



**Business Professionals of  
America Minutes  
Special Board of Trustees Meeting  
March 13, 2020**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair, Cedric Bandoh, called the meeting of the Business Professionals of America (BPA) Board of Trustees (BOT) to order at 1:10 pm CST.

**ATTENDANCE**

Present: Cedric Bandoh, Chair; Natasha Smith, Vice Chair; Athena Frank, Treasurer; Debbie Darnell, Secretary; Angie Benson; Dianne Carroll; Nate Cradit; Amy Hollingsworth; Cassandra Lindo, Post-secondary President; Amy Riddle; Emily White, Secondary National President; Shauna Williams; Evan Wolff; and LouAnn Ross, Executive Director.

Guests: Brigette Bethea; Heather Bunning; Mark Burch; Michelle Gordon; Amber McNew; Ric Cowles; Amber McNew; Patrick Schultz; and Jonathan Smith.

**OPENING REMARKS**

Cedric Bandoh, Board Chair, stated this emergency meeting was called to address COVID. He turned the meeting over to Dr. Ross to provide information.

Dr. Ross reported that three weeks ago, before spending more money, the staff started looking at cutoff dates for ordering T-shirts, etc. She has been talking with attorneys, CTSO directors, and is staying in touch with vendors, partners, hotels, as well as staying on top of news. The registration deadline was extended after checking hotels for deadlines to submit housing.

The Ohio and Michigan State Conferences were canceled. The National Center has offered a virtual competition to both states.

The State of Maryland declared a state of emergency Thursday night (3/12/20), banning meetings of large groups. There is no timeline for this ban.

The DECA conference has been canceled.

The question is do we cancel the conference. There will be a financial impact. There are sponsors that are sponsoring segments of the conference and expenses that have already occurred.

It is unethical for us to continue taking registrations when it is illegal for us to hold the conference currently, according to lawyers.

Since the length of the ban is undetermined, it is difficult to postpone not knowing when or if it will end.

Cassandra Lindo moved to cancel the 2020 conference. Nate Cradit seconded the motion.

Motion adopted.

The Industry Leadership Conference information has been shared. The staff will start working

on what needs to be done now and will consider election of officers and virtual competitions.

Natasha Smith moved to stop staff travel. Athena Frank seconded the motion. Motion failed.

Cedric thanked the staff for all the work involved before and after this meeting and thanked the officers for their leadership during all of this.

Meeting adjourned at 2:07 pm CST.

Debbie Darnell, Secretary

*Approved March 31, 2020.*