



**BUSINESS  
PROFESSIONALS**  
of AMERICA  
Giving Purpose to Potential

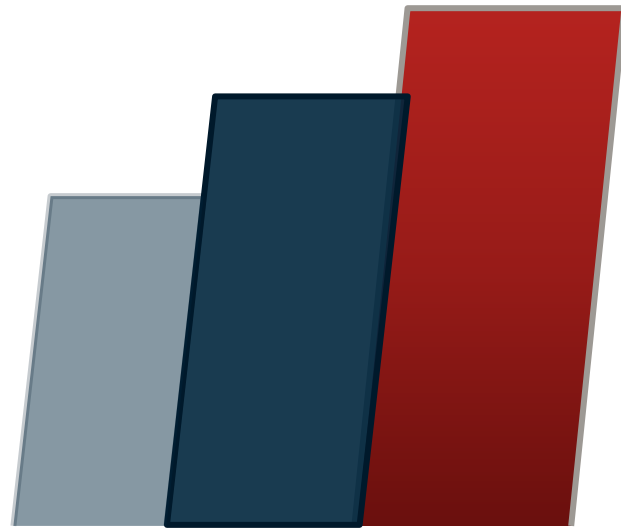
# National Board of Trustees Special Meeting Minutes August 26, 2024

---

Our mission at Business Professionals of America is to develop and empower student leaders to discover their passion and change the world by creating unmatched opportunities in learning, professional growth and service.



**BUSINESS  
PROFESSIONALS**  
of AMERICA





## National Board of Trustees Special Meeting Minutes August 26, 2024

### **Call to Order**

Board Chair, Devin Alexander called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM ET.

### **Roll Call & Determination of Quorum**

Secretary, Andrea Sutherland conducted the roll call and a quorum was established.

**Present:** Devin Alexander, Breezy Gutierrez, Andrea Sutherland, Athena Frank, Layan Ahmed, Victoria Pinarreta, Amy McClure, Brenda Menahan, Lisa Parker, Terry Carrera

**Ex-Officio:** Dr. Steven Mitchell, Executive Director/CEO; Paxton Cavin

**Guests:** Danielle Crane

### **Executive Session**

Chair, Devin declared we would enter Executive Session, if there were no objections. As there were no objections, the Board of Trustees entered Executive Session at 6:05 PM ET. Executive Session concluded at 6:58 PM ET. The Board recessed until 7:10 PM ET.

Chair, Devin reported from Executive Session that a vote was taken during executive session in regards to Dr. Steven J. Mitchell's employment as Executive Director/CEO of BPA. A majority vote approved to terminate Dr. Steven J. Mitchell, without cause, effective immediately.

Andrea Sutherland moved to appoint Board Chair, Devin Alexander as the Interim Executive Director effective immediately. Athena Frank seconded the motion. The vote was approved unanimously.

### **GDS Recommendations Waiving Notice**

Chair, Devin stated that the intent was to review and approve the recommendations from GDS via email. As the procedure was very specific, Devin felt it would be best to review and approve them during a meeting. Per Ohio code, notice to the purpose of the agenda can be waived and amended with the Board's approval. Chair, Devin asked if each member would waive their right to the purpose of the agenda in order to finalize recommendations and meet the September 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. The Chair called for a no objection vote to waive the notice of the purpose of the agenda. There was no objection and the Board waived their right to notice for the purpose of the special meeting.

### **Recommendations Review**

#### Programs Recommendations:

- Recommendation 289 was rejected by the committee. The reason for rejection was discussed.
- Recommendation 290 was approved by the committee. There was no discussion.
- Recommendation 291 was approved by the committee. There was no discussion.
- Recommendation 292 was approved by the committee. There was no discussion.
- Recommendation 293 was approved with changes by the committee. The changes were discussed and determined to be to include the specific examples for the Style & Reference Guide.
- Recommendation 300 was approved with changes by the committee. The changes were discussed and determined to be that submissions would still be required for events that are not considered pre-submit events.
- Recommendation 301 was marked as a POI by the committee. This was discussed as CEAC did reject the recommendation, as it is a duplicate of Recommendation 300. Athena Frank moved to reject the recommendation. Lisa Parker seconded the motion. The vote was approved unanimously.
- Recommendation 328 was marked as a POI by the committee. There was no discussion.
- Recommendation 329 was rejected by the committee. The reason for the rejection was that this would make the programs too specific and the use of AI typically is evident.
- Recommendation 332 was approved by the committee. There was no discussion.
- Recommendation 333 was rejected by the committee. The reason for the rejection was that this certification did not match the competencies for the event. This certification was however added to Advanced Interview Skills instead, as it did match the competencies for this event.
- Recommendation 334 was approved by the committee. There was no discussion.
- Recommendation 350 was marked as POI by the committee. It was discussed that this event had not completed the two-year pilot yet.

- Recommendation 351 was marked as POI by the committee. It was discussed that this event had not completed the two-year pilot yet.
- Recommendation 335 was approved by the committee. There was no discussion.
- Recommendation 336 was approved by the committee. There was no discussion.
- Recommendation 337 was approved by the committee. There was no discussion.
- Recommendation 339 was marked as tabled by the committee. It was discussed that this event is an opportunity to recognize our members and members shouldn't have to choose between their competitive events and being recognized at NLC.
- Recommendation 342 was marked as POI by the committee. It was determined that the staff will review the WSAP Guidelines and the Preview Guide to include the list of eligible competitive events.
- Recommendation 346 was approved by the committee. There was no discussion.
- Recommendation 347 was approved by the committee. There was no discussion.
- Recommendation 352 was approved by the committee. There was no discussion.
- Recommendation 353 was approved by the committee. There was no discussion.

#### Policies & Procedures Recommendations:

- The first recommendation was approved with changed by the committee. The recommendation was split into two parts to be considered separately. Part 1, was approved by the committee. Part 2 was rejected by the committee, as it requires further review.
- The second recommendation was rejected by the committee. This is Recommendation 329, which was previously discussed as to why it was rejected.

Andrea Sutherland moved to approve the recommendations as presented. Breezy Gutierrez seconded the motion. Chair, Devin clarified that the Board had voted to reject Recommendation 301. Chair Devin asked for a no objection vote to amend the motion on the floor to approve the recommendations as presented, with the exception of Recommendation 301, which will stand as rejected. There was no objection and the amendment was adopted. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### **New Business**

During new business, the Board of Trustees discussed next steps for the organization and the timeline for conducting a national search for a new Executive Director/CEO. Chair, Devin stated that we would ideally begin the new year with this position filled.

It was also discussed that we must identify a temporary location for the national headquarters as our current lease is set to expire on October 1, 2024. Chair, Devin stated he would be worked with the National Staff to address this issue.

Chair, Devin concluded the meeting by stating we will continue to do what is in the best interest our of organization and our members.

### **Adjournment**

Breezy Gutierrez moved to adjourn the meeting. Amy McClure seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 PM ET.