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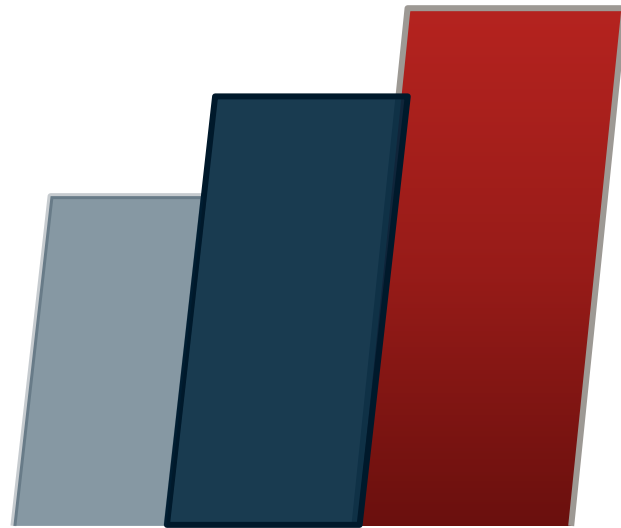
# National Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes December 10, 2024

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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 Meeting Minutes December 10, 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 (6:25 PM), Andrea Sutherland, Athena Frank, Terry Carrera (6:11 PM), Owen Hamilton, Victoria Pinarreta, Kelly Munro, Lisa Parker

**Absent:** Layan Ahmed (Proxy: Victoria Pinarreta), Amy McClure (Proxy: Athena Frank), Kimberly Goodman, Brenda Menahan, Paxton Cavin

**Guests:** Patrick Schultz, Kelly Williams

### **Welcome**

Chair, Devin welcomed everyone.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Chair, Devin called for a no objection vote to approve the agenda as presented. There were no objections and the agenda was approved.

### **Appointment of Minutes**



Chair, Devin introduced the approval of the November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes. Athena Frank noted that page three it stated “expenses” and should be changed to “expects”. Chair, Devin called for a no objection vote to approve the minutes as modified. There were no objections and the November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes were approved as modified.

### **Treasurer Report**

Treasurer, Athena Frank shared that our financial statements are through the end of October and reflect an operating income surplus of \$55,756. Operating expenses were \$25,033 less than expected. The actual financials through October 31<sup>st</sup>, resulted in a surplus of \$80,789 when compared to our budget, due to growth in membership.

Terry Carrera joined at 6:11 PM.

### **Executive Council Reports**

Victoria Pinarreta presented a joint report on behalf of both divisions. She shared that the team is still finishing surveys from the prior month. Additionally, the team has raised almost \$1,000 for their scholarship. Their goal is to raise \$400 per officer totaling \$2,400 for their scholarship. Lastly, she shared that Layan Ahmed presented on behalf of BPA at the ACTE Vision conference and represented us well. She concluded by sharing that the team would be meeting for Winter Planning next month to continue their Program of Work goals and to begin planning for NLC.

### **Interim Executive Director/BOT Chair Report**

Chair, Devin shared that BPA hosted a booth at ACTE Vision and we were represented by Kristina Kerns, Diana Weber, and Layan Ahmed. Layan presented a speech during the general session, and it was incredible! Devin highlighted that we were one of the few organizations to have students present and ACTE appreciated that we did. Devin also wanted to thank Diana Weber for her support covering our booth during his unexpected absence.

Chair, Devin shared that Winter Meeting would take place beginning on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 in Orlando, FL. The full staff will be attending and plan to use this as a team bonding opportunity.

Lastly, Devin shared that the National Coordinating Council for Career and Technical Student Organizations will be voting on Educators Rising’s request to become a partner organization. They have been working to adapt to a co-curricular model to receive accreditation. He highlighted that there previously was a civil suit against members of NCC-CTSO for not granting them membership.

As it stands, Educators Rising has not been able to provide the membership reports needed to meet the criteria to become a partner organization. Devin shared that FCCLA is considered about the crossover in

the two organizations and that Educators Rising will purge chapters from FCCLA if schools only allow for membership in one organization. At this time, he is inclined to abstain from the vote in order to prevent any legal repercussions.

Breezy Gutierrez joined at 6:25 PM.

Chair, Devin shared that the vote would take place on January 15, 2025, and further discussions can take place at our January 14, 2025 Board Meeting.

## **Committee Reports**

### Advocacy

Co-Chair, Victoria Pinarreta shared that the committee did not meet this month, but would meet again prior to our January 13, 2025 Board Meeting.

### Audit

Chair, Breezy Gutierrez shared that the audit isn't complete yet, but she will share once an update is available.

### Finance

Chair and Treasurer, Athena Frank shared that she had nothing further to share outside of the Treasurer Report.

### Policies & Procedures

Chair, Lisa Parker shared that the committee would meet next on December 17, 2024.

### Personnel

Chair, Andrea Sutherland shared that the Executive Director application is live. It was discussed that the Hiring Committee would be comprised of all stakeholder groups, but members will remain confidential. Chair, Devin thanked Andrea Sutherland and Kristina Kerns for their work on the application.

### Programs

Owen Hamilton shared a report on behalf of the committee. He shared that the committee is reviewing changing the time of the National Honors Awards Session to improve attendance. The committee also reviewed the length of the awards ceremonies for all divisions, to offer suggestions to staff, as they discuss the NLC schedule. Chair, Devin also shared that feedback on the General Sessions, including scripting, is being reviewed.

### Strategic & Long-Range Planning

Chair, Breezy Gutierrez shared that the committee has been collecting information on organizations that can support developing the Strategic & Long-Range Plan. This will be a priority in the new year.

### **Summer Meeting Date**

Chair, Devin shared that two other CTSOs are having events during the same time we are planning our Growth & Development Summit. The Board Officers met and are recommending the Board sticks with the original July 12 through July 16, 2025 meeting date, with the intention of moving to June in future years. The feasibility of this time frame was discussed with Kelly Williams, and she agreed that the dates could be met as all milestones have been moved earlier in the year.

There were discussions about if any final attempts could be made for a June conference in 2025, including potential virtual attendance. It was concluded that recommendations could be reviewed virtually to maximize in person meeting times and the July dates would be confirmed.

### **NLC: Colorado Update**

Chair, Devin shared that our goal in evaluating the Colorado NLC was to see if this site location could be moved. He shared that our attorney feels that we would not be able to exit this contract without paying a percentage of the total cost. Discussions are being made with Marriott representatives to see if remaining with a Gaylord property could be an option for us. As we already have upcoming conferences in Florida and Washington, DC, these would not be valid options for NLC 2027. NLC 2030 or 2031 contracting with a Gaylord Property may be an alternative solution. Chair, Devin shared that more information will be provided, as it is available.

### **New Business**

Chair, Devin recognized Patrick Schultz's comment in the chat representing our membership totals. Membership was at a record high of 54,767 members, which had already surpassed the 2023-2024 membership total. He highlights growth in new chapter membership, and record participation in virtual events leading to additional revenue. Lastly, he highlighted increased in membership across all states, with the China delegation still outstanding.

Athena Frank moved to enter Executive Session at 7:00 PM. All guests were discussed at this time. Executive Session concluded at 7:05 PM ET. Per *Policies and Procedures*, Section *Board of Trustees/Corporate Policies and Procedures*, sub-section *IV. Member Responsibilities*, article *A. Attendance*, number *1*. stating "*Board members shall be expected to attend each Board Meeting. If any*

*member misses two (2) consecutive meetings, even though represented by proxy, a vacancy on the Board of Trustees shall be declared.”*, the Immediate Past Chair position has been declared vacant during Executive Session.

## **Adjournment**

Chair, Devin called for a no objection vote to adjourn the meeting. There were no objections, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:06 PM ET.