave an update on administrative and legal issues. No legal issues are pending. He handed out a memo, which detailed ethnicity diversity among the FFA staff.

17. Upcoming Meetings

The next FFA Board of Directors meeting will be held at the Board meeting will be held on July 19-20, 1999. The next Foundation Board of Trustees meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 21, 1999.

18. Recognize Retiring Board Members, Consultants and Trustees

Remarks were given by Belinda Chason, John Wilkinson, Eddy Watkins and Hillary Smith.

MOTION: **Moved by** Andy Armbruster (Nick Siddle), seconded by Jose Santiago (Barbara Kirby) **and carried** for a commendation on a job well done of the retiring board members and consultants.

19. Recognize Retiring Treasurer

Gene Eulinger gave closing comments as well and indicated that he has seen a much more cohesive group on the board than he has seen in the last four years.

MOTION: **Moved by** James Garner (Belinda Chason), seconded by Emily Buxton (Karen Hutchison) **and carried** to approve that Gene Eulinger is to be commended for serving the National FFA Organization as the treasurer the last four years.

20. Adjournment

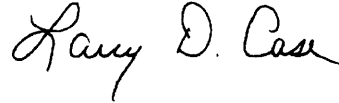
There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

21. Executive Session with Senior Management

No motions in the Executive Session of the Board.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Coleman Harris". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "C" and a long, sweeping underline.

C. Coleman Harris, Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry D. Case". The signature is written in a cursive style, with the first name "Larry" being more prominent than the last name "Case".

Larry D. Case, Chairperson