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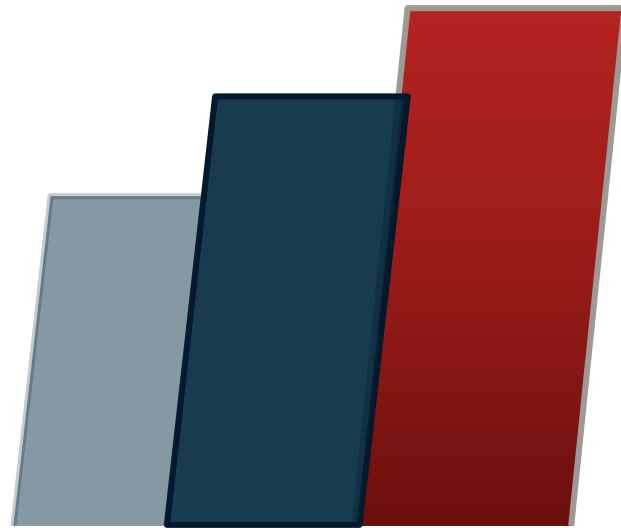
# National Board of Trustees Special Meeting Minutes September 24, 2024

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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.



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## National Board of Trustees Special Meeting Minutes September 24, 2024

### **Call to Order**

Board Chair, Devin Alexander called the meeting to order at 6:04 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

**Absent:** Paxton Cavin

**Guests:** Patrick Schultz, Kristina Kerns, Jonathan Smith, Brenna Bartlett, Tina Krosse

### **Ohio BPA Association Discussion**

Chair, Devin welcomed and thanked everyone for joining this discussion. He provided an overview of the prior meeting held with the Ohio BPA Association with the 2023-2024 Board of Trustees. He concluded that no action was taken, and he finds it critical to meet and address the concerns of the association. He introduced Brenna Bartlett and Tina Krosse who would be presenting the Ohio BPA as the past and present State Director, respectively.

Brenna shared that Ohio wanted to meet with BPA to begin a dialogue about the sustainability of remaining with the organization long term and how to provide the most benefits to the members. There were three main topics of discussion including the rising cost of participation, overall competitive event costs and other increases in costs. Additional concerns discussed for each area are included below:



- Rising cost of participation:
  - Costs of attending conferences in general have increased due to inflation. There are concerns on how NLC locations are identified as some result in higher flights costs. Overall, NLC registration costs are higher than other CTSO national events and fundraising needs can vary depending on our location that year. Additionally, our membership registration fee is higher than other organizations.
- Overall competitive event costs:
  - Ohio runs its own computer lab, and it is very costly to run all competitive events due to the volume of events we have, and the licensing software or equipment needed to host each event. There are concerns of the quality of the events being produced, resulting in Ohio completing their own audit of regional and state materials, increasing their costs. They support three CEAC members and have identified and are happy to financially support additional members if allowed. The Competitive Events Taskforce was supposed to evaluate which events should be sunset and this hasn't occurred.
- Other increases in costs:
  - Due to the increase in NLC competitive event slots, more students are qualifying for nationals, resulting in additional costs for these members to attend NLC. This is a great opportunity, but they are conscious about the financial aspect for their members.

Chair, Devin opened the floor for questions and discussion. Brenna highlighted that many local advisors in Ohio are set to retire in the next five to ten years. She wants to ensure there is value in the BPA “product” so that schools will remain with the organization and not transition to another CTSO established in the school upon the advisor’s retirement. She is concerned with NLC primarily as it seems the cost of travel has significantly increased while fewer programs at NLC are being offered. Within Ohio, they have been able to increase programming without increasing the cost passed to members.

It was discussed to either reestablish or continue the following opportunities at NLC for members: a special event, tours, certifications, the Leadership Academy, workshops, the National Showcase and Business Panel, and a traditional Walk for Special Olympics. Brenna shared that the promotional material released to advisors on September 13<sup>th</sup> has received great feedback and represents the value Ohio is looking for from BPA.

Chair, Devin wrapped up the discussion that we are committed as a staff and Board to ensure the students are first in everything that we do. He committed to providing updates during this transition period to ensure transparency for Ohio BPA, and all associations.

## Adjournment

Chair, Devin called for a no objection vote to adjourn the meeting. There were no objections, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM ET.