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EXHIBIT 1

EXHIBIT 1

From: Chip Slaven
Sent: Monday, May 17, 2021 5:14 PM
To: Anna Chavez; Eileen Frazier; Kimberly Muse
Cc: Verjeana McCotter-Jacobs
Subject: RE: Secretary Cardona Follow Up

Please find the email invitation for the event. They will receive an email once they register with the actual link. Let's talk tomorrow about the invitation. Thanks, Chip

You are invited to a ZoomGov meeting.
When: May 24, 2021 03:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltc-msrjotH-Ysa_Q5jCrwx9j8ym7W57w

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

From: Anna Chavez <AChavez@nsba.org>
Sent: Monday, May 17, 2021 4:40 PM
To: Eileen Frazier <EFrazier@nsba.org>; Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>; Kimberly Muse <KMuse@nsba.org>
Cc: Verjeana McCotter-Jacobs <VJacobs@nsba.org>
Subject: Re: Secretary Cardona Follow Up

Hi Eileen. Good questions. Chip is working with Secretary Cardona's staff on all these details. We will also work with their team to finalize agenda for the 30 minute call.

Anna C.

Anna Maria Chávez
Executive Director & CEO
National School Boards Association
www.nsba.org
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[REDACTED] c
1680 Duke Street, FL 2 Alexandria, VA

From: Eileen Frazier <EFrazier@nsba.org>
Sent: Monday, May 17, 2021 4:27:51 PM
To: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>; Anna Chavez <AChavez@nsba.org>; Kimberly Muse <KMuse@nsba.org>
Cc: Verjeana McCotter-Jacobs <VJacobs@nsba.org>
Subject: RE: Secretary Cardona Follow Up

I will send as soon as you get me the language. Related to the calendar appt, I am assuming this will be a zoom or another virtual type of meeting. How will we get information about that?

From: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Sent: Monday, May 17, 2021 4:17 PM

To: Anna Chavez <AChavez@nsba.org>; Kimberly Muse <KMuse@nsba.org>
Cc: Eileen Frazier <EFrazier@nsba.org>; Verjeana McCotter-Jacobs <VJacobs@nsba.org>
Subject: Re: Secretary Cardona Follow Up

Thanks Anna. I'll get back to them now. We will get to work on the invitation.

Best,
Chip

From: Anna Chavez <AChavez@nsba.org>
Sent: Monday, May 17, 2021 4:13 PM
To: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>; Kimberly Muse <KMuse@nsba.org>
Cc: Eileen Frazier <EFrazier@nsba.org>; Verjeana McCotter-Jacobs <VJacobs@nsba.org>
Subject: RE: Secretary Cardona Follow Up

Sorry. Email sent without finishing my sentence. Laptop issues.

Chip- We are a good with the call with Secretary Cardona for Monday, May 24th 3:30-4pm ET. Viola and the Officers are available to host.

Can you work with me, Eileen and Verjeana to coordinate invitations?

Eileen will take the lead in sending a note and calendar invitation to our NSBA Board of Directors.

The invitation to the State Association President and President-Elect for each state association should copy their respective ED and invitation should come from Dr. Garcia but it can be sent under my email.

Let me know if you need help crafting invitations.

Thanks all.



Anna Maria Chávez

Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer

National School Boards Association

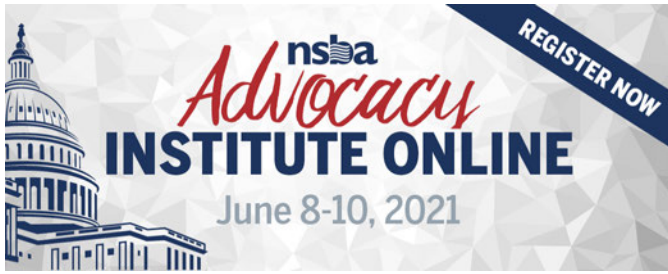
www.nsba.org

703.838.6790 (o)

██████████ (m)

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From: Anna Chavez
Sent: Monday, May 17, 2021 4:11 PM
To: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>; Kimberly Muse <KMuse@nsba.org>
Cc: Eileen Frazier <EFrazier@nsba.org>; Verjeana McCotter-Jacobs <VJacobs@nsba.org>
Subject: RE: Secretary Cardona Follow Up

Chip- We are a good with the call with Secretary Cardona for Monday, May 24th 3:30-4pm ET. Viola and the Officers are available to host.

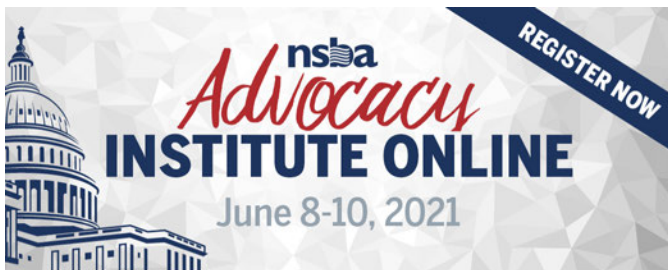
Can you work with me, Eileen and Verjeana to coordinate invitations?

Eileen will take the lead in sending a note and calendar invitation to our NSBA Board of Directors.

The invitation to the State Association President and President-Elect for each state association



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From: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Sent: Monday, May 17, 2021 3:47 PM
To: Anna Chavez <AChavez@nsba.org>; Kimberly Muse <KMuse@nsba.org>

Cc: Eileen Frazier <EFrazier@nsba.org>; Verjeana McCotter-Jacobs <VJacobs@nsba.org>

Subject: FW: Secretary Cardona Follow Up

Can we make this work all? Please let me know asap. Thanks.

From: Samuel, Aaliyah <Aaliyah.Samuel@ed.gov>

Sent: Monday, May 17, 2021 3:35 PM

To: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>; Walker, Serena <Serena.Walker@ed.gov>; Watkins-Foote, Kimberly <Kimberly.Watkins-Foote@ed.gov>; Simmons, Nicholas <Nick.Simmons@ed.gov>

Cc: Bowden, Larry <Larry.Bowden@ed.gov>

Subject: RE: Secretary Cardona Follow Up

Hi Chip,

Thank you for your patience! We can now confirm Monday, May 24th 3:30-4pm ET. Please let us know if this works for you – we were working around the secretary’s travel schedule.

A.

From: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>

Sent: Monday, May 10, 2021 5:26 PM

To: Walker, Serena <Serena.Walker@ed.gov>; Samuel, Aaliyah <Aaliyah.Samuel@ed.gov>; Watkins-Foote, Kimberly <Kimberly.Watkins-Foote@ed.gov>; Simmons, Nicholas <Nick.Simmons@ed.gov>

Cc: Bowden, Larry <Larry.Bowden@ed.gov>

Subject: RE: Secretary Cardona Follow Up

Good afternoon,

Thank you for the call this afternoon. We appreciate the opportunity for school board members to have a high level conversation with Secretary Cardona. We have communicated with our officers and determined that two good days and times next week include:

Thursday, May 20th 4:00 -4:45 p.m. EST

Or

Friday, May 21 12:00 – 12:45 p.m. EST

Please let me know if either of those options will work for the Secretary. As we discussed, our plans include to invite the NSBA board of directors members representing five regions of the nation and the state association president and president-elect for all of our members.

Please let us know what other information you need from us. We look forward to finalizing the event.

Thanks.

Chip



Chip Slaven

Chief Advocacy Officer, Federal Advocacy & Public Policy

National School Boards Association

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From: Walker, Serena <Serena.Walker@ed.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 7, 2021 5:21 PM
To: Samuel, Aaliyah <Aaliyah.Samuel@ed.gov>; Anna Chavez <ACHavez@nsba.org>; Watkins-Foote, Kimberly <Kimberly.Watkins-Foote@ed.gov>; Simmons, Nicholas <Nick.Simmons@ed.gov>
Cc: Bowden, Larry <Larry.Bowden@ed.gov>; Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Subject: RE: Secretary Cardona Follow Up

Hello all,

I just sent around a calendar invite for Monday from 1-1:30 pm ET.

Have a great weekend,
Serena

From: Samuel, Aaliyah <Aaliyah.Samuel@ed.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 7, 2021 4:43 PM
To: Anna Chavez <ACHavez@nsba.org>; Watkins-Foote, Kimberly <Kimberly.Watkins-Foote@ed.gov>; Simmons, Nicholas <Nick.Simmons@ed.gov>
Cc: Bowden, Larry <Larry.Bowden@ed.gov>; Walker, Serena <Serena.Walker@ed.gov>; Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Subject: RE: Secretary Cardona Follow Up

Thank you! Serena will follow up once we cross walk calendars. Have a great weekend!

A.

From: Anna Chavez <ACHavez@nsba.org>
Sent: Friday, May 7, 2021 4:41 PM
To: Samuel, Aaliyah <Aaliyah.Samuel@ed.gov>; Watkins-Foote, Kimberly <Kimberly.Watkins-Foote@ed.gov>; Simmons, Nicholas <Nick.Simmons@ed.gov>
Cc: Bowden, Larry <Larry.Bowden@ed.gov>; Walker, Serena <Serena.Walker@ed.gov>; Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Subject: RE: Secretary Cardona Follow Up

Hello Aaliyah,

I am looking forward to connecting next week. I will be including Chip Slaven, our Chief Advocacy Officer.

We are both available during these timeframes:

Monday, May 10th

12:00-1:30 pm EST

5:00- 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 11th

9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

3:00- 4:00 p.m.

Do any of these times work on your end?

Anna C.



Anna Maria Chávez

Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer

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From: Samuel, Aaliyah <Aaliyah.Samuel@ed.gov>

Sent: Friday, May 7, 2021 4:17 PM

To: Anna Chavez <ACHavez@nsba.org>; Watkins-Foote, Kimberly <Kimberly.Watkins-Foote@ed.gov>; Simmons, Nicholas <Nick.Simmons@ed.gov>

Cc: Bowden, Larry <Larry.Bowden@ed.gov>; Walker, Serena <Serena.Walker@ed.gov>

Subject: Secretary Cardona Follow Up

Good Afternoon Anna,

I hope this message finds you well! Thank you for meeting with Secretary Cardona today. He has requested that we follow up with you and your leadership team to discuss the reopening of schools strategy and next steps. Could you please provide us with a time that we can connect with you Monday or Tuesday? I know it's a tight timeline but we are trying to get ahead of a few key pieces. Looking forward to connecting!

A.

Dr. Aaliyah A. Samuel
Deputy Assistant Secretary, Local, State and National Engagement
Office of Communications and Outreach
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20202
aaliyah.samuel@ed.gov
Mobile | [REDACTED]

EXHIBIT 2

EXHIBIT 2

From: Chip Slaven
Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 9:51 AM
To: Kimberly Muse
Cc: Alesha Stuart
Subject: FW: ED Updates

Hi Kim,

This is the Department of Education call I just mentioned. Can you add this to my calendar for tomorrow at 2:00? All the information is in the email chain below.

Thanks,
Chip

From: Samuel, Aaliyah <Aaliyah.Samuel@ed.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 9:11 AM
To: Anna Chavez <AChavez@nsba.org>
Cc: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>; Walker, Serena <Serena.Walker@ed.gov>
Subject: RE: ED Updates

Thank you Anna – and welcome Chip! You will certainly be missed!

A.

From: Anna Chavez <AChavez@nsba.org>
Sent: Friday, July 2, 2021 10:06 AM
To: Samuel, Aaliyah <Aaliyah.Samuel@ed.gov>
Cc: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>; Walker, Serena <Serena.Walker@ed.gov>
Subject: RE: ED Updates

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Hello Aaliyah,

Thank you so much for your invitation. As I shared with you, I am departing NSBA to take on a new leadership role and my last day with NSBA is next Friday. However, I am working closely with Chip Slaven, who has been appointed our Interim Executive Director. I would love to join your call with him so I can have a chance to hear about your update and to express my personal thanks for your amazing leadership. Thank you for including me and NSBA.

Anna C.

Anna Maria Chávez
Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer



National School Boards Association

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From: Samuel, Aaliyah <Aaliyah.Samuel@ed.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 1, 2021 1:36 PM
To: Anna Chavez <AChavez@nsba.org>
Cc: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>; Walker, Serena <Serena.Walker@ed.gov>
Subject: ED Updates

Good Afternoon Anna,

We would like to engage in a conversation with you surrounding the Department's proposed "Return to School Roadmap". Sheila Nix, Nick Simmons, Rachel Thomas, and I will provide updates regarding the "Return to School Roadmap" followed by a conversation with you all to hear your feedback and look for ways to partner on these efforts.

The meeting will be on Wednesday, July 7th from 2:00-3:00 pm ET. We hope you can join us!

Zoom Information:

Time: Jul 7, 2021 02:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join ZoomGov Meeting

<https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1617461613>

Meeting ID: 161 746 1613

One tap mobile

+16692545252,,1617461613# US (San Jose)

+16468287666,,1617461613# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 669 254 5252 US (San Jose)

+1 646 828 7666 US (New York)

+1 669 216 1590 US (San Jose)

+1 551 285 1373 US

Meeting ID: 161 746 1613

Find your local number: <https://www.zoomgov.com/join/abjFGUO9dG>

Join by SIP

1617461613@sip.zoomgov.com

Join by H.323

161.199.138.10 (US West)

161.199.136.10 (US East)

Meeting ID: 161 746 1613

A.

Dr. Aaliyah A. Samuel

Deputy Assistant Secretary, Local, State and National Engagement

Office of Communications and Outreach

U.S. Department of Education

400 Maryland Avenue SW

Washington, D.C. 20202

aaliyah.samuel@ed.gov

Mobile | [REDACTED]

EXHIBIT 3

EXHIBIT 3

From: Chip Slaven
Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 1:30 PM
To: Samuel, Aaliyah
Subject: RE: Time to chat?

Hi Aaliyah,

I just got out of a long meeting and saw your email. I am free now until 4:00 today and then again at 5:15. If those times don't work I am sure I can find time tomorrow.

Thanks,
Chip

From: Samuel, Aaliyah <Aaliyah.Samuel@ed.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 2:37 PM
To: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Cc: Walker, Serena <Serena.Walker@ed.gov>
Subject: Time to chat?

Hi Chip,

Hope all is well! By chance do you have 5-10 mins I can grab on reopening schools?

A.

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aaliyah.samuel@ed.gov
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EXHIBIT 4

EXHIBIT 4

From: Chip Slaven
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 10:04 AM
To: Samuel, Aaliyah
Subject: Re: Youth Vaccination

Hi again Aaliyah,

I think that could be very helpful. Let's try and catch up soon to discuss. I'm going to speak to the state association executive directors I am with in Utah to get their thoughts.

Thanks,
Chip

From: Samuel, Aaliyah <Aaliyah.Samuel@ed.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 11:42 AM
To: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Subject: RE: Youth Vaccination

Thanks Chip! What do you think about pulling together 10-15 school board members from across the US for an off the record listening session on the reopening challenges? I can bring in some senior leadership from the dept.

A.

From: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 11:37 AM
To: Samuel, Aaliyah <Aaliyah.Samuel@ed.gov>
Subject: Re: Youth Vaccination

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Hi Aaliyah,

Thanks for reaching out to me. The Utah meeting is going well. We are in the midst of a session on CRT messaging right now.

I think there would be some districts that would be interested in the youth vaccination program. There still remains a lot of pressure on boards around these pandemic issues. We could help get the word out and work with our members to find some interested districts.

When you have more information please just let me know and we can go from there. Thanks again for reaching out. I look forward to talking with you soon.

Hope you are well,
Chip

From: Samuel, Aaliyah <Aaliyah.Samuel@ed.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 8:13 AM
To: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Subject: Youth Vaccination

Hi Chip,

I hope your meeting in Utah is going well! I wanted to reach out to put another offer on the table. We (ED/WH) would be happy to assist any school board in setting up youth vaccination sites at schools. We are working on detailed support for any school board/school that would like a vaccination site. Let me know if you hear of any school boards that would like assistance! Chat soon!

A.

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Deputy Assistant Secretary, Local, State and National Engagement
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EXHIBIT 5

EXHIBIT 5

From: Jane Mellow
Sent: Friday, August 6, 2021 11:05 AM
To: Chip Slaven
Subject: FW: Virtual Town Hall Meeting with School Board Members

Here you go. I told her I would circle back w you and get then get back to her.

BTW I just talked to [REDACTED] (initiated by me) and things are not going well.



Jane Mellow | *Interim Chief Advocacy Officer* |
National School Boards Association | jmellow@nsba.org | [REDACTED]

From: Watkins-Foote, Kimberly <Kimberly.Watkins-Foote@ed.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 6, 2021 10:29 AM
To: Jane Mellow <JMellow@nsba.org>
Subject: RE: Virtual Town Hall Meeting with School Board Members

Hi Jane,

When Chip and Aaliyah initially talked, Chip was thinking there would be a large turn out for this. Our Zoom can support up to 500, but if you have a larger platform and think it will be more than that, we will need you to host.

What are your thoughts?

From: Jane Mellow <JMellow@nsba.org>
Sent: Friday, August 6, 2021 10:20 AM
To: Walker, Serena <Serena.Walker@ed.gov>; Samuel, Aaliyah <Aaliyah.Samuel@ed.gov>; Watkins-Foote, Kimberly <Kimberly.Watkins-Foote@ed.gov>; Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Cc: Kimberly Muse <KMuse@nsba.org>
Subject: RE: Virtual Town Hall Meeting with School Board Members

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Thank you, this is very helpful. Will you all provide the registration link?
Jane



Jane Mellow | *Interim Chief Advocacy Officer* |
National School Boards Association | jmellow@nsba.org | [REDACTED]

From: Walker, Serena <Serena.Walker@ed.gov>

Sent: Friday, August 6, 2021 10:13 AM

To: Samuel, Aaliyah <Aaliyah.Samuel@ed.gov>; Watkins-Foote, Kimberly <Kimberly.Watkins-Foote@ed.gov>; Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>

Cc: Jane Mellow <JMellow@nsba.org>; Kimberly Muse <KMuse@nsba.org>

Subject: RE: Virtual Town Hall Meeting with School Board Members

Good Morning Chip,

Please see the invite language below that you can use! Let me know if you have any questions or need any more information. We are looking forward to the meeting.

Best,
Serena

INVITE

You are cordially invited to join Secretary Miguel Cardona for a conversation with school board members on the [Return to School Roadmap](#). This conversation is an opportunity for you to engage directly with the Secretary and other U.S. Department of Education staff regarding back-to-school efforts.

The discussion will be held on **Monday, August 16th** from **11:15 am - 12:00 pm ET**. There is time built in to the discussion for Q&A, so please bring any questions or feedback you may have. Advance registration is required for participation. You may register at: **INSERT LINK**

Thank you for all that you do for the nation's students and we hope that you will be able to join us!

From: Samuel, Aaliyah <Aaliyah.Samuel@ed.gov>

Sent: Thursday, August 5, 2021 2:25 PM

To: Watkins-Foote, Kimberly <Kimberly.Watkins-Foote@ed.gov>; Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>

Cc: Walker, Serena <Serena.Walker@ed.gov>; Jane Mellow <JMellow@nsba.org>; Kimberly Muse <KMuse@nsba.org>

Subject: RE: Virtual Town Hall Meeting with School Board Members

Thanks so much Chip! We are looking forward to the discussion.

A.

From: Watkins-Foote, Kimberly <Kimberly.Watkins-Foote@ed.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 12:52 PM

To: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>; Samuel, Aaliyah <Aaliyah.Samuel@ed.gov>

Cc: Walker, Serena <Serena.Walker@ed.gov>; Jane Mellow <JMellow@nsba.org>; Kimberly Muse <KMuse@nsba.org>

Subject: RE: Virtual Town Hall Meeting with School Board Members

Thanks Chip, we will follow up with details shortly.

From: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>

Sent: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 12:27 PM

To: Samuel, Aaliyah <Aaliyah.Samuel@ed.gov>

Cc: Watkins-Foote, Kimberly <Kimberly.Watkins-Foote@ed.gov>; Walker, Serena <Serena.Walker@ed.gov>; Jane

Mellow <JMellow@nsba.org>; Kimberly Muse <KMuse@nsba.org>
Subject: RE: Virtual Town Hall Meeting with School Board Members

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Hi Aaliyah,

I am just confirming that Monday, August 16, 2021 from 11:15 am to 12:00 pm eastern will work for us for the virtual town hall with Secretary Cardona. We are pleased to have this opportunity. I have alerted our staff and we are ready to talk with your team on the logistics for the event. I am copying Kim Muse on this call who can help arrange a logistics meeting. I am also copying Jane Mellow who is the NSBA interim chief advocacy officer who will be helping with much of the logistics and planning.

We look forward to the event.

Thanks,
Chip

From: Chip Slaven
Sent: Tuesday, August 3, 2021 8:18 PM
To: Samuel, Aaliyah <Aaliyah.Samuel@ed.gov>
Cc: Watkins-Foote, Kimberly <Kimberly.Watkins-Foote@ed.gov>; Walker, Serena <Serena.Walker@ed.gov>
Subject: RE: Virtual Town Hall Meeting with School Board Members

Good evening Aaliyah,

I think that will be fine. Let's go ahead and schedule it. I will double check there are no conflicts but I believe we can make that work. Our members will be very excited for this opportunity. I look forward to working with you on it. I will circle back with you in the morning and we can then focus on next steps.

Thanks,
Chip

From: Samuel, Aaliyah <Aaliyah.Samuel@ed.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 3, 2021 8:05 PM
To: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Cc: Watkins-Foote, Kimberly <Kimberly.Watkins-Foote@ed.gov>; Walker, Serena <Serena.Walker@ed.gov>
Subject: RE: Virtual Town Hall Meeting with School Board Members

Hi Chip,

Just wanted to circle back. The Secretary is able to have the townhall with your membership August 16th from 11:15 am – 12 pm. Would that work?

A.

From: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Sent: Sunday, August 1, 2021 6:48 PM

To: Samuel, Aaliyah <Aaliyah.Samuel@ed.gov>
Subject: Re: Virtual Town Hall Meeting with School Board Members

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Great! Thank you Aaliyah.
Chip

From: Samuel, Aaliyah <Aaliyah.Samuel@ed.gov>
Sent: Sunday, August 1, 2021 4:47 PM
To: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Subject: RE: Virtual Town Hall Meeting with School Board Members

Thanks Chip! I will connect with him and circle back asap!

A.

From: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Sent: Sunday, August 1, 2021 4:30 PM
To: Samuel, Aaliyah <Aaliyah.Samuel@ed.gov>
Subject: Virtual Town Hall Meeting with School Board Members

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon Aaliyah,

Thanks for the phone call on Friday. It was very helpful and I am glad to know of the Secretary's interest in reaching out to school board members.

After checking on some things internally at NSBA, I would suggest we try and hold a virtual town hall between the Secretary and a large group of school board members who serve in a leadership capacity. I would suggest Monday, August 9 as a good potential date to schedule it. That would give us enough time to get the invitation out and get the event organized. It is also the best date next week for when we think the majority of our school board leaders will be available. We have board members traveling and related activities for our Summer Leadership Conference later that week which would make holding an event difficult after Monday but we can certainly discuss those options. Our members will be excited for this opportunity to speak to the Secretary. After considering it over the weekend, I tend to think trying to pull off a virtual event during our Summer Leadership Conference would be challenging unless the Secretary would want to come in person and do a traditional town hall event. But if he would, the schedule on the morning of Saturday, August 14 could be adjusted for him to speak live to many of our school leaders. There would be several hundred in attendance. If neither the 9th for a virtual event or the 14th for an in-person event work, I would suggest we look for a virtual event sometime the week of August 16.

We have a good group of school board leaders we could invite to a virtual event. I would suggest we invite the NSBA board of directors, all the board of directors members from all fifty of our state association members which is approximately 1000 people, members of the NSBA Delegate Assembly, all fifty state association executive directors, the state association government affairs representatives, the NSBA past presidents, and all

the NSBA staff. This would be a good group representing school board members across the nation as well as some of the key staff helping them through reopening decisions and related issues. We could discuss whether we want to open it up to other school board members for the remaining slots or keep it within NSBA leadership and our state association leadership. We would limit the questions and discussion to only come from school board members. Staff would just be able to watch the discussion. We are divided in five regions so we could coordinate with each region to develop questions so we have a good cross section of the nation as well as covering the main topics. Since the ED Zoom link can accommodate as many as 5000 people, this could be a good core leadership group to participate and we can then discuss with you whether you want to open it up more broadly.

We would appreciate any opportunity to interact with the Secretary on these critical issues. These are just some suggestions so I am glad to discuss these issues further with you. I am available to talk further on Monday. Please let me know how you want to proceed.

Take care,
Chip



Chip Slaven

Interim Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer

National School Boards Association

www.nsba.org

[703.838.6742](tel:703.838.6742) (office)

[REDACTED] (cell)

1680 Duke Street, FL 2 Alexandria, VA



EXHIBIT 6

EXHIBIT 6

From: Charlotte Blane
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 10:56 AM
To: Chip Slaven
Cc: Jane Mellow; Renee Joe; Jaclyn Goddette
Subject: Chip quoted in The Guardian

Hi Chip,

The Guardian reporter Julia Carrie Wong published her article today quoting from your interview. Here's the link to the article and the full text with your quote in the highlighted area. Unless you think otherwise, we'll promote this in the weekly Connector and on social media.

[Masks off: how US school boards became 'perfect battlegrounds' for vicious culture wars | US news | The Guardian](#)

Masks off: how US school boards became 'perfect battlegrounds' for vicious culture wars

Rina Gallien doesn't consider herself political, but when the 41-year-old mother of four heard that parents who oppose mask mandates in schools were organizing to attend the 12 August meeting of the St Tammany parish school board in Slidell, Louisiana, she took time off work to attend.

"I didn't want them to think that they are the only people who care about their kids," said Gallien, who has three children still in school and strongly supports the [mask mandate](#) reinstated by the state's governor amid soaring Covid-19 cases in early August. "I care about my kids too, and I want them to come home safe."

Still, Gallien was not prepared for the experience of attending a school board meeting in St Tammany, a rural parish that is significantly whiter, richer and more conservative than nearby New Orleans. "I didn't know it was going to be like that," she said. "When I pulled into the parking lot, it was a Trump rally."

Dozens of parents, dressed in red to "demonstrate their anger", according to the [local paper](#), stood outside the school, holding signs with slogans such as "My Child, My Choice" and "Unmask Our Children". Shouting matches broke out between the pro- and anti-mask camps as law enforcement officers attempted to keep the sides separate. One man told Gallien, who is Black, to "go back where you came from".

The tense standoff in Slidell is just one of dozens that have unfolded at local school board meetings across the US in recent weeks as schools debate how to return to in-person instruction amid the resurgent threat of the Delta variant. From [Anchorage, Alaska](#), to [Fort Lauderdale, Florida](#), school board meetings have become the stage for the latest act in America's culture wars over education, one with roots in the country's deep racial and political divisions.

"School boards are a uniquely vulnerable spot in the culture war landscape, because they're open to everyone and they're not really prepared for it," said Adam Laats, a Binghamton University professor who studies the history of education in the US. "You can go down to the meeting at 7.30pm on Thursday and yell at someone rather than just feeling adrift in a changing culture."

Many meetings have been disrupted or even cancelled. In Bend, Oregon, proceedings had to be put on hold [twice in two weeks](#), as angry parents shouted at school board members and heckled a Spanish-language translator. The school board in Clarkstown, New York, [cancelled](#) its 12 August meeting when members of the public refused to don masks. On the same day, the school board serving the affluent communities of the Palos Verdes peninsula near Los Angeles [walked out](#) when 100 protesters affiliated with the anti-mask group Let

Them Breathe also refused to wear face coverings; the board members reconvened the meeting from their homes, on Zoom.

Others have gone even further. In [Fort Lauderdale](#), Florida, a man wearing a T-shirt that read “Not Vaccinated” poured lighter fluid on a tray full of masks and set it on fire. After the school board approved a mask mandate for a community near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on 9 August, one man stood and performed a Nazi salute, while another [shouted](#), “You made Dr Mengele proud,” referencing the Nazi torturer and murderer.

One of the most chilling scenes occurred in Williamson county, Tennessee, just south of Nashville, where hundreds of parents [protested](#) in the parking lot outside the building where the school board on 10 August approved a temporary mask mandate for elementary schools. [Video](#) captured the crowd menacing a departing parent who had spoken in favor of masks.

“We know who you are. You can leave freely, but we will find you,” said one of the protesters.

“You will never be allowed in public again,” said another.

When the board [reconvened](#) for a special meeting on 16 August, law enforcement used handheld metal detectors to scan the audience, a first for a school board meeting in the district.

This level of engagement with and anger about the policies set by the country’s more than 13,000 local school boards is unprecedented, said Chip Slaven, the interim executive direction of the National School Boards Association. While school policies have long garnered intense local interest, this degree of sustained scrutiny of school boards across the country is new.

“Before this, a controversial school board meeting might be concern over hiring a superintendent, consolidating schools, or something related to the sports teams,” he said. “Those were the kinds of things where you might have a crowd.”

Now, however, “school board members are under attack in a number of ways,” said Slaven, including by angry parents at meetings, threatening trolls online and [politicized recall elections](#). “There are even a couple governors making threats,” he said. Earlier this month, the Florida governor, Ron DeSantis, [threatened](#) to withhold the salaries of school board members who defied his ban on mask mandates in schools, though he later acknowledged that he lacked the legal authority to do so. On 11 August, the Texas governor, Greg Abbott, [threatened](#) to sue school districts or officials who did the same.

“After 9/11, did a governor intervene to stop a local official from taking steps to safeguard a public meeting?” Slaven asked. “We have 600,000 people that have died as a result of this pandemic, so you need to let local officials make these decisions that will protect people.”

School board members are typically unpaid community members who get involved to try to improve their local schools, Slaven noted. They are generally elected in non-partisan elections and oversee issues such as the budget and districts.

Many school boards have had to address crises in the past, such as recovering after a natural disaster or adopting new security practices after the attacks of September 11 2001, but most have never had to deal with anything approaching the complexity, difficulty and importance of figuring out how to educate 50 million public school students during a global pandemic. The ever-changing conditions of the pandemic have challenged the most well-funded and expert-laden government bodies, from the [CDC](#) to the [IRS](#), let alone the part-time school board members who often hold other full-time jobs.

The high transmissibility of the Delta variant has complicated what many had hoped would be a return to relatively normal schooling. Amid rising case numbers, several states have reintroduced indoor mask mandates, and [numerous recent polls](#) show that a majority of parents support mask mandates in schools.

Most of the school board protests are being organized by parents who oppose such rules, but there has been some pro-mask activism and protest.

In Mishawka, Wisconsin, about 50 parents held a [protest](#) after the local school board voted to make masks optional. And in Fort Worth, Texas, pro-mask parents held a [mock funeral procession](#) to the home of the president of the school board, where they protested against her decision not to hold a vote on a mask mandate. (In [one case](#) this month, a few dozen parents and activists formed a picket line in front of a Wisconsin high school in order to show support of their school board, which was being criticized over diversity issues. “We’re not here to be angry, but to be supportive,” said Matthew Sauer, a local pastor.)

Rather than being viewed as a simple precaution, however, the question of masks for children has become a partisan political issue, absorbed into a broader culture war between liberals and conservatives over everything from how schools should teach the history of slavery to the admissions policies of selective schools and whether transgender children should be allowed to play sports and go to the bathroom.

The anti-mask school board protests in August follow a wave of [protests and heated debates](#) about “[critical race theory](#)” (CRT) that consumed state legislatures and local school board meetings in May and June. (Critical race theory is a legal theory examining the ways racism is embedded in US law; it is not taught in secondary schools, but its name has been co-opted by opponents of progressive education reforms and diversity training.) Anti-mask and anti-CRT messages frequently [intermingle](#) at the protests, and some groups, such as [Moms for Liberty](#), are organizing on both fronts.

Those anti-CRT protests are largely a continuation of previous disputes about how America’s history should be taught in public schools, from concerted efforts by the [Ku Klux Klan](#) to take over school boards in the 1920s to a 2018 decision by a [Wisconsin school board](#) to ban discussions of “white privilege” after parents complained about a Martin Luther King Day assembly, according to Laats.

“The history of school board politics is a great way to chart the career of all culture war issues,” said Laats. “School boards made perfect battlefields.”

Throughout the 20th century, local school board fights turned into national focal points. “National pundits could jump into local cases to make their own points,” said Laats. “Out-of-towners would flock to local school disputes, then small-circulation rightwing magazines would try to blow up the coverage.”

The school board fights of today follow a similar pattern, but thanks to the pandemic and the internet, they are occurring simultaneously at dozens of boards across the country, rather than just one.

National political leaders and conservative institutions have played an active role in stoking the surge in school board activism, with groups such as the Heritage Foundation and Manhattan Institute promoting the false idea that CRT is taught in public schools, and former Trump administration officials establishing [new organizations](#) to fund [school board campaigns](#). In June, the rightwing Christian group FRC Action (an offshoot of the Family Research Council, which is considered a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center due to its extreme anti-LGBTQ+ positions) held a “[boot camp](#)” to train volunteers for “[doing battle](#) on the frontlines” of school board politics.

“Every parent should show up to their school board meetings and raise hell if their kids are being taught Critical Race Theory or are forced to wear masks,” [tweeted](#) Charlie Kirk, the head of the pro-Trump youth group Turning Point USA, in May. (Kirk, 27, attended a school board meeting in Chandler, Arizona, in June and delivered a brief public comment against CRT, then posted the video on YouTube with the title “Charlie Kirk DESTROYS Critical Race Theory at School Board Meeting”, where it attracted just 40,000 views.)

To Laats, the conservative movement’s preoccupation with particular education issues speaks to its dislike of social, demographic and cultural change. As young people grow and adopt new ideas and attitudes, schools become a “collecting point for grievances”. “Right now it’s mask mandates and CRT,” he said. “In different decades it would be subversive socialism and Elvis Presley.”

“Schools become the only thing that people can see to blame.”

EXHIBIT 7

EXHIBIT 7

From: Jason Amos
Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 7:48 AM
To: Bianca Quilantan
Subject: RE: Interview with Politico?

No worries at all, Bianca!

I hope you had a great holiday weekend. We're looking forward to speaking with you and Daniel this afternoon.

Best,
Jason

From: Bianca Quilantan [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 2, 2021 5:51 PM
To: Jason Amos <JAmos@nsba.org>
Subject: Re: Interview with Politico?

Jason – my apologies for missing your email yesterday!

Along with the topics in my initial email, what we're largely looking to learn is whether NSBA is seeing an uptick in interest in running for school board and how many school boards/members there are across the country. We also would love to learn about whether there has been an increase in board member burnout due to the pandemic or increase in parent activism in school board meetings.

And, we would love any context on what a school board can and can't do as it pertains to pushes to change curriculum and other similar pushes.

I hope you enjoy your holiday weekend!

Best,
Bianca

From: Jason Amos <JAmos@nsba.org>
Date: Thursday, July 1, 2021 at 5:39 PM
To: Bianca Quilantan [REDACTED]
Cc: Daniel Payne [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Interview with Politico?

EXTERNAL SENDER: Use caution with links and attachments.

Hi Bianca,

Apologies for the late-afternoon email.

Would you mind sharing some of the questions you plan on asking? I want to be sure that we're ready with any data points or other supplemental information that might be helpful to your article.

Thanks, and best wishes for a great holiday weekend!

Jason

Jason Amos
Director of Communications
National School Boards Association
jamos@nsba.org
[REDACTED]

NSBA.org
[@NSBAPublicEd](https://www.facebook.com/NSBAPublicEd)
[Facebook.com/SchoolBoards](https://www.facebook.com/SchoolBoards)

From: Bianca Quilantan [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 29, 2021 12:20 PM
To: Jason Amos <JAmos@nsba.org>
Cc: Daniel Payne [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Interview with Politico?

Hi Jason,

I appreciate you getting back to us so quickly! Tuesday at 3:30 p.m. would be great. Could we talk via Zoom so all of us can be on the call?

Best,
Bianca

From: Jason Amos <JAmos@nsba.org>
Date: Tuesday, June 29, 2021 at 12:13 PM
To: Bianca Quilantan [REDACTED]
Cc: Daniel Payne [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Interview with Politico?

EXTERNAL SENDER: Use caution with links and attachments.

Hi Bianca,

Chip Slaven, NSBA's Chief Advocacy Officer, would be happy to speak with you. He has availability on the following days:

Tuesday, July 6: anytime between 3PM-5PM
Wednesday, July 7: anytime between 11:30PM-4PM

Is there a window during those times that work for you?

Thanks,
Jason

From: Bianca Quilantan [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 28, 2021 6:01 PM
To: Jason Amos <JAmos@nsba.org>
Cc: Daniel Payne [REDACTED]
Subject: Interview with Politico?

Hi Jason,

Thanks so much for connecting me with Francisco last week for the SCOTUS case. I really appreciated his quick response and sharp insight!

My colleague Daniel and I are writing about how parents are mobilizing and packing school board meetings across the country to challenge curriculum and more. Can we set up an interview sometime this week or next week on how school boards are handling this?

What we'd like to learn more about is whether this surge of parents heading to school board meetings in the summer is unusual and how school boards are navigating protesting parents and the needs of their schools. And, I don't know if NSBA tracks this, but is there more interest in running for school board positions lately? It seems like Covid has really sparked engagement from parents in schools.

Thanks for considering!

Bianca

Bianca Quilantan
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

POLITICO

EXHIBIT 8

EXHIBIT 8

From: Jason Amos
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 8:46 PM
To: Chip Slaven
Cc: Renee Joe; Charlotte Blane; Jaclyn Goddette; Verjeana McCotter-Jacobs; Francisco Negron; Jane Mellow
Subject: Talking Points: Chip's US News Interview on School Board Recalls
Attachments: US News - Chip - School Board Recalls 07 08 21.docx

Hi Chip,

I've attached some talking points for tomorrow morning's 9:30am interview with U.S. News and World Report on the number of school board recalls doubling in 2021 compared to 2020. There was an Axios article on the subject earlier this week. I think that's driving these media requests. You can read that article at <https://www.axios.com/school-board-recalls-soar-critical-race-theory-86823daf-a7e1-4a55-965c-32f79b64954f.html>.

The attached talking points will look very familiar to you as tomorrow's interview is parallel to other interviews you've done recently on critical race theory and more competitive school board elections. I included the statement we sent to Fox News, but I also added some new talking points for your consideration around the role of political operatives and pursuing a recall versus harassment and physical threats.

Like I've been doing, I'll plan on calling you around 9:15am, so we can go over the talking points and talk strategy. If that doesn't work for you, or if you need me to push back the interview a little bit, just let me know.

Thanks,
Jason

From: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 3:03 PM
To: Jason Amos <JAmos@nsba.org>
Cc: Renee Joe <RJoe@nsba.org>; Charlotte Blane <cblane@nsba.org>; Jaclyn Goddette <JGoddette@nsba.org>; Verjeana McCotter-Jacobs <VJacobs@nsba.org>; Francisco Negron <fnegron@nsba.org>; Jane Mellow <JMellow@nsba.org>
Subject: RE: Media Request: Sinclair Media Seeking Statement

I think a similar approach with Sinclair makes sense knowing how their stories are disseminated on down to their affiliates. The statement looks good to me. I am adding in Francisco, Jane, and Verjeana since we are all starting to get these questions in one form or another.

From: Jason Amos <JAmos@nsba.org>
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 2:48 PM
To: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Cc: Renee Joe <RJoe@nsba.org>; Charlotte Blane <cblane@nsba.org>; Jaclyn Goddette <JGoddette@nsba.org>
Subject: Media Request: Sinclair Media Seeking Statement

Hi Chip,

“The National Desk” is a morning news program broadcast by Sinclair Media across its network of nearly 300 television stations in 89 markets in the United States. They asked to do video interview today with us, but, given the scheduling conflicts we discussed yesterday, I offered to send them a written statement instead.

I think the statement we sent last night to Fox News will also work with Sinclair. I’ve pasted it below with Sinclair’s ask so you can see it again. If it’s ok with you, I’ll send it over to them this afternoon.

Thanks!
Jason

Please comment on unprecedented surge in school board recalls and the steady stream of tense school board meetings across the nation that precipitated this.

“The pandemic impacted the entire nation in extraordinary ways and education is no different. It is not surprising there is more focus and interest on school boards. COVID-19 put a spotlight on the role of school boards as they dealt with many challenges never before faced in public schools. School board members, nearly all of whom are unpaid, stepped up to the challenge, doing everything possible to seek parent and community input, including broadcasting school board meetings online and holding school board meetings that sometimes lasted ten hours or more to do their job. During these difficult times, school board members had one primary goal—providing each child in their district with an excellent education in a safe and healthy learning environment.

“When faced with extremely difficult, emotionally charged decisions on reopening, masking, and more, school board members relied on the advice of health care experts and feedback from teachers, parents, and community members to make the decisions they thought best for their communities at that time. Focusing on what is best for each child in their school district is at the heart of school board leadership and every decision they make.” --National School Boards Association

Jason Amos
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EXHIBIT 9

EXHIBIT 9

From: Jason Amos
Sent: Thursday, July 22, 2021 1:29 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Talking Points

Interview Details

- **Format:** Phone interview; Jason to call reporter at [REDACTED], connect her to Chip
- **Date:** July 22, 3:30pm ET
- **Reporter/Outlet:** Alan Greenblatt / Stateline

Reporter Background

Alan Greenblatt is a senior staff writer at Stateline. He covers politics as well as policy issues for Governing. He is the coauthor of a standard textbook on state and local governments. He previously worked as a reporter for NPR and CQ and has written about politics and culture for many other outlets, print and online. Twitter: @AlanGreenblatt

Interview Topic

Alan is writing a story for Governing about reopening schools this fall. What have schools learned from last year about safety? How will districts cope with having to navigate on their own when there are conflicting messages from different levels of government, as well as the CDC and American Academy of Pediatrics? What concerns are he hearing about from members?

Also, I want to ask him about how this all fits within the context of other challenges of this particular school year, particularly getting kids back up to grade level who might have dropped out or not done well with remote learning.

Questions/Talking Points

1) **What have schools learned from last year about safety?**

We've all learned a lot from last year about safety. I can remember a time when people were wiping off their groceries with Clorox wipes. Now we know that COVID is largely transmitted through the air. We know that people with vaccines are protected against the virus. We know that masks help limit spread of the virus. Those three facts have huge ramifications for schools.

Schools have been dealing with COVID for a year and a half now. They have adopted procedures to ensure student and teacher safety. They have practices in place about school bus pick-up and drop-off. They've instituted safety procedures around lunchtime like eating outside and social distancing.

Still, we know there are huge challenges. Most school buildings are more than 50 years old. Overcrowded schools struggle to social distance. Outdated school buildings sometimes lack reliable heating and air conditioning and certainly don't have the advanced filtering and ventilation systems required during an airborne pandemic. And for parents and students who choose hybrid or remote learning options, high-speed internet is still an issue for as many as 17 million students—that's one third of the K-12 public school population.

That's why it's critical for Congress to act on an infrastructure bill that can help schools and school districts make these critical upgrades.

2. How will districts cope with having to navigate on their own when there are conflicting messages from different levels of government, as well as the CDC and American Academy of Pediatrics?

Compared to where we were a year and a half ago, I think we're in a much better place regarding message from the government. Yesterday, President Biden said that the CDC will "probably" advise children under age 12 who are not yet eligible to be vaccinated against COVID-19 to wear masks in school this fall. That would bring it in line with the American Academic of Pediatrics, which, as you know, is not part of the government.

Additionally, as I mentioned earlier, school board members have done a ton of work on their own, talking to health experts, teachers, parents, and community members about safety precautions for students. They know that masks work. They know that vaccines work. They know that social distancing and being outside when possible certainly helps.

One thing making it very difficult on school boards is states that have passed laws against mandating masks. I think three states (Arizona, Arkansas and Oklahoma) have done so thus far. In those states, there's only so much school board members can do.

They can strongly recommend that masks be worn, especially by those who are unvaccinated. They can focusing on communication efforts, ensuring that parents and community members know the science behind masks and why they are important for unvaccinated children.

As cases are starting to rise, especially among unvaccinated people, the silver lining is that I think we're starting to see some people change their minds about the importance of vaccines and masking.

3) What concerns are you hearing about from members?

As I mentioned earlier, states that are banning mask requirements are making it very difficult to create safe learning environments for teachers and students.

Another big issue is the online and in-person threats and harassments toward school board members.

- **School Board Members Are Unpaid Volunteers Making Very Difficult Decisions Based on the Best Information They Have:** Nearly every school board member in the United States is unpaid. For the last year, they've gone to great lengths to listen to parents and community members. They've broadcasted school board meetings online and held school board meetings lasting ten hours or more. At the end of the day, however, they have to make a decision. They weigh input from teachers, parents, and community members with the best advice from health care officials and they make a decision they think is best for each child in their school district. When you have a lot of people on both sides of an issue, some people will be upset.
- **It is unacceptable that school board members have been subjected to online and in-person harassment and threats of physical violence.**
- **School Board Members Are Community Members:** We need to remember that school board members are, by and large, unpaid volunteers who are working to improve education in their communities. They are our neighbors. They attend our churches. They are people who have children in the public education system and share some of the same concerns. Doing what's best for each child in their school district is at the heart of every decision a school board member makes. That's why they volunteer their time.

4) How does all of this fit within the context of other challenges of this particular school year, particularly getting kids back up to grade level who might have dropped out or not done well with remote learning.

As I mentioned, school board members have been dealing with pandemic-related issues for a year and a half now. I think the big difference this time is that most school boards are preparing for a return to in-person learning this fall.

In some cases, teachers will be seeing students for the first time in more than a year. What kind of needs will students have? Not only academically, but socially, mentally, and emotionally.

I think of it like this: There are three huge challenges facing America's public schools and students: Repairing the past, addressing the present, and preparing for the future.

- 1) School and district leaders must repair the social, emotional, mental, and academic damage the pandemic has already inflicted on students;
- 2) They must address present challenges, including solving teacher shortages, helping students with disabilities, expanding internet access, and planning for a safe reopening this fall; and
- 3) They must prepare for the future by implementing lessons learned from the pandemic to transform schools to better prepare all students for success in the years ahead.

What lessons can we take from the pandemic to truly transform education? We learned that some kids—not many, but a small percentage—learn better in remote environments, perhaps because they were bullied in school or have special needs.

For those kids, and others whose parents may prefer that they continue to learn remotely for whatever reason, we have to continue to focus on ensuring that all students have high-speed internet in their homes.

Other Possible Questions/Talking Points

1) How do you account for the animosity against school boards?

- **Highly Charged Political Environment:** Let's first recognize how difficult the last year and a half has been for everyone. In addition to the frustration with lockdowns and social distancing, let's add a highly charged presidential election and an extremely volatile political climate that continues today. That's the environment in which school board members have had to operate.
- When school buildings closed, that changed everything. Not only for the students who attended them and the teachers who taught in them, but for parents who suddenly had to juggle work responsibilities and kids at home.
- **Pandemic Spotlitged Schools and School Boards:** The pandemic impacted the entire nation in extraordinary ways and education is no different. The pandemic put a spotlight on the invaluable role that schools play in our society. They not only educate our kids. They feed them. They provide them with a safe place to go while their parents are at work.
- It is not surprising there is more focus and interest on school boards. The pandemic brought much greater attention to the role of school boards as they dealt with many challenges never before faced in public schools.
- **School Board Members Are Unpaid Volunteers Making Very Difficult Decisions Based on the Best Information They Have:** Nearly every school board member in the United States is unpaid. For the last year, they've gone to great lengths to listen to parents and community members. They've broadcasted school board meetings online and held school board meetings lasting ten hours or more. At the end of the day, however, they have to make a decision. They weigh input from teachers, parents, and community members

with the best advice from health care officials and they make a decision they think is best for each child in their school district. When you have a lot of people on both sides of an issue, some people will be upset.

- **A Recall Is One Thing—Harassment and Threats Are Other:** Recalling a school board member is one thing, but what’s unacceptable are the many instances where school board members have been subjected to online and in-person harassment and threats of physical violence.
- **School Board Members Are Community Members:** We need to remember that school board members are, by and large, unpaid volunteers who are working to improve education in their communities. They are our neighbors. They attend our churches. They are people who have children in the public education system and share some of the same concerns. Doing what’s best for each child in their school district is at the heart of every decision a school board member makes. That’s why they volunteer their time.
- **Recalls and Packed School Board Meetings Are Outliers:** We see reports in the news about recalls against school board members and packed rooms at school board meetings. These are outliers. In most school districts around the country, school board members are quietly doing their jobs, working hard to ensure a safe reopening this fall and ensure that students have the support and resources they need to recover from the lost instruction time, emotional trauma, and other challenges inflicted by the pandemic.
- **Political Operatives Are Targeting School Board Members:** Traditionally, school board elections and school board members have been non-partisan. For whatever reason, we’re hearing reports of political operatives who have targeted school board elections and school board members. Those operatives don’t seem interested in ensuring that all students have access to the internet in their homes or meeting the needs of students with disabilities. They’re only interested in creating chaos. I, for one, think we’ve had enough chaos over the last year and a half. **We need change agents, not chaos agents.**
- **School Board Members Are Going Above and Beyond:** School board members, nearly all of whom are unpaid, stepped up to the challenge during the pandemic, doing everything possible to seek parent and community input, including broadcasting school board meetings online and holding school board meetings that sometimes lasted ten hours or more to do their job. During these difficult times, school board members had one primary goal—providing each child in their district with an excellent education in a safe and healthy learning environment.
- **School Board Members Went to Great Lengths to Receive Input on Their Decisions:** When faced with extremely difficult, emotionally charged decisions on reopening, masking, and more, school board members relied on the advice of health care experts and feedback from teachers, parents, and community members to make the decisions they thought best for their communities at that time. Focusing on what is best for each child in their school district is at the heart of school board leadership and every decision they make.
- **Reopening Was an Extremely Difficult Decision:** I understand that some parents were frustrated that school buildings were closed. But for every parent who wanted schools reopened so they can go back to work, there might be another parent who is concerned for their child’s health or the health of someone in their family.
- **Recalls Are One Thing—Harassments and Threats Are Another:** Some people are taking out their frustrations around school closings and other political issues on school board members.
 - We need to remember that school board members are, by and large, unpaid volunteers who are working to improve education in their communities. They are our neighbors. They attend our churches. They are people who have children in the public education system and share some of the same concerns. Doing what’s best for each child in their school district is at the heart of every decision a school board member makes. That’s why they volunteer their time.

2) How are school boards handling parents mobilizing and packing school board meetings?

- **MAIN POINT: School board members have always welcomed community participation in their meetings. And it's not unusual to have packed school board meetings. In the past, it might have been around consolidation or hiring a new superintendent. The topics are different this time, but the ultimate focus must remain on ensuring that students get the knowledge and skills they need to succeed.**
- I recently read about a packed, but very civil school board meeting in Minnesota where community members spoke passionately—but from different perspectives—on issues that are important to them in a civil, thoughtful exchange. **That's a school board meeting at its best, but those aren't the school board meetings that make the national news.**

3) What role is Critical Race Theory playing in all of these recalls?

- **Main Point: Some school boards and school board members are facing political pressure over non-academic issues. I think those are outliers as most school boards are focused on getting all students and teachers back into school buildings for a safe return this fall.**
- Instead, we should focus on students' needs and look at it from a data perspective. We know that there are large disparities in education—disparities that have only grown wider because of the pandemic. How do you account for those disparities? And how do we address them?
- Communication and facts are vitally important during this time because a lot of narratives out there just aren't true. **School boards aren't focused on Critical Race Theory. They're focused on this fall and how to get all students back into school buildings safely and how to address the learning needs, social-emotional needs, and the other challenges caused by the largest pandemic the country has seen in 100 years.**

EXHIBIT 10

EXHIBIT 10

From: Chip Slaven
Sent: Friday, August 27, 2021 11:52 AM
To: Bob Wise
Subject: RE: Another contact

Hi Bob,

I thought I replied to this email but it turned out I never hit send. I had to abruptly cancel our Summer Leadership event in Louisville a few weeks ago so I have been dealing with fallout from that decision. It was sort of like we when we canceled Bridge Day. There was no other decision to make but folks still didn't like it. COVID cases doubled in a few days and we had half of our registrants cancel in 48 hours. And in other news, school boards are getting more popular than even with the conspiracy groups and COVID deniers. A woman showed pictures of Ryan White's kids not wearing masks at a camp this summer at a Kanawha County board meeting last week. Not only was it completely inappropriate to show pictures of his young kids it was also of course completely out of context. They were posing for a picture and took them off only to take the photo. Ryan ended up calling me to tell me how bad it is. I was on a call yesterday with Secretary Cardona and the Surgeon General and I shared that story. It's ridiculous how bad things are right now. I'm concerned for the health and well-being of school board members as well the kids they serve. What a difficult time.

I would love to have an introduction with Kirsten Baesler. I am starting to do more work with CCSSO, so this is a good time to build a relationship with a state chief, particularly one that is focusing on personalized learning. I will have to catch up with you again soon. I still have a lot of challenges, but I am working through them. I head to Cape May later next week and will be there all of Labor Day week. We will not be venturing out to any big venues, but I hope the ocean air will help my mother out. She really needs a break, and chocolate fudge as she reminds me.

I hope all is well.

Take care,
Chip

From: Bob Wise [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, August 13, 2021 9:37 PM
To: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Subject: Another contact

Hey Chip,

You have raised my street cred exponentially. Now people come up and say, do you know Chip Slaven and can you get a message to him.

This one may interest you. I had a discussion today with Kirsten Baesler, the state superintendent of North Dakota. I have followed her over the years and consider her one of the most impressive state superintendents I have met. As an elected official, she has been able to implement personalized learning and begun to eliminate seat time. She is always prominently figured in Ted dintersmith's books.

Yesterday she and I talked about what she is doing to motivate her school district leaders, especially elected board members. Today we talked more. She is on the CCSSO board and on track to be its chair in 2 years. She expressed great interest in having CCSSO forge a closer relationship with NSBA. I don't know the politics of the organizations, but I said I

would pass it along. I don't know the relationship you have with Carissa, so maybe this is not helpful. But if you want, I am glad to either do an email connection or just suggest Kirsten that she should call. Or I can just butt out.

Anyway, just wanted to pass this along for your consideration.

Have you gotten to Cape May yet? I hope you have a good weekend.

Bob

Bob Wise LLC

Business: *Bob@BobWiseLLC*

Personal: [REDACTED]

Leadership, strategies, and impact for positive change.

EXHIBIT 11

From: Charlotte Blane
Sent: Thursday, August 26, 2021 8:50 AM
To: Renee Joe
Cc: Jaclyn Goddette
Subject: FYI: Charlie Wilson quoted online

Hi Renee,

Just an FYI that Charlie Wilson was quoted in a recent NPR/Texas Public Radio piece. It wasn't something that we arranged or knew of in advance.

If you think Chip and others would want to see this let me know and I'll share it more broadly.

Here's the link to the article and the text below.

[She Joined The School Board To Serve Her Community. Now She's Getting Threats | TPR](#)

MARY LOUISE KELLY, HOST:

Local school boards across the country have had to deal with the wrath of parents angry about mask requirements. That's because in many states, local officials and health departments are leaving that decision up to school board members. As WFYI's Farah Yousry reports, that is adding stress for people who joined the school board out of a sense of civic duty.

FARAH YOUSRY, BYLINE: Elaine Murphy is in her 60s. She is slender, with short blonde hair and green eyes. She lives in New Albany, a small city in southern Indiana. Her home is lined with family pictures.

ELAINE MURPHY: This is Hazel (ph), my oldest granddaughter. She's 10 now. And then the baby there is Everleigh (ph).

YOUSRY: Murphy has served schools here her entire career. She's now the president of the local school board. And she says it used to be that school board meetings here were low-key - but no more.

MURPHY: You know, we're making decisions now that, you know, two years ago, it'd be like, what? You know, a pandemic what?

YOUSRY: Still, nothing prepared her for the last boisterous and confrontational school board meeting.

(CROSSTALK)

MURPHY: OK, I move that we have a recess.

YOUSRY: Nearly 200 people filled the hall. Some carried big flags and signs that read my body, my choice. Emotions were raw.

MURPHY: It's sad to say that, you know, now when I see someone come in with a flag and a flag pole, I'm thinking, well, that's a potential weapon. I've seen that before.

YOUSRY: The day of the meeting, Murphy's son, Ryan Gunterman, drove two hours from Bloomington to be with her.

RYAN GUNTERMAN: I wanted to take her in my car. I didn't want the protesters to see her in her car. And we went in the side entrance.

YOUSRY: A few days later, infection rates surged, and the school district required masks. Now Murphy keeps a baseball bat next to the door at home. In many states, it's school board members who are on the frontlines, and that's taking a toll. Charlie Wilson in Worthington, Ohio, is the past president of the National School Boards Association and is a school board member himself. He says it's become so partisan that any decision he makes is deemed political.

CHARLIE WILSON: Literally daily getting hate emails and sometimes phone calls and frankly, occasionally, people knocking on my door and, you know, threatening to do all kinds of things.

YOUSRY: Most of these people are Wilson's neighbors and former friends.

WILSON: And so literally, I was waking up at night dreaming about a child losing a parent or a loved one because of a virus that the child got at school.

YOUSRY: Wilson does not plan to run for office again. Vladimir Kogan studies state and local government at the Ohio State University. He says school boards had to weather heated partisan debates like school prayer and sex ed. But this time around, things are a bit more intense.

VLADIMIR KOGAN: I think it's exactly this idea of blame shifting - that no matter what you do, you're going to piss somebody off. So you'd rather another entity or another official make that call and get the blame from whoever is mad.

YOUSRY: Kogan and others say guidance since the start of the pandemic has been evolving. And some parents are understandably concerned and confused. Layer that with political tribalism, and you get something of a perfect storm facing school board members all across the country. For NPR News, I'm Farah Yousry. Transcript provided by NPR, Copyright NPR.

EXHIBIT 12

EXHIBIT 12

From: Wilson, Charlie [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 1:16 PM
To: Chip Slaven; Garcia, Viola; Henderson, Frank - KS; Swett, Kristi (UT)
Subject: FW: School Board Attacks
Attachments: Coordinated Attacks on Ohio School Boards.pdf

Dear Colleagues,

I have been contacted several times since Monday about the attached report. First, they all seem to think that the National School Board Leadership Council is a part of NSBA. I know absolutely nothing about trademark law or trademark infringement, but there is confusion that NSBA is sponsoring an organization that is attacking school board members and opposing the teaching of systemic racism in our schools.

I think it might be worthwhile for our legal staff to check whether we have a legal basis for enjoining these folks from calling themselves the National School Board Leadership Council. There is clear confusion about NSBA's role in this group. I fear it could cause enormous harm to our brand and reputation.

Second, is there anything NSBA can do to help school board members across the country who are being attacked and opposed by these groups during this fall's elections? I think this is an area where NSBA could play a big role, and could garner lots of positive support and publicity from our members and from public school supporters across the nation. I believe we must do something to oppose these folks taking control of school boards across the nation.

Best,
Charlie

EXHIBIT 13

EXHIBIT 13

From: Chip Slaven
Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 1:30 PM
To: Samuel, Aaliyah
Subject: RE: Time to chat?

Hi Aaliyah,

I just got out of a long meeting and saw your email. I am free now until 4:00 today and then again at 5:15. If those times don't work I am sure I can find time tomorrow.

Thanks,
Chip

From: Samuel, Aaliyah <Aaliyah.Samuel@ed.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 2:37 PM
To: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Cc: Walker, Serena <Serena.Walker@ed.gov>
Subject: Time to chat?

Hi Chip,

Hope all is well! By chance do you have 5-10 mins I can grab on reopening schools?

A.

Dr. Aaliyah A. Samuel
Deputy Assistant Secretary, Local, State and National Engagement
Office of Communications and Outreach
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20202
aaliyah.samuel@ed.gov
Mobile | [REDACTED]

EXHIBIT 14

EXHIBIT 14

From: Jane Mellow
Sent: Friday, August 6, 2021 11:05 AM
To: Chip Slaven
Subject: FW: Virtual Town Hall Meeting with School Board Members

Here you go. I told her I would circle back w you and get then get back to her.

BTW I just talked to [REDACTED] (initiated by me) and things are not going well.



Jane Mellow | *Interim Chief Advocacy Officer* |
National School Boards Association | jmellow@nsba.org | [REDACTED]

From: Watkins-Foote, Kimberly <Kimberly.Watkins-Foote@ed.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 6, 2021 10:29 AM
To: Jane Mellow <JMellow@nsba.org>
Subject: RE: Virtual Town Hall Meeting with School Board Members

Hi Jane,

When Chip and Aaliyah initially talked, Chip was thinking there would be a large turn out for this. Our Zoom can support up to 500, but if you have a larger platform and think it will be more than that, we will need you to host.

What are your thoughts?

From: Jane Mellow <JMellow@nsba.org>
Sent: Friday, August 6, 2021 10:20 AM
To: Walker, Serena <Serena.Walker@ed.gov>; Samuel, Aaliyah <Aaliyah.Samuel@ed.gov>; Watkins-Foote, Kimberly <Kimberly.Watkins-Foote@ed.gov>; Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Cc: Kimberly Muse <KMuse@nsba.org>
Subject: RE: Virtual Town Hall Meeting with School Board Members

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Thank you, this is very helpful. Will you all provide the registration link?
Jane



Jane Mellow | *Interim Chief Advocacy Officer* |
National School Boards Association | jmellow@nsba.org | [REDACTED]

From: Walker, Serena <Serena.Walker@ed.gov>

Sent: Friday, August 6, 2021 10:13 AM

To: Samuel, Aaliyah <Aaliyah.Samuel@ed.gov>; Watkins-Foote, Kimberly <Kimberly.Watkins-Foote@ed.gov>; Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>

Cc: Jane Mellow <JMellow@nsba.org>; Kimberly Muse <KMuse@nsba.org>

Subject: RE: Virtual Town Hall Meeting with School Board Members

Good Morning Chip,

Please see the invite language below that you can use! Let me know if you have any questions or need any more information. We are looking forward to the meeting.

Best,
Serena

INVITE

You are cordially invited to join Secretary Miguel Cardona for a conversation with school board members on the [Return to School Roadmap](#). This conversation is an opportunity for you to engage directly with the Secretary and other U.S. Department of Education staff regarding back-to-school efforts.

The discussion will be held on **Monday, August 16th** from **11:15 am - 12:00 pm ET**. There is time built in to the discussion for Q&A, so please bring any questions or feedback you may have. Advance registration is required for participation. You may register at: **INSERT LINK**

Thank you for all that you do for the nation's students and we hope that you will be able to join us!

From: Samuel, Aaliyah <Aaliyah.Samuel@ed.gov>

Sent: Thursday, August 5, 2021 2:25 PM

To: Watkins-Foote, Kimberly <Kimberly.Watkins-Foote@ed.gov>; Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>

Cc: Walker, Serena <Serena.Walker@ed.gov>; Jane Mellow <JMellow@nsba.org>; Kimberly Muse <KMuse@nsba.org>

Subject: RE: Virtual Town Hall Meeting with School Board Members

Thanks so much Chip! We are looking forward to the discussion.

A.

From: Watkins-Foote, Kimberly <Kimberly.Watkins-Foote@ed.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 12:52 PM

To: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>; Samuel, Aaliyah <Aaliyah.Samuel@ed.gov>

Cc: Walker, Serena <Serena.Walker@ed.gov>; Jane Mellow <JMellow@nsba.org>; Kimberly Muse <KMuse@nsba.org>

Subject: RE: Virtual Town Hall Meeting with School Board Members

Thanks Chip, we will follow up with details shortly.

From: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>

Sent: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 12:27 PM

To: Samuel, Aaliyah <Aaliyah.Samuel@ed.gov>

Cc: Watkins-Foote, Kimberly <Kimberly.Watkins-Foote@ed.gov>; Walker, Serena <Serena.Walker@ed.gov>; Jane

Mellow <JMellow@nsba.org>; Kimberly Muse <KMuse@nsba.org>
Subject: RE: Virtual Town Hall Meeting with School Board Members

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Aaliyah,

I am just confirming that Monday, August 16, 2021 from 11:15 am to 12:00 pm eastern will work for us for the virtual town hall with Secretary Cardona. We are pleased to have this opportunity. I have alerted our staff and we are ready to talk with your team on the logistics for the event. I am copying Kim Muse on this call who can help arrange a logistics meeting. I am also copying Jane Mellow who is the NSBA interim chief advocacy officer who will be helping with much of the logistics and planning.

We look forward to the event.

Thanks,
Chip

From: Chip Slaven
Sent: Tuesday, August 3, 2021 8:18 PM
To: Samuel, Aaliyah <Aaliyah.Samuel@ed.gov>
Cc: Watkins-Foote, Kimberly <Kimberly.Watkins-Foote@ed.gov>; Walker, Serena <Serena.Walker@ed.gov>
Subject: RE: Virtual Town Hall Meeting with School Board Members

Good evening Aaliyah,

I think that will be fine. Let's go ahead and schedule it. I will double check there are no conflicts but I believe we can make that work. Our members will be very excited for this opportunity. I look forward to working with you on it. I will circle back with you in the morning and we can then focus on next steps.

Thanks,
Chip

From: Samuel, Aaliyah <Aaliyah.Samuel@ed.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 3, 2021 8:05 PM
To: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Cc: Watkins-Foote, Kimberly <Kimberly.Watkins-Foote@ed.gov>; Walker, Serena <Serena.Walker@ed.gov>
Subject: RE: Virtual Town Hall Meeting with School Board Members

Hi Chip,

Just wanted to circle back. The Secretary is able to have the townhall with your membership August 16th from 11:15 am – 12 pm. Would that work?

A.

From: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Sent: Sunday, August 1, 2021 6:48 PM

To: Samuel, Aaliyah <Aaliyah.Samuel@ed.gov>
Subject: Re: Virtual Town Hall Meeting with School Board Members

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Great! Thank you Aaliyah.
Chip

From: Samuel, Aaliyah <Aaliyah.Samuel@ed.gov>
Sent: Sunday, August 1, 2021 4:47 PM
To: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Subject: RE: Virtual Town Hall Meeting with School Board Members

Thanks Chip! I will connect with him and circle back asap!

A.

From: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Sent: Sunday, August 1, 2021 4:30 PM
To: Samuel, Aaliyah <Aaliyah.Samuel@ed.gov>
Subject: Virtual Town Hall Meeting with School Board Members

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon Aaliyah,

Thanks for the phone call on Friday. It was very helpful and I am glad to know of the Secretary's interest in reaching out to school board members.

After checking on some things internally at NSBA, I would suggest we try and hold a virtual town hall between the Secretary and a large group of school board members who serve in a leadership capacity. I would suggest Monday, August 9 as a good potential date to schedule it. That would give us enough time to get the invitation out and get the event organized. It is also the best date next week for when we think the majority of our school board leaders will be available. We have board members traveling and related activities for our Summer Leadership Conference later that week which would make holding an event difficult after Monday but we can certainly discuss those options. Our members will be excited for this opportunity to speak to the Secretary. After considering it over the weekend, I tend to think trying to pull off a virtual event during our Summer Leadership Conference would be challenging unless the Secretary would want to come in person and do a traditional town hall event. But if he would, the schedule on the morning of Saturday, August 14 could be adjusted for him to speak live to many of our school leaders. There would be several hundred in attendance. If neither the 9th for a virtual event or the 14th for an in-person event work, I would suggest we look for a virtual event sometime the week of August 16.

We have a good group of school board leaders we could invite to a virtual event. I would suggest we invite the NSBA board of directors, all the board of directors members from all fifty of our state association members which is approximately 1000 people, members of the NSBA Delegate Assembly, all fifty state association executive directors, the state association government affairs representatives, the NSBA past presidents, and all

the NSBA staff. This would be a good group representing school board members across the nation as well as some of the key staff helping them through reopening decisions and related issues. We could discuss whether we want to open it up to other school board members for the remaining slots or keep it within NSBA leadership and our state association leadership. We would limit the questions and discussion to only come from school board members. Staff would just be able to watch the discussion. We are divided in five regions so we could coordinate with each region to develop questions so we have a good cross section of the nation as well as covering the main topics. Since the ED Zoom link can accommodate as many as 5000 people, this could be a good core leadership group to participate and we can then discuss with you whether you want to open it up more broadly.

We would appreciate any opportunity to interact with the Secretary on these critical issues. These are just some suggestions so I am glad to discuss these issues further with you. I am available to talk further on Monday. Please let me know how you want to proceed.

Take care,
Chip



Chip Slaven

Interim Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer

National School Boards Association

www.nsba.org

[703.838.6742](tel:703.838.6742) (office)

[REDACTED] (cell)

1680 Duke Street, FL 2 Alexandria, VA



EXHIBIT 15



Frequently Asked Questions About the National School Boards Association's Letter to the President

On September 29, the National School Boards Association (NSBA) sent a letter to the President asking for federal assistance to stop threats and acts of violence against public schoolchildren, public school board members, and other public school district officials. In the days since, there has been some misinformation about what is—and what is not—in the letter, as well as questions about why NSBA sent the letter. NSBA is providing this Frequently Asked Questions document to help state association members address members' concerns, correct misconceptions, and more fully explain NSBA's position.

Why did NSBA send the letter to the President?

NSBA is a nonpartisan organization. This letter is addressed to the President to address a critical safety issue to public schools and school boards—it is not a partisan issue. The pandemic and our heightened political environment have created a lot of tension in our society that is playing out on social media and in everyday interactions, but especially at school board meetings. School board members have been in the spotlight since the start of the pandemic, but the level of vitriol has increased over the last few weeks, especially regarding mask mandates. NSBA also has policy that calls for the safety and health of students, employees, and visitors.

Additionally, violent acts, threats, and acts of intimidation are occurring throughout the nation at school board meetings, inhibiting the right of all viewpoints to be heard in a safe environment. These disruptions particularly impact parents who are attempting to speak or hear about all sides of an issue in a civil and peaceful environment.

NSBA felt compelled to raise the issue to the federal level because we've noted a concerning increase in the number and severity of incidents, more than 20 of which are cited in the letter. For example, during a recent school board meeting in Minnesota, a man was assaulted and had his shirt ripped off after addressing the board. That event occurred just two days prior to the letter being sent. It is just one of many examples of violence occurring.

More concerning, the problems are not just happening during board meetings. In an incident in Arizona, three men showed up at an elementary school threatening the principal. One of the men was carrying zip ties, which can be used to restrain hands, suggesting they were considering an assault. In Washington state, three schools were locked down because a crowd of demonstrators—including members of a known extremist group—attempted to enter school grounds to escort a maskless student into the building. This group has a history of committing acts of violence. These are just a few examples of the immediate threat our schools and school board members are facing.

In addition to these acts, we've heard concerns from several of our member associations and from many individual school board members who wanted action. The National Association of Secondary School Principals, the leading organization for middle level principals, high school principals, and other school leaders called for federal intervention more than two weeks ago.

These disruptions are interfering with the real issues facing school boards, such as solving teacher shortages, serving students with disabilities, and ensuring all kids have internet access in their homes. We need to get back to the work of meeting all students' needs, making sure that each student is prepared for a successful future. That's what school board members and parents care about.

Why did NSBA speak on behalf of members?

Threats and acts of violence against elected officials and district staff are a major safety concern and also impact safe school and district operations. These are not isolated issues, and, in many cases, there is strong evidence of organized planning for some of the most egregious behavior. This does not refer to grassroots efforts on recalls, recruiting school board candidates to run for office, or applying peaceful pressure on issues. Instead, the concern is over escalating threats and violence that go beyond free speech and, where appropriate, require attention from the federal government and their law enforcement agencies to supplement and support state and local law enforcement.

In some areas, disruptions are affecting educational services and school board governance. Some have even led to school lockdowns. These incidents are beyond random acts. NSBA has seen a coordinated pattern of threats and violence occurring across state lines and via online platforms. Because this is such a large problem affecting many different parts of the country, NSBA sought a greater federal focus on these incidents and a greater coordination between the federal government, state and local law enforcement, and school districts, especially when it comes to monitoring for threats.

Is it appropriate for the federal government to be involved with this issue?

Yes. While the primary jurisdiction for the safety of school board members and public schools lies with local and state law enforcement, there is an appropriate role for the federal government, including enforcement of federal laws involving threats through the U.S. mail and other similar federal laws. Local school board members are elected officials and, as such, protecting them is not only for the collective public good, but a protection for our democracy. Further, the federal government can provide resources and information to local and state authorities as well as public schools on these very important issues. The involvement of potential hate groups offers further evidence of a required federal role. NSBA supports local governance, but federal law enforcement regularly works to assist state and local police when there are national trends emerging around certain threats.

What does NSBA want to accomplish by writing the letter?

Awareness, safety, and deterrence are the main goals for the letter. In some areas, disruptions are affecting educational services and school board governance. Some have even led to school lockdowns. These incidents are beyond random acts. NSBA has seen a coordinated pattern of threats and violence occurring across state lines and via online platforms. Because this is such a large problem affecting many different parts of the country, NSBA sought a greater federal focus on these incidents and a greater coordination between the federal government, state and local law enforcement, and school districts, especially when it comes to monitoring for threats.

The reactions to the letter and the incidents cited in it have led to national media reporting on the issue and showing some of the violence that was recorded. The outcry from most of the public has been one of horror that these incidents are occurring. By calling more attention to the problem, we hope the tone and rhetoric by some will cool down and that the focus by law enforcement will help prevent further acts of violence from occurring.

Have you heard back from the White House or other federal agencies about the letter?

Yes. Even prior to writing the letter, NSBA had been in regular communication with the White House and U.S. Department of Education. They were aware of the issues impacting school boards. Since sending the letter, we've had positive responses from several other federal agencies. They share our concerns and want to work with us on this issue. We have also heard from other education organizations who share similar concerns regarding the current climate. While some with certain political viewpoints are using the letter to further their attacks on public schools, the response has largely been positive and supportive.

Additionally, on October 4, U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland announced that the U.S. Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation will be working with state and local law enforcement to address the threats and acts of intimidation that school board members and other education leaders are facing. This response indicates the seriousness of the issue. There is a problem of growing threats and violence that must be addressed.

Why did NSBA send a press release on the letter to the media?

The safety and security of school board members and public schools is an issue of major concern. NSBA and other education organizations have been receiving numerous inquiries from national media for months. This issue is not going away without a coordinated response. Much of the nation was not aware of the severity of these incidents and ongoing threats. Exposing them is one of the most important reasons for the letter. We also wanted to be transparent of the action we were requesting.

By alerting the media, we helped to create a national conversation and raise the issue among parents and policymakers. For example, the NSBA letter and threats to school board members were raised during a White House press briefing on September 30.

Did NSBA ask the President to label parents who protest school board policies or school board meetings as domestic terrorists?

Absolutely not. NSBA does not want to silence parents. **NSBA did not call parents domestic terrorists, nor did we ask the Administration to classify parents as terrorists. Our letter to the President does not even mention parents because parents are not the problem. Parents are a critical part of our schools and communities and their voices must be heard when it comes to decisions about their children's education and safety.** Currently, however, many parents' voices are being drowned out by individuals—many of whom are not even connected to local schools—who are intent on causing chaos and disrupting our schools and our students' learning.

Local school board members WANT to hear from parents and community members on important issues. That kind of feedback is at the heart of good school board governance and the promotion of free speech.

NSBA and school board members don't want to stop parents from expressing their First Amendment rights. We want to stop the death threats, threats to family members, and other harassment and acts of intimidation that school board members are facing.

One main purpose of the letter is to help parents have a safe environment to share opinions with school board members regardless of their viewpoints. NSBA wants to give all parents the same opportunity to be heard. Some individuals are attempting to take further advantage of this situation by falsely claiming that NSBA labeled parents utilizing their first amendment rights as terrorists which is a lie.

In some cases, the individuals creating problems do not have children in the district or live within the district boundaries.

Currently, many parents' voices are being drowned out by individuals who are intent on causing chaos and disrupting our schools and our students' learning. NSBA wants to help parents express their First Amendment rights, not hinder them. What we want to stop are the death threats, threats to family members, and other harassment and acts of intimidation that school board members, school administrators, and other school personnel are facing.

Parents also need to know the vast majority of school board members are unpaid public officials who are elected by members of their community, and many are parents, guardians, and grandparents. They are our neighbors and live in our communities. They go to our churches and shop in our grocery stores. Their main goal is to help every child succeed and thrive. Everyone in a community is not expected to agree on every issue. However, opinions and concerns should be presented and delivered in a civil, respectful manner.

We all need to remember that children are watching and listening. In our interactions and in our disagreements, we need to be civil and respectful so that we can set a positive example for them.

What should someone do if they receive a threat or want to report a potential crime?

Local police should be contacted immediately if you or someone you know receives a threat, or you want to report suspicious activity. Threats of violence against school board members, officials, and workers in our nation's public schools can also be reported by the public to the FBI's National Threat Operations Center (NTOC) via its national tip line (1-800-CALL-FBI) and online through the FBI website (<http://fbi.gov/tips>).

NSBA's letter to the President is available at <https://nsba.org/-/media/NSBA/File/nsba-letter-to-president-biden-concerning-threats-to-public-schools-and-school-board-members-92921.pdf>

The National School Boards Association (NSBA) is a federation of state associations and the U.S. territory of the Virgin Islands that represent locally elected school board officials serving approximately 51 million public school students regardless of their disability, ethnicity, socio-economic status, or citizenship. Working with and through our state association members, NSBA advocates for equity and excellence in public education through school board leadership. We believe that public education is a civil right necessary to the dignity and freedom of the American people and that each child deserves equitable access to an education that maximizes their individual potential. For more information, visit nsba.org.

EXHIBIT 16

EXHIBIT 16

From: Wilson, Charlie [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 5:08 PM
To: Chip Slaven; Garcia, Viola; Henderson, Frank - KS; Swett, Kristi (UT)
Subject: RE: Letter in the Mail

Chip, Thanks for your excellent response. These are certainly troubling times. Thanks. –charlie

From: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 5:47 PM
To: Wilson, Charlie [REDACTED]; Garcia, Viola [REDACTED]; Henderson, Frank - KS
[REDACTED]; Swett, Kristi (UT) [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Letter in the Mail

Hi Charlie and officers,

I have been very concerned over these issues for several weeks. This rhetoric is troubling and reminds me of similar language during the 1990's after Waco and Ruby Ridge. I have been exploring several options to try and address these issues including contacting the Department of Justice and/or Department of Homeland Security and asking for a threat assessment for school boards and public schools. We are also looking at some best practices to help them manage meetings, but I want to make sure we vet those practices with some experts first.

As for this individual incident, I would recommend contacting law enforcement in Ohio. I do not believe this letter goes far enough to constitute a criminal threat of violence, but it is very close and is skirting the issue. He should be reported so they can conduct a threat assessment of him. When I worked in state government this would have been reported to the State Police.

It is too bad we are going down this very rabbit hole.

Best,
Chip

From: Wilson, Charlie [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 4:06 PM
To: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>; Garcia, Viola [REDACTED]; Henderson, Frank - KS
[REDACTED]; Swett, Kristi (UT) [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Letter in the Mail

Sorry to bug you again, but I wanted to make you aware of a threatening letter sent to our board president. Is there anything NSBA can do in this area such as a report on best practices to keep school board meetings safe and to keep school board members safe? I don't have anything in mind, but we have some great minds at NSBA who might have some good ideas. –charlie

From: Bowers, Trent [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 3:30 PM
To: Jennifer Best [REDACTED]; Amy Lloyd [REDACTED]; Nikki Hudson [REDACTED];

Sam Shim [REDACTED]; Wilson, Charlie [REDACTED]
Cc: Angela Adrean [REDACTED]; Randy Banks [REDACTED]; Vicki Gnezda
[REDACTED]; TJ Cusick [REDACTED]
Subject: Letter in the Mail

Good Afternoon,

We received the attached mail this afternoon. It is addressed to me on the envelope. Addressed to Ms. Hudson inside the letter. My understanding is that Dublin received the same letter addressed to the Superintendent on the envelope and Ms. Hudson on the same letter. You may want to make a report to law enforcement.

Trent

--

Dr. Trent Bowers
Superintendent



Worthington Schools
200 E. Wilson Bridge Road
Worthington, Ohio 43085
t: [REDACTED]
e: [REDACTED]

www.worthington.k12.oh.us



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EXHIBIT 17

EXHIBIT 17

From: Wilson, Charlie [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 5:08 PM
To: Chip Slaven; Garcia, Viola; Henderson, Frank - KS; Swett, Kristi (UT)
Subject: RE: Letter in the Mail

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Sent: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 5:47 PM
To: Wilson, Charlie [REDACTED]; Garcia, Viola [REDACTED]; Henderson, Frank - KS
[REDACTED]; Swett, Kristi (UT) [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Letter in the Mail

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It is too bad we are going down this very rabbit hole.

Best,
Chip

From: Wilson, Charlie [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 4:06 PM
To: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>; Garcia, Viola [REDACTED]; Henderson, Frank - KS
[REDACTED]; Swett, Kristi (UT) [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Letter in the Mail

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From: Bowers, Trent [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 3:30 PM
To: Jennifer Best [REDACTED]; Amy Lloyd [REDACTED]; Nikki Hudson [REDACTED];

Sam Shim [REDACTED]; Wilson, Charlie [REDACTED]
Cc: Angela Adrean [REDACTED]; Randy Banks [REDACTED]; Vicki Gnezda [REDACTED]; TJ Cusick [REDACTED]
Subject: Letter in the Mail

Good Afternoon,

We received the attached mail this afternoon. It is addressed to me on the envelope. Addressed to Ms. Hudson inside the letter. My understanding is that Dublin received the same letter addressed to the Superintendent on the envelope and Ms. Hudson on the same letter. You may want to make a report to law enforcement.

Trent

--

Dr. Trent Bowers
Superintendent



Worthington Schools
200 E. Wilson Bridge Road
Worthington, Ohio 43085
t: [REDACTED]
e: [REDACTED]

www.worthington.k12.oh.us



***This message and any response to it may constitute public record and thus may be publicly available to anyone who requests it.

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EXHIBIT 18

EXHIBIT 18

From: Deborah Rigsby
Sent: Thursday, September 9, 2021 11:35 AM
To: Jane Mellow
Cc: Chip Slaven
Subject: RE: Threats to school boards (also from Chip)

Hi Chip and Jane,

Sure, will draft a letter. I suggest including the Secret Service as well, given this agency's authority regarding school violence incidents.

Deborah

From: Jane Mellow <JMellow@nsba.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 9, 2021 1:13 PM
To: Deborah Rigsby <drigsby@nsba.org>
Cc: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Subject: Threats to school boards (also from Chip)

Deborah, I just talked to Chip for the first time in a week and he wants us (specifically he asked for you) to draft a letter for either the Attorney General or the Director of the FBI, he is not sure yet.

Basically he wants to ask for a threat assessment of the risk to school board members and public schools in the wake of some of the confrontational tactics we are seeing across the country. Some written and spoken actions have been threatening and he wants us to be on record of noting it and alerting authorities and asking for assistance. He will be sending an example of a letter Charlie Wilson brought to his attention yesterday.

He wants the letter to detail out some of the examples and our concerns. He is hoping to have a draft by the end of next week. I'm going to ask Jinghong to see if she can pull together some of the instances of threatening meetings from the media.

I'm copying Chip on here in case I have missed something in conveying what he is looking for.

Jane



Jane Mellow
Interim Chief Advocacy Officer
National School Boards Association
jmellow@nsba.org | [REDACTED]

EXHIBIT 19

From: Jinghong Cai
Sent: Friday, September 10, 2021 7:49 AM
To: Jane Mellow; Deborah Rigsby
Subject: school board meeting disruption cases
Attachments: Summary.docx

Hello, Jane and Deborah!

The attached is a brief summary of school board meeting disruptions and a table of the cases. Please let me know what other information you need.

Best,
Jinghong

P.S.
Summary:

1. 28 cases occurred in 16 states.
2. In 3 cases, protesters are against CRT.
3. In 21 cases, protesters are against Mask Mandates.
4. The disruptive behaviors include (1) unmasked crowds attending school board meeting; (2) disobeying the time limit for speech; (3) yelling and shouting, bad manners; (4) searching board members and attacking board members in person
5. In most cases, police were called, and school board meetings were adjourned. In a few cases, some individuals were arrested.
6. At least two reports mention state laws:
 - (1) 2012 Florida Statutes, 877.13 Educational institutions or school boards; penalty for disruption — [Chapter 877 Section 13 - 2012 Florida Statutes - The Florida Senate \(flsenate.gov\)](#)
 - (2) A California court upheld in 2018 that the three minute time limits on public comments during meetings are constitutional, and it is a practice that is also followed by the Cheyenne City Council. [Pinedale Roundup | School board meeting over COVID stopped after disruption](#)



Jinghong Cai, Ph.D.
Senior Research Analyst, Center for Public Education
National School Boards Association

www.nsba.org



EXHIBIT 20

EXHIBIT 20

Sent: Thursday, September 9, 2021 2:23 PM
To: Jason Amos; Chip Slaven
Subject: FW: sharing the President's COVID-19 Action Plan
Attachments: Path out of the Pandemic-POTUS COVID-19 Action Plan.pdf

Recommend we prepare a statement from Chip



Renée B. Joe

Managing Director, Marketing, Communications, & Publications
National School Boards Association

www.nsba.org

[REDACTED]

From: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 9, 2021 4:17 PM
To: Jane Mellow <JMellow@nsba.org>; Deborah Rigsby <drigsby@nsba.org>; Ralph Forsht <RForsht@nsba.org>; Jinghong Cai <JCai@nsba.org>; Renee Joe <RJoe@nsba.org>; Jason Amos <JAmos@nsba.org>; Charlotte Blane <cblane@nsba.org>; Jaclyn Goddette <JGoddette@nsba.org>
Subject: Fw: sharing the President's COVID-19 Action Plan

Here is the document concerning the speech.

From: Wall, Mary C. EOP/WHO <Mary.C.Wall@who.eop.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 9, 2021 3:59 PM
Subject: sharing the President's COVID-19 Action Plan

All:

Thank you kindly for joining me for preview call for the President's speech today. As a reminder, you can watch it at 5:00pm ET on whitehouse.gov.

See attached for President Biden's COVID-19 Action Plan. It has three main goals:

- Get more people vaccinated.
- Decrease hospitalizations and deaths from COVID-19.
- Keep schools and our economy open.

This plan builds on the President's whole-of-government approach that has gotten nearly 75% of those eligible at least their first shot, and taken our nation from 2 million people fully vaccinated on January 20th to over 175 million people fully vaccinated today. It employs the same science-based approach that sharply decreased COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths in the spring. The President committed to the American people that he'd do everything in his power to defeat the virus. That's what he's done – and this plan builds on that and pushes us further.

I'm also including below the list of OSHA State Plan states. Please forward the attached to anyone I may have missed, and please also distribute the attached and the link to your members! <https://www.whitehouse.gov/covidplan/>

Thank you for being in partnership with us in defeating the virus, keeping our schools and colleges open, and making sure our students can safely learn in-person.

Kindly,
MW

Mary C. Wall
Senior Policy Advisor
White House COVID-19 Response Team
Mary.C.Wall@who.eop.gov

Cover all employers		Covers State and Local Government Employers Only
Alaska Arizona California Hawaii Indiana Iowa Kentucky Maryland Michigan Minnesota Nevada	New Mexico North Carolina Oregon Puerto Rico South Carolina Tennessee Utah Vermont Virginia Washington Wyoming	Connecticut Illinois Maine New Jersey New York U.S. Virgin Islands

From: [OSHA Jurisdiction Over Public Schools and Other State and Local Government Entities](#)

EXHIBIT 21

EXHIBIT 21

Sent: Thursday, September 9, 2021 1:10 PM
To: Chip Slaven; Jane Mellow; Deborah Rigsby; Ralph Forsht; Renee Joe; Charlotte Blane; Jaclyn Goddette; Jinghong Cai
Subject: RE: Special Information on Presidential Address

Hi Chip,

Thanks for this information. What do you want to say in the press statement?

I think I can lift from our talking points about how now is a critical time--we don't want to lose the progress we've made and we want to keep kids in schools. BUT we've been saying all along that masking/vaccine/etc. decisions should be made by local school boards and not states. Does this apply to the federal government too?

From: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 9, 2021 3:06 PM
To: Jane Mellow <JMellow@nsba.org>; Deborah Rigsby <drigsby@nsba.org>; Ralph Forsht <RForsht@nsba.org>; Renee Joe <RJoe@nsba.org>; Jason Amos <JAmos@nsba.org>; Charlotte Blane <cblane@nsba.org>; Jaclyn Goddette <JGoddette@nsba.org>; Jinghong Cai <JCai@nsba.org>
Subject: Special Information on Presidential Address

Hi all,

I am on a last-minute call right now with the White House right now regarding President Biden's speech on the pandemic. They gave preview of what is going to be addressed regarding public schools. There are six main items plus one additional item concerning OSHA that will impact some schools. We should start preparing a press statement that can go out soon after the speech. The information I learned is below:

- 1) Requiring staff in federal schools to be vaccinated as well as all Head Start
- 2) Call on all states to have vaccine requirements for school staff
- 3) Providing additional funding to backfill salary and funding for schools implementing mask policies. They can begin spending funds right away even if states have not distributed funding yet. Also starting a new program that districts can apply for directly.
- 4) Will stress that the Secretary can use all tools available to safely help schools reopen.
- 5) Getting students and staff regularly tested. They have \$10 million from HHS and will also be utilizing other funding.
- 6) Providing every resource needed to the FDA for the timely review of vaccines to begin vaccinating those under 12 years of age.

Additionally, OSHA is going to issue a rule for all private sector employers with over 100 employees that will require testing workers and allow them time off to get vaccinated. Twenty-six states use OSHA state plans where this rule will apply to all public schools and colleges. (I may have some details wrong on this one so we should double check I did not hear anything wrong).

There is also some materials coming out later today we should share with our members.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,
Chip

EXHIBIT 22

National School Boards Association Statement on Biden Plan to Stop the Delta Variant and Boost COVID-19 Vaccinations

Alexandria, Va., September 09, 2021

This afternoon, President Joe Biden outlined new policies on vaccination and testing to keep schools and the economy open during a speech on his COVID-19 Action Plan and the Delta variant. In response, Chip Slaven, interim Executive Director and CEO of the National School Boards Association (NSBA), issued the following statement:

President Biden's plan to curb the spread of the Delta variant comes at an extremely critical time during this pandemic.

Most schoolchildren are now back in school buildings. That's great for students because nearly all students learn best with in-person instruction. It's also great for parents who can return to work or begin new jobs.

But now is not the time to let down our guard or we risk losing the progress we've made. No one wants to close school buildings and pivot back to remote learning.

School board members around the country are doing everything they can to keep our students in classrooms and protect them while they are there. They are consulting with health experts, studying state and local caseloads and vaccination rates, and talking to parent and community members about the safest way to have students back in school.

For their hard work, school board members, superintendents, principals, teachers, and others who work in service to our students are being subjected to online and in-person threats, abuse, and harassment. This must stop.

School board members are our neighbors. They attend our churches. They shop in our grocery stores. They are people who have children in the public education system and share the same concerns as the communities they represent. Doing what's best for each child in their school district is at the heart of every decision a school board member makes. That's why they volunteer their time.

President Biden's plan to provide support—financial and otherwise—will allow school board members

to make the necessary decisions to keep students and school staff safe.

This Saturday is the twentieth anniversary of the September 11 attacks. After the attacks, our country came together, setting aside partisan differences in pursuit of a common goal. Today, we need the same approach. President Biden's plan provides a path for us to do so.

Author

NSBA Communications

Around NSBA



2020 State of the Association

Full of challenge and change, 2020 was like no other year. NSBA's State of the Association provides a snapshot of the association's advocacy and member services work as well as our ongoing transformation.

Continue Reading

Issues	Advocacy	Events	Resources	Perspectives	Association
<u>Educational Equity</u>	<u>Council of School Attorneys (COSA)</u>	<u>Advocacy Institute</u>	<u>Center for Public Education</u>	<u>ASBJ</u>	<u>Bookstore</u>
<u>IDFA</u>	<u>CUBE</u>	<u>Annual Conference</u>	<u>Center for Safe Schools</u>	<u>ASBJ Brief</u>	<u>Careers</u>
<u>Local School Board Governance</u>	<u>Federal Legislative Priorities</u>	<u>COSA Fall School Law Seminar</u>	<u>COVID-19 Information</u>	<u>Blog</u>	<u>Corporate Sponsorships and Exhibiting</u>
<u>Recommendations to the Biden Administration</u>	<u>Legal Advocacy</u>	<u>COSA Spring School Law Seminar</u>	<u>Key Work of School Boards</u>	<u>Federal Insider Podcasts</u>	<u>Media Guide for ASBJ</u>
<u>School Vouchers</u>	<u>National School Boards Action Center (NSBAC)</u>	<u>CUBE Annual Equity Symposium Series</u>	<u>Legal Clips</u>	<u>Subscribe to ASBJ</u>	<u>MY NSBA</u>
	<u>Public School Transformation Now!</u>		<u>Reports and Guides</u>		<u>National Affiliation of Superintendent Searchers</u>
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			<u>Women in Leadership</u>		<u>State of the Association 2020</u>

National School Boards Association

1680 Duke St. FL2, Alexandria, VA 22314-3493. Phone: [\(703\) 838-6722](tel:7038386722) Fax: [\(571\) 470-5108](tel:5714705108) E-mail: info@nsba.org

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Media Contact: media@nsba.org

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EXHIBIT 23

EXHIBIT 23

From: Jane Mellow
Sent: Friday, September 10, 2021 9:02 PM
To: Deborah Rigsby; Chip Slaven
Subject: What is WRONG w people?

https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2021/09/10/grady-knox-tennessee/?utm_campaign=wp_main&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook&fbclid=IwAR29rIKzIY0tz4p0yB5VJDk_n_0lj5AJPP6oiEvzJC1oRAYsMMMOPb8EvjY

In this story there are references to other violent things at school board meetings with links

Jane Mellow


EXHIBIT 24

EXHIBIT 24

Sent: Thursday, September 9, 2021 6:40 PM
To: Gina Patterson
Subject: RE: White House Announcement: Path Out of the Pandemic

Gina,

I was on a White House briefing late this afternoon that discussed the Presidential address and the link you are citing below. I did the briefing while on my first vacation in nearly two years because of the magnitude of the announcement.

During that briefing, we were asked to send the link out after the President spoke since it was embargoed. This went out before the address was given, not after or during. I understand you want to get information out as soon as possible but it is also important to follow the protocols. I have developed a good working relationship with the White House staff, and it is important to not get ahead of them when they invite us to a private briefing prior to announcements like this one with some specific requests. I can't explain why this was sent this out before the speech. They may have simply misunderstood the timing request but regardless, this information needed to be reviewed by our staff prior to it going out. We typically get many questions on these issues and spend some time digesting the information before we simply send it out so we can include our own assessments or public statements if one is required.

Per my direct instructions, we released the information and a public statement after the President finished his remarks. They went out less than an hour after the address was concluded and included our position on it. I believe we were one of the first national organizations to issue a public statement and share it with our members that contained details of the event. The advocacy team works many long hours on behalf of our members, and we regularly work after normal business hours to get things out to our members that are factually correct and contain as much information as possible.

I appreciate your view and understand the importance of getting information out as soon as possible. That is also our goal, but we also want to make sure we are providing timely information with quality assessments of what is in the material. This major Presidential address contained six specific items that are relevant to public schools and we needed to craft a good statement to go out with it.

I always appreciate hearing from you. I hope this clarifies the timing questions. Please let me know if you have any other questions.

Thanks,
Chip

From: Gina Patterson <gina@vsba.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 9, 2021 5:30 PM
To: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Subject: Fwd: White House Announcement: Path Out of the Pandemic

Good Afternoon Chip

I know this just happened today but this is why my board is struggling with NSBA. We get information from competing organizations in my opinion before we get it from our own organization in a manner that is timely and we could have sent out prior to the close of business. Respectfully.

Gina Patterson
Executive Director

Virginia School Boards Association
200 Hansen Road
Charlottesville, VA 22911
Gina@vsba.org
www.vsba.org
[REDACTED]

Please excuse the brevity and any errors.

Begin forwarded message:

Date: September 9, 2021 at 4:47:11 PM EDT
To: Gina Patterson <gina@vsba.org>
Subject: Fwd: White House Announcement: Path Out of the Pandemic

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Ray Hart <rhart@cgcs.org>
Date: September 9, 2021 at 4:04:48 PM EDT
Subject: White House Announcement: Path Out of the Pandemic

Great City Schools Superintendents/Chancellors/CEOs and School Board
Representatives—

At 5:00 PM EST today, President Biden is announcing the implementation of a six-pronged, comprehensive national strategy to successfully combat previous variants of COVID-19 earlier this year. This plan is intended to ensure that the federal government is combating COVID-19, while also keeping schools open and safe, and protecting our economy from lockdowns and damage. The plan includes specific support for school districts including:

- direct funding – above ESSER allocations – to districts that have had salaries withheld for implementing virus mitigation strategies;
- requiring vaccine mandates for federal employees, including all Head Start staff; and
- requiring, through the Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), that all employers with 100 or more employees ensure their workforce is fully vaccinated or require unvaccinated workers to produce a negative COVID-19 test result on at least a weekly basis before coming to work.

Here is the link to the [Path Out of the Pandemic Plan](#). Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Ray Hart

Raymond C. Hart | Executive Director

Council of the Great City Schools (CGCS) | www.cgcs.org | Visit CGCS on
[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)
(202) 393-2427 x22 (o) | [REDACTED] (c) | (202) 393-2400 (f) | rhart@cgcs.org
1331 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Suite 1100N | Washington, D.C. 20004

?

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EXHIBIT 25

EXHIBIT 25

From: Chip Slaven
Sent: Saturday, September 11, 2021 9:00 AM
To: Wall, Mary C. EOP/WHO
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] National School Boards Association Statement on Biden Plan to Stop the Delta Variant and Boost COVID-19 Vaccinations

Hi Mary,

Thank you very much for email and the opportunity to participate in the briefing on Thursday. I appreciate your concern for local school board members. In addition to my concern over public schools and the health of students and staff in general right now, I worry over the many threats school board members are receiving. Anything that you can do to help us better prepare them with information and resources will certainly help. We appreciate what the President and Administration are doing to deal with these tough challenges.

I would love to have a conversation with you to discuss these issues in further detail. If you have some time in the next few weeks please let me know.

Take care,
Chip

Chip Slaven

Interim Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer

National School Boards Association

www.nsba.org

703.838.6742 (office)

[REDACTED] (cell)

1680 Duke Street, FL 2 Alexandria, VA



From: Wall, Mary C. EOP/WHO <Mary.C.Wall@who.eop.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 9, 2021 9:56 PM
To: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] National School Boards Association Statement on Biden Plan to Stop the Delta Variant and Boost COVID-19 Vaccinations

Chip –

Thanks for joining the call today, and thanks also for this positive statement. I'm really grateful for your partnership.

We should catch up in greater depth at some point. I think often about the tough position that school boards are in at a time like now. We'd love to do anything we can to support members making tough calls on behalf of kids.

Thanks,
MW

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 9, 2021

Media Contact:

Jason Amos

jamos@nsba.org

703-838-6719

National School Boards Association Statement on Biden Plan to Stop the Delta Variant and Boost COVID-19 Vaccinations

Alexandria, VA—This afternoon, President Joe Biden outlined new policies on vaccination and testing to keep schools and the economy open during a speech on his COVID-19 Action Plan and the Delta variant. In response, Chip Slaven, interim Executive Director and CEO of the National School Boards Association (NSBA), issued the following statement:

President Biden’s plan to curb the spread of the Delta variant comes at an extremely critical time during this pandemic.

Most schoolchildren are now back in school buildings. That’s great for students because nearly all students learn best with in-person instruction. It’s also great for parents who can return to work or begin new jobs.

But now is not the time to let down our guard or we risk losing the progress we’ve made. No one wants to close school buildings and pivot back to remote learning.

School board members around the country are doing everything they can to keep our students in classrooms and protect them while they are there. They are consulting with health experts, studying state and local caseloads and vaccination rates, and talking to parent and community members about the safest way to have students back in school.

For their hard work, school board members, superintendents, principals, teachers, and others who work in service to our students are being subjected to online and in-person threats, abuse, and harassment. This must stop.

School board members are our neighbors. They attend our churches. They shop in our grocery stores. They are people who have children in the public education system and share the same concerns as the communities they represent. Doing what’s best for each child in their school district is at the heart of every decision a school board member makes. That’s why they volunteer their time.

President Biden’s plan to provide support—financial and otherwise—will allow school board members to make the necessary decisions to keep students and school staff safe.

This Saturday is the twentieth anniversary of the September 11 attacks. After the attacks, our country came together, setting aside partisan differences in pursuit of a common goal. Today, we need the same approach. President Biden's plan provides a path for us to do so.

###

The National School Boards Association (NSBA) is a federation of state associations and the U.S. territory of the Virgin Islands that represent locally elected school board officials serving approximately 51 million public school students regardless of their disability, ethnicity, socio-economic status or citizenship. Working with and through our state association members, NSBA advocates for equity and excellence in public education through school board leadership. We believe that public education is a civil right necessary to the dignity and freedom of the American people and that each child deserves equitable access to an education that maximizes their individual potential. For more information, visit [nsba.org](https://www.nsba.org).

This email was sent to katherine.r.pantangco@who.eop.gov
National School Boards Association, 1680 Duke Street, 2nd Floor, Alexandria, Virginia 22314-3493, U.S.A.
[Unsubscribe](#)

EXHIBIT 26

EXHIBIT 26

From: Chip Slaven
Sent: Monday, September 13, 2021 8:30 PM
To: Wall, Mary C. EOP/WHO
Cc: Kimberly Muse
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] National School Boards Association Statement on Biden Plan to Stop the Delta Variant and Boost COVID-19 Vaccinations

That will work fine Mary. I look forward to talking with you at 10:15 am.

Thanks!

Chip

From: Wall, Mary C. EOP/WHO <Mary.C.Wall@who.eop.gov>
Sent: Monday, September 13, 2021 7:01 PM
To: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Cc: Kimberly Muse <KMuse@nsba.org>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] National School Boards Association Statement on Biden Plan to Stop the Delta Variant and Boost COVID-19 Vaccinations

Chip – ok if we start around 1015am ET instead? I won't keep you long. Thanks!

From: Wall, Mary C. EOP/WHO
Sent: Sunday, September 12, 2021 9:39 PM
To: 'Chip Slaven' <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Cc: Kimberly Muse <KMuse@nsba.org>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] National School Boards Association Statement on Biden Plan to Stop the Delta Variant and Boost COVID-19 Vaccinations

I will call you at 10am ET Chip, or just thereafter. Thanks!

From: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 12, 2021 9:34 PM
To: Wall, Mary C. EOP/WHO <Mary.C.Wall@who.eop.gov>
Cc: Kimberly Muse <KMuse@nsba.org>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] National School Boards Association Statement on Biden Plan to Stop the Delta Variant and Boost COVID-19 Vaccinations

Good evening Mary,

Thanks for getting back to me. This Tuesday at 10:00 am is a good time for a call. You can call me on my cell at [REDACTED] or if you prefer I can call you. Just let me know what works best for you. I am copying Kimberly Muse who can help with any logistics. I look forward to our conversation.

Take care,

Chip

From: Wall, Mary C. EOP/WHO <Mary.C.Wall@who.eop.gov>

Sent: Saturday, September 11, 2021 5:35 PM

To: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] National School Boards Association Statement on Biden Plan to Stop the Delta Variant and Boost COVID-19 Vaccinations

Chip:

Thanks. I'd love to chat.

I have time Mon 3-430 and Tues 10-12 (ET). Do you have any time in there?

Looking forward!

MW

From: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>

Sent: Saturday, September 11, 2021 11:00 AM

To: Wall, Mary C. EOP/WHO <Mary.C.Wall@who.eop.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] National School Boards Association Statement on Biden Plan to Stop the Delta Variant and Boost COVID-19 Vaccinations

Hi Mary,

Thank you very much for email and the opportunity to participate in the briefing on Thursday. I appreciate your concern for local school board members. In addition to my concern over public schools and the health of students and staff in general right now, I worry over the many threats school board members are receiving. Anything that you can do to help us better prepare them with information and resources will certainly help. We appreciate what the President and Administration are doing to deal with these tough challenges.

I would love to have a conversation with you to discuss these issues in further detail. If you have some time in the next few weeks please let me know.

Take care,
Chip

Chip Slaven

Interim Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer

National School Boards Association

>>www.nsba.org<<

703.838.6742 (office)

[REDACTED] (cell)

1680 Duke Street, FL 2 Alexandria, VA



From: Wall, Mary C. EOP/WHO <Mary.C.Wall@who.eop.gov>

Sent: Thursday, September 9, 2021 9:56 PM

To: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>


Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] National School Boards Association Statement on Biden Plan to Stop the Delta Variant and Boost COVID-19 Vaccinations

Chip –

Thanks for joining the call today, and thanks also for this positive statement. I'm really grateful for your partnership.

We should catch up in greater depth at some point. I think often about the tough position that school boards are in at a time like now. We'd love to do anything we can to support members making tough calls on behalf of kids.

Thanks,
MW

Mary C. Wall
Senior Policy Advisor
White House COVID-19 Response Team

Mary.C.Wall@who.eop.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 9, 2021

Media Contact:
Jason Amos
jamos@nsba.org
703-838-6719

National School Boards Association Statement on Biden Plan to Stop the Delta Variant and Boost COVID-19 Vaccinations

Alexandria, VA—This afternoon, President Joe Biden outlined new policies on vaccination and testing to keep schools and the economy open during a speech on his COVID-19 Action Plan and the Delta variant. In response, Chip Slaven, interim Executive Director and CEO of the National School Boards Association (NSBA), issued the following statement:

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For their hard work, school board members, superintendents, principals, teachers, and others who work in service to our students are being subjected to online and in-person threats, abuse, and harassment. This must stop.

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This email was sent to katherine.r.pantangco@who.eop.gov
National School Boards Association, 1680 Duke Street, 2nd Floor, Alexandria, Virginia 22314-3493, U.S.A.
[Unsubscribe](#)

EXHIBIT 27

EXHIBIT 27

To: Wall, Mary C. EOP/WHO
Subject: RE: examples
Attachments: Internal NSBA Summary on School Board Disruption.docx

Hi Mary,

Thanks for letting me know about your meeting tomorrow. I am glad to hear of the interest level. We want to prepare you with as much information as possible.

Attached please find an internal NSBA document detailing some of the publicly available information concerning threats to school board members and disruptions of meetings. We used this document as a reference point to help draft the letter we plan to send. It is about two weeks old and there have been numerous new issues since then, but this should give you an idea of what school boards are facing. In addition to this summary, I have also been personally informed about several incidents that are very concerning that I will share with you. In West Virginia, an individual showed up at a school board meeting and displayed pictures of a board members young children taken at a camp in which they were not wearing masks. The individual had gone on to the school board members personal Facebook page and captured the images of his children. In Ohio, one school board has been facing large crowds attempting to block entry into meetings, screaming and sometimes spitting at the members, and keying their cars. That same board has also received a letter sent with a fake address claiming they would be coming after the board and will make them pay dearly. The threat was nonspecific, but you get the idea of what is happening. There are also reports of Proud Boys showing up at various school board meetings and teaming up with anti-maskers, Qanon followers now considering running for school board elections and becoming more interested in school boards, and general levels of hostility around mask wearing and political issues such as debate over critical race theory—which is not actually taught in any public school. Misinformation and social media fueled by national groups and extremists are driving much of the debate as well as partisan politics. School board elections are generally nonpartisan and locally driven. This seems like a test drive for issues during the upcoming national campaigns. I would not be surprised if there are intentional social media campaigns from foreign powers or other bad operators also popping up like what happened during the 2016 election.

I want to help you with your meeting tomorrow so I am providing some bullets below that I hope will be useful to you. Please bear in mind the letter is not final yet and we are still vetting through our legal team as well as our officers. But I can tell you that the areas for consideration I am interested in terms of federal requests and/or recommendations are below. I think our goals are the same so we want to offer as much information to you as we can in advance. Please just don't consider them formal until our official letter comes. There could be changes or modifications tomorrow, but our interest is in the following areas:

- NSBA would like to see a joint collaboration among federal law enforcement agencies, state and local law enforcement, and public school officials to focus on the threats to public schools and how to deal with them.
- NSBA is interested in getting the assistance and resources of the U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Secret Service, and its National Threat Assessment Center regarding the level of risk to public schoolchildren, educators, board members, and facilities/campuses. We would also like to see the assistance of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service to intervene against threatening letters and cyberbullying attacks that have been transmitted to students, school board members, district administrators, and other educators.

- NSBA is considering requesting a joint expedited review by the U.S. Departments of Justice, Education, and Homeland Security, along with the appropriate training, coordination, investigations, and enforcement mechanisms from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), including any technical assistance necessary from, and state and local coordination with, its National Security Branch and Counterterrorism Division, as well as any other federal agency with relevant jurisdictional authority and oversight.
- Additionally, NSBA is interested in a review of appropriate enforceable actions against these crimes and acts of violence under the Gun-Free School Zones Act, the PATRIOT Act in regards to domestic terrorism, Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, Violent Interference with Federally Protected Rights statute, Conspiracy Against Rights statute, an Executive Order to enforce all applicable federal laws for the protection of students and public school district personnel, and any related measure.

The letter will go into greater detail and will also contain additional clarity and examples of incidents school board members are facing. Many of the examples that will be cited are from the attached internal document. Please let me know if you have any questions and/or comments. Our members need a strong stance and leadership from NSBA so that is what I am hoping to do with the letter. My hope is this just the beginning of additional collaboration. We very much want to be part of the solution going forward and work with you.

Thanks again for your leadership,
Chip

From: Wall, Mary C. EOP/WHO <Mary.C.Wall@who.eop.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 10:10 PM
To: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Subject: RE: examples

Chip:

Thanks for the heads up. Is there any way we can take a look at the letter in advance of release? In specific, I'm meeting w colleagues from other WH offices and DOJ tomorrow morning to see if there might be any options we can pursue here, so if you have concrete recommendations in your letter (e.g., the threat assessment you mentioned), would be good to know so I can include in discussions.

Thanks,
MW

From: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 9:34 PM
To: Wall, Mary C. EOP/WHO <Mary.C.Wall@who.eop.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: examples

Good evening Mary,

Thanks very much for the email and the conversation last week. I will work with our team and send you some of the most egregious examples of the conduct tomorrow.

Just so you know, we plan to release a joint statement tomorrow with AASA concerning the current situation. As I indicated last week, NSBA is also planning to send the President a letter requesting federal assistance to help school board members and public schools manage these threats. We hope to have that letter ready to go by Thursday. I will be sure you receive a copy of it.

We really appreciate the responsiveness of the Administration and wish we could simply focus on helping students get back in school, but the new reality is at times very ugly. I will get the examples to you tomorrow as soon as I can.

Have a good night and thanks,
Chip

Chip Slaven

Interim Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer

National School Boards Association

>www.nsba.org<

703.838.6742 (office)

██████████ (cell)

1680 Duke Street, FL 2 Alexandria, VA



From: Wall, Mary C. EOP/WHO <Mary.C.Wall@who.eop.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 9:37 AM

To: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>

Subject: examples

Hi Chip! Hope you're well.

When we spoke last week I think you said you could send through to me some of the more egregious examples of your members who have faced safety issues and/or reached out to law enforcement without adequate response.

Do you have any examples on hand? Would be helpful as we brainstorm solutions.

Thanks!

MW

EXHIBIT 28

EXHIBIT 28

From: Chip Slaven
Sent: Wednesday, September 29, 2021 11:29 AM
To: Jane Mellow; Deborah Rigsby; Jason Amos
Subject: Draft White House Email

Here it the email and list of staff I plan to copy. We can discuss at 1:45.

I plan to send it to Julie Chavez Rodriguez and copy White House staffers Mary Wall, Katharine Pantangco, and Nexley Silva, and Aaliyah Samuel and Kimberly Foote with the Department of Education

Julie,

Please find attached a letter to President Biden sent on behalf of the National School Boards Association (NSBA), our state association members, and the thousands of local school board members across the nation concerning threats to public schools and school board members. We appreciate the recent opportunity to discuss these issues with White House and Administration officials. The letter requests that federal law enforcement and relevant agencies work with state and local authorities and public schools to address these ongoing threats. It also outlines some of the publicly reported threats and incidents that have taken place.

We plan to release this letter to our members and make it available to the media later today but wanted to get it to you prior to that release. NSBA appreciates the concern White House staff, Secretary Cardona, and other members of the Biden Administration have shown on this issue and we pledge to work with President Biden and the appropriate federal officials on this growing concern. If you have any questions concerning the letter, you may reach out to me or Jane Mellow, NSBA's interim chief advocacy officer who is copied on this letter.

Thanks again for your leadership.

Sincerely,
Chip Slaven

EXHIBIT 29

EXHIBIT 29

From: Wall, Mary C. EOP/WHO <Mary.C.Wall@who.eop.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 29, 2021 9:44 PM
To: Chip Slaven
Cc: Rodriguez, Julie C. EOP/WHO
Subject: RE: Letter to President Biden from the National School Boards Association

Chip:

Thank you for sending in advance. We will review, and we remain committed to working with you on these very important issues. As the President has stated, we stand with educators who are doing right by kids – and we know they/you all need to be protected now more than ever.

MW

From: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 29, 2021 3:00 PM
To: Rodriguez, Julie C. EOP/WHO <Julie.C.Rodriguez@who.eop.gov>
Cc: Pantangco, Katherine R. EOP/WHO <Katherine.R.Pantangco@who.eop.gov>; Wall, Mary C. EOP/WHO <Mary.C.Wall@who.eop.gov>; Samuel, Aaliyah <Aaliyah.Samuel@ed.gov>; Watkins-Foote, Kimberly <Kimberly.Watkins-Foote@ed.gov>; MBX WHO DPC partnerships <partnerships@who.eop.gov>; Jane Mellow <JMellow@nsba.org>; Deborah Rigsby <drigsby@nsba.org>; Jason Amos <JAmos@nsba.org>; Kimberly Muse <KMuse@nsba.org>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Letter to President Biden from the National School Boards Association

Dear Julie,

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We plan to release this letter to our members today and will make it available to the media tomorrow, it is embargoed until then, but wanted to get it to you prior to that release. NSBA appreciates the concern White House staff, Secretary Cardona, and other members of the Biden Administration have shown on this issue and we pledge to work with President Biden and the appropriate federal officials on this growing concern. If you have any questions concerning the letter, you may reach out to me or Jane Mellow, NSBA's interim chief advocacy officer, who is copied on this letter.

Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,
Chip Slaven

Chip Slaven
Interim Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer
National School Boards Association

>>www.nsba.org<<;

703.838.6742 (office)

[REDACTED] (cell)

1680 Duke Street, FL 2 Alexandria, VA



EXHIBIT 30

EXHIBIT 30

On Tuesday, September 14, 2021, I was a participant in the quarterly OESAED meeting. Early in the meeting, I was asked to give an update on NSBA in general and where things stood with the board regarding steps to address the concerns expressed at the meeting in Utah and discussed at August board meeting and at the Delegate Assembly.

After introducing the staff and saying a few words about them, I began my update. I stated there were a number of steps and other activities underway that should be of interest to them. I noted the recent announcement that executive directors would be on board committees including Bob Schneiderman of New York who was in the meeting, I briefed them that a draft RFP had been written for the executive director search and would be going out soon, and I told them I was working with the officers to develop next steps and action items to address the governance issues and other concerns. I updated them that we were now working on the NSBA budget, that I was working on improving the work climate for the NSBA staff through a series of steps including a survey to staff, conducting a search for a leadership consultant to help the executive team create a better climate, and we were moving forward to hire a new human resources director as soon as possible. I also told them we were rethinking how we would be hiring since the workplace was changing and we were going to include staff in all phases of office renovations and future scheduling as part of our culture change. In terms of hiring, I indicated we would be looking to expand the work of the advocacy team and specifically increase the work of the Center for Public Education which has one excellent employee but where we nonetheless need to devote more attention as was indicated during the regional calls this summer. I moved on to briefly discuss Annual Conference and other events and that we were looking to offer a reduced rate to encourage wider attendance. I wrapped up my remarks with a quick advocacy update and stated I was very concerned over the hostility and climate towards school board members. I informed them I had discussed the issue with Mary Wall, special assistant to the President, in a one-on-one call earlier that day. I had requested the meeting. Throughout my presentation I took note that several executive directors appeared displeased as I spoke through their nonverbal body language. This behavior included eye rolling, the shaking of the head no, grimacing and frowning, and at least one executive director audibly sighed when I was making one point.

After I concluded several executive directors began to bring up items. Andrea from Florida expressed concern that she had never heard anything about state executive directors being appointed to committees prior to me mentioning it that day. She then expressed similar frustrations that she had seen any updates on the search for a permanent executive director. I pointed out that information did go out on both issues. We were then criticized by another director for only sending the information to executive directors and not sending it out widely. In fact, the information was shared to executive directors directly and they were featured items in the weekly NSBA Connector which is a communications tool that all of their officers receive every Friday.

Valarie Wilson from Georgia then took over the questioning and outlined a series of concerns and disagreements with things I said during my update. She questioned why we were focusing on advocacy and not hiring for member services. She indicated that many long-term employees were still upset about NSBA's climate and questioned why we were going to bring in a consultant to work with executive team. She believes consultants do not understand NSBA and stated instead a SWAT analysis should be undertaken. She then moved on and widely criticized the NSBA staff for not understanding what state school board associations did citing her own experience during the strategic learning process as proof of her statement though she offered no details. Valarie also stated that it was her understanding that staff viewed executive directors as those "Big bad state association executive directors" and she heard that those comments about them had been occurring recently without attributing it to a source. Valarie also criticized the advocacy team for not producing our own analysis during the recent speech by President Biden and she cited that Great Cities Schools had produced their own analysis prior to the President's speech even occurring. Valarie also questioned the officers and board's commitment to the action plan and she as well as Andrea and others stated they must have a written update on next steps. She said she

did not care what the plan said but wanted to see something. Several others expressed the same sentiment. At the conclusion of her remarks, Valarie asked how they could help me be successful.

I then responded “I would love to discuss how they could be helpful to me” and Valarie replied “Let’s get into it.” I told them that I needed them to better communicate with me whether through phone call, text, or personal email just to me. I told them I was frequently surprised by executive directors without getting any of the typical courtesies they would expect from me. Often the first I hear of something would only be when they send an email and copy others on the email including board members. This shows a lack of respect for my position as interim executive director and makes it hard to address items proactively. Valarie asked if I was referring to the letter she recently sent to the board and I responded I was talking generally and there were many example of this I could cite but she again mentioned her letter. I told her that it would have been appropriate for her to let me know a letter like that was coming which she seemed shrugged off and muttered it was just asking for an action plan. I pointed out that one of Tammy Grissom’s biggest complaints was that NSBA did not give adequate heads up to her and other executive directors stating, “we could take care of many of these things in a phone call.” One of Tammy’s examples was a letter we sent in 2020 in which she was not given a heads up. I also addressed several the staff related accusations including that staff don’t understand the state associations or what their executive directors do. Additionally, I addressed the inaccuracies cited in her complaints over the President Biden remarks. I explained that in my discussions with the White House that day the document they provided was embargoed for release until after the President spoke. Great Cities issued it to their members prior to the speech. I indicated they may have misunderstood the messaging or perhaps I did but that was why we sent it out when we did. I noted that we issued the information along with an NSBA statement less than one hour after the President’s speech. We were one of the only groups to issue a public statement that early and as a result, NSBA was the only organization quoted by the Associated Press. I also pointed out that I had seen what Great Cities sent out prior to the speech and it was not a detailed analysis. It was the same document we sent out with several bullets summarizing in the emails simply highlighting the key points but clearly did not contain any organization specific analysis. I also pointed out that NSBA did release its own analysis within 24 hours and that the document contained some very specific areas concerning OSHA that required further research. I stated that working on issues like this one requires a lot of time and the advocacy team was the smallest of NSBA’s teams at five staff members which was why it was critical we hire more people. I noted that I was on my first vacation from NSBA since Labor Day week 2019 when I learned of the speech and I dropped everything and worked on it most of the afternoon on the day of the announcement and I had staff involved from both the advocacy and communications team.

After my response Gina Patterson of Virginia stated she did not like my tone when responding to Valarie and of Arizona agreed with her. No other executive directors commented on that issue though Valarie then thanked Gina and in the Zoom chat. I stated again that I was indeed very frustrated with the lack of support and I needed their help. I indicated that this has been a cycle since I started and I have had very little opportunity to speak with them as a group pointing out in Utah that I was excluded from the executive session which would have been very beneficial to me. I told them the staff is exhausted and so am I and we only have 50 staff right now which is down from more than 70 prior to the pandemic.

EXHIBIT 31



The leading advocate for public education

Letter to the President of the United States

Presentation by Chip Slaven to the NSBA Board of Directors

Timeline

- Sept. 9 Chip participated in White House call on President' plan on the pandemic. During that call he brought up concerns over threats with the White House and other education leaders.
- Sept. 9 Chip directed staff to draft letter to the White House calling attention to what was happening and asking for federal assistance. He also asked staff to research incidents across the country.
- Sept. 10 Staff provided a list of incidents of threats and violence from media reports.
- **Sept. 14 at the quarterly OSAED Liaison meeting Chip gave an overview of ongoing issues and mentioned that we were going to write a letter to the President requesting federal assistance to respond to threats and violence at school board meetings and schools**
- Sept. 16 Chip appeared on NPR's 1A on the landscape facing school boards and discussed many of these issues. (Threats were one of the main areas of discussion)
- Sept. 16 NSBA and AASA began discussions on a joint statement calling for an end to threats and violence toward school board members and school officials
- Sept. 16 National Association of Secondary School Principals (AASSP) released a statement calling on the President to protect school leaders from threats and violence. This was the first call for federal assistance. It received some media coverage but not the same intensity as the NSBA letter.

Timeline

- Sept. 17 staff shared first draft of letter with Chip
- **Sept. 17 In the Executive Director listserv, an ED shared the NASSP statement and asked for “something similar from NSBA”**
- **Sept. 17 Chip responded to the Executive Director listserv saying that we were working on multiple efforts and specifically called out the upcoming statement with AASA and that we were drafting a letter to the President to call attention to the issue and ask for specific action.**
- **Sept. 20 During BOD Chip noted that we were working on a letter to the White House asking for assistance with school board members receiving threats and violent acts**
- Sept. 21 White House requested examples of threats NSBA had learned of and any recommendations for federal law enforcement.
- Sept. 26 Letter shared with the NSBA BOD officers
- **Sept. 27 Officers approve the letter and request that President Viola Garcia also sign the letter.**
- Sept. 27 Draft letter shared with the NSBA Executive Team and communications for review and comment.

Timeline

- Sept. 29 Embargoed letter sent to White House staff, NSBA BOD, and state association executive directors. **No comments are received from any party.**
- Sept 30 Letter Publicly released, media inquiries begin
- The letter is brought up at the daily White House Press Briefing.
- Oct 1 U.S. Department of Homeland Security requests an individual meeting with NSBA to discuss the threats and resources necessary (that meeting is still being scheduled)
- Oct 4 Attorney General Merrick Garland releases a memorandum to the U.S. Attorneys and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to meet with local law enforcement within 30 days concerning threats to public schools and education leaders including school board members.
- Oct 15 U.S. Department of Homeland Security hosts a briefing for public school leaders. The briefing indicated DHS and other federal law enforcement was seeing disturbing threats through online forums. They confirmed that in their communications with local and state law enforcement those trends were also being identified by those law enforcement agencies.

The Process NSBA Follows for Letters and Official Comments

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS OF THE NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION (As amended August 13, 2021, NSBA's Virtual Delegate Assembly Second Business Meeting)

Article XII—Executive Director

Section 2. Duties

(a) The Executive Director shall manage, supervise and direct the operations of the association. The Executive Director shall be an ex officio member of the Delegate Assembly, Board of Directors, and Executive Committee, without voting rights.

The Process NSBA Follows for Letters and Official Comments

Letters/comments are developed by the staff under the direction of the chief advocacy officer who shares it with the Executive Director for approval. The communication must correlate to and be consistent with NSBA policies and overall goals. The Executive Director has final approval of the materials.

Total Letters to the Administration including the President, Cabinet Secretaries, Agencies, or Congress since June 12, 2019.

**Total Letters/Comments Sent by NSBA
During This Time Period**

- 2019: 8
- 2020: 30
- 2021: 21

- TOTAL: 59

**Total Letters Shared with Officers and/or
BOD for Approval Prior to Release**

- 2019: 0
- 2020: 0
- 2021: 1 (officers)

- TOTAL: 1

The Letter Is Consistent with Multiple NSBA Policies and Statements in Beliefs & Policies and Resolutions

Beliefs & Policies:

- 2.2 Collaboration with Law Enforcement and School Resource Officers
- 2.9 Elimination of Violence and Disruptive Behavior
- 2.12 Harassment
- 3.8 Opposition to Hate Crimes and Violent Acts Against Individuals of Color and/or Minorities in School

Resolutions:

- 3. School Safety and Crime Prevention

The Letter Is Consistent with Testimony Provided by NSBA to the U.S Department of Education Federal Commission on School Safety

But there are instances such as those involving the potential for mass violence, that can require a broader, more comprehensive approach.

So NSBA believes that there is federal role in providing greater and sustained resources for locally determined programs that are critical to school safety.

The Letter Is Consistent with Testimony Provided by NSBA to the U.S Department of Education Federal Commission on School Safety

These include school resources officers, school counseling, emergency preparedness and response training, interagency coordination and comprehensive resources guides on available federal assistance.

Experience with Threat Assessment

Office of Governor Robert E. Wise Jr., State of West Virginia

- *Director of Federal Policy and Intergovernmental Affairs*

Member of the Governor's senior staff and primary point of contact between Governor Wise and the White House, Congress, other federal agencies, other governors, and major policy organizations such as the National Governors' Association (NGA) and Southern Governors' Association (SGA). **Lead the strategic efforts on all major federal policy issues including public safety, disaster prevention, mitigation, and response and national and state security issues including threat assessment, preparedness, and response.**

Experience with Threat Assessment

Office of Governor Robert E. Wise Jr., State of West Virginia

- *Director of Federal Policy and Intergovernmental Affairs*

Appointed by the Governor as his official representative to the Terrorist Threat Management Team which included representatives of the U.S. Attorney's Office, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the West Virginia State Police, Office of Emergency Services, National Guard, and other relevant federal and state agencies.

- Selected and trained in threat assessment as a special appointee to the National Governor's Association Homeland Security Policy Institute which included live training sessions with FEMA officials and federal law enforcement in Savannah, GE and Philadelphia, PA.
- Participated in Operation Mountaineer, a tabletop exercise on domestic terrorism involving extremist white supremacy organizations and simulated situations including threat assessment of received intelligence.
- Was the point of contact with federal law enforcement and FEMA on issues of national security and terrorism, foreign and domestic, for the State of West Virginia and the appropriate state agencies.
- Was the point of contact with the West Virginia State Police (WVSP) on all threats including the WVSP operations and response plans in the DC Sniper attacks, cases of suspected anthrax and threatening letters, planning the counter terrorism response plans for the Southern Governor's Meeting in 2003 held in West Virginia, and helped design the safety and threat prevention measures for "Bridge Day" one of the largest events in the state that included all major federal and state law enforcement agencies including the FBI.

The Letter Does NOT Refer to Parents as “Domestic Terrorists” or Suggest It. The Word Parent(s) and/or Terrorists is Not in the Letter at All. The Associated Press and Other Media Have Called Claims Otherwise False

Posts mischaracterize school board organization’s letter to Biden

By TERRENCE FRASER October 5, 2021

CLAIM: The National School Boards Association is asking the Biden administration to label parents who protest school policies domestic terrorists.

AP’S ASSESSMENT: False. The organization — the NSBA, for short — is not asking Biden to label parents who protest at school board meetings as terrorists. The NSBA asked the administration to do an interagency investigation of threats of violence against school board members and said the threats “could be the equivalent to a form of domestic terrorism and hate crimes.” Biden has yet to publicly comment on the issue, and there’s no indication he or the Department of Justice has called protesting parents “domestic terrorists,” despite false claims to that effect by social media users.

Despite What Has Been Widely Reported, Both Internally and Externally, State Associations Were Informed a Detailed Letter to the President Was Going to be Sent by NSBA Concerning Threats to School Board Members and Public Schools Weeks Before It Was Done and Despite Reports to the Contrary, There Was Interest From State Associations in Sending Such a Letter

From Organization of State Association Executive Directors Bylaws::

The Liaison Committee is authorized to:

- i. Comment and offer recommendations on agenda items affecting state associations to be considered by the NSBA Board of Directors and the NSBA executive director.
- ii. Provide advice and feedback to NSBA concerning development of programs, products, materials, and services for the benefit of state associations.
- iii. Provide a forum for state association views relating to NSBA.
- iv. Provide feedback and information to OSAED members concerning NSBA activities.
- v. Develop recommendations for the membership to consider at a regular or special meeting as needed.
- vi. Perform any additional functions previously performed by the State Association Executive Directors' NSBA Liaison Committee under NSBA policies or guidelines in effect at the time these Bylaws were approved.

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During the Tuesday, September 14 quarterly OSAED Liaison meeting, I gave an overview of ongoing issues to the executive directors in attendance. During my remarks, **I stated that safety of school board members and public schools was by far my biggest concern due to this being a potential life and death issue. I also stated we owed it to the members and the local school boards to be a national leader on the issue and I was being asked about what we going to do on a regular basis by state associations and local school boards.** In the conversation with OSAED, I mentioned I had a call with White House staff earlier that day and indicated to **them I would be sending a letter on the issue.** Later in the meeting, I mentioned it again, in explaining something on another issue that action and a letter were being developed.

Despite What Has Been Widely Reported, Both Internally and Externally, State Associations Were Informed a Detailed Letter to the President Was Going to be Sent by NSBA Concerning Threats to School Board Members and Public Schools Weeks Before It Was Done and Despite Reports to the Contrary, There Was Interest From State Associations in Sending Such a Letter

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Original Message:

Sent: 09-17-2021 10:28:19 AM

From: Thomas Bertrand

Subject: **NASSP Letter to President Asking for Help Protecting Principals--What About School Board Members?**

Good morning,

NASSP released this document...**wondering if there may be an opportunity to show support and empathy for our school board members across the country with something similar from NSBA?** I am considering something similar for our Illinois Congressional Delegation, **but a national approach may have more impact.**

Stay well,

Tom

Thomas Bertrand
Executive Director
Illinois Association of School Boards
Springfield, IL

Despite What Has Been Widely Reported, Both Internally and Externally, State Associations Were Informed a Detailed Letter to the President Was Going to be Sent by NSBA Concerning Threats to School Board Members and Public Schools Weeks Before It Was Done and Despite Reports to the Contrary, There Was Interest From State Associations in Sending Such a Letter

Sep 17, 2021 12:51 PM

Chip Slaven

Hi Tom,

Thanks for the question. It is a very important one. Threats to school board members and public schools has risen to the top of a lot of concerns for me right now. I mentioned this as an important issue for me and all of us on the OSAED earlier this week and referenced some of what I will outline for you below in that conversation.

NSBA is taking a number of actions regarding calling for protection and resources to assist school board members with these threats including a call for the President and federal government for more assistance.

On Tuesday of this week, I had a one on one phone call with a White House staff member on behalf of NSBA and our state association members discussing these concerns. I requested the meeting specifically to talk about these concerns. I walked through several examples of threats we had learned about recently and what is happening to trigger some of these incidents and threats. Additionally, we discussed a number of options to help school board members and I was promised the White House would explore how to help us and we would speak again to follow up how best to proceed. I also informed them in that call we are formally asking the federal government for assistance.

On Monday of next week, we will be releasing a joint statement with AASA calling for action and expressing the concerns of both school board members and superintendents who are also receiving high levels of threats. Further, NSBA has drafted its own individual letter that has been in the planning for several days that will also go out next week. This is a very detailed letter calling attention to the problem and laying out some very specific requests for action. That letter will be shared out with all of you next week when it is sent out so you can share it with your members and also your Congressional Delegations. I also anticipate taking several other actions on this issue.

These actions are in addition to other recent interactions with the U.S. Department of Education concerning these concerns. I firmly believe this is a significant problem that requires a high level of attention at the national level. I think any action by the state associations on this issue would also be beneficial and we would be glad to assist you in those efforts.

Thanks again for the question Tom, I am glad I can provide this information. Please let me know if you have other questions.

Take care,
Chip

Some Key Quotes from the September 27, 2021, Email to State Association Executive Directors

Threats to school board members and public schools has risen to the top of a lot of concerns for me right now. I mentioned this as an important issue for me and all of us on the OSAED earlier this week and referenced some of what I will outline for you below in that conversation.

NSBA is taking a number of actions regarding calling for protection and resources to assist school board members with these threats **including a call for the President and federal government for more assistance.**

On Tuesday of this week, I had a one on one phone call with a White House staff member on behalf of NSBA and our state association members discussing these concerns. I requested the meeting specifically to talk about these concerns. I walked through several examples of threats we had learned about recently and what is happening to trigger some of these incidents and threats. Additionally, we discussed a number of options to help school board members and I was promised the White House would explore how to help us and we would speak again to follow up how best to proceed. **I also informed them in that call we are formally asking the federal government for assistance.**

Further, NSBA has drafted its own individual letter that has been in the planning for several days that will also go out next week. This is a very detailed letter calling attention to the problem and and laying out some very specific requests for action. That letter will be shared out with all of you next week when it is sent out so you can share it with your members and also your Congressional Delegations. I also anticipate taking several other actions on this issue.

The Threats Are Real and Widespread: Board Members are Leaving Over Them

- **Two Coeur d'Alene school board members resign**
 -board members who voted for masks were targeted by their names and addresses being posted online along with the names and addresses of their family members. **The online posts encouraged others to “pay them a visit.”**
- **District 303 school board member resigns over 'unrelenting harassment'**
 - "Someone has harassed me in my face walking into meetings when I was on a walker, I've had dead animals thrown into my driveway, my house has been vandalized, Waibel said during the public comment portion of the meeting. The district confirms it has hired security for some staff members because of threats online and in person.
- **Facing threats, superintendents and school boards turn to legislature, law enforcement**
 - “The North Bend School Board didn’t have anything controversial on its agenda last week, **but an FBI warning prompted the directors to abandon their open session and go virtual.**”
- **Rockwood parents organize to support school board in battle over critical race theory**
 - "Just this week, we had references to lynching directed at our student services support director," said Anselmo. "And it's inappropriate and we're here to say it's not going to be tolerated."
- **School board members resign following 'toxic' debates over CRT and mask mandates**
 - "It had finally reached a point for me when I started having some serious health problems, both mentally and physically," he said. "It started with suicidal ideations. I didn't want to exist anymore and felt things would be better if I just disappeared."

The Threats Are Real and Widespread: Activities by Extremist Hate Groups and Conspiracy Movements Are the Worst Concern

- **Proud Boys Are Teaming Up With Anti-Maskers to Threaten School Boards Over COVID Mandates** Days earlier, in North Carolina, a school board meeting over masking devolved into chaos after attendees attempted to “overthrow” the officials and install themselves as a new board. And members of the far-right paramilitary group the Proud Boys have attended contentious school board meetings about masking in Florida and New Hampshire.
- **Orange Co. school board passes resolution to condemn hate groups on campus after Proud Boys rally** It was Friday night football on Sept. 24 that first raised eyebrows. In the roadway outside Orange High, several members of the far-right extremist group, The Proud Boys, rallied to blast vaccine mandates and mask requirements. Some students and staff wrote the school board, saying they were afraid and felt unsafe.
- **Proud Boys’ Presence Leads to Metal Detectors, Deputies at School Board Meetings** “There were two men in Proud Boys shirts and hats,” said Chair of the Orange County Schools Board of Education Hillary MacKenzie. “One wore a stocking over his face, which completely obscured his entire face for the whole meeting. The other one told our board during public comment that someone should tie rocks around our necks and we should throw ourselves in a river.”
- **Florida school boards are under fire over COVID, race policies. Where conservatives see free speech, others see threats and harassment** Brown said she recently had more than a dozen people show up at her house, carrying signs calling her a tyrant, and yelling at her through a bull horn to resign.

The Threats Are Real and Widespread: Activities by Extremist Hate Groups and Conspiracy Movements Are the Worst Concern

Will Sommer, Politics Reporter. The Daily Beast, October 15, 2021

Meet the Tomahawk-Toting QAnoner Terrorizing School Boards

“You forkin’ scumbags will not walk away from this clean,” McKay said in his video, addressing the school board members. “Believe me. Because when this army, the Patriot Streetfighter nation comes at you, you’re forked. So I would say, run the white flag up the pole now because if you haven’t realized at this point with these ladies that they’re coming, all you shitheads, there will be nowhere to run. There’s nowhere to run. You’re all hypocrites, you’re forkin’ scumbag losers.” In the school-board video, McKay also promoted the idea of using violence against police officers who enforce coronavirus restrictions. “Sooner or later, we the people show up with arms, outnumbering you 50-to-1,” McKay said. “Then at that point, you’re going to have a decision to make. Do you want to go home, or do you not want to go home to your family?”

Federal Activity As a Result of the Letter

- Sept 30 The National School Boards Association letter comes up in a question by a CBS News reporter during the daily briefing by the White House Press Secretary
- Oct 1 U.S. Department of Homeland Security requests an individual meeting with NSBA to discuss the threats and resources necessary (that meeting is still being scheduled)
- Oct 4 Attorney General Merrick Garland releases a memorandum to the U.S. Attorneys and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to meet with local law enforcement within 30 days concerning threats to public schools and education leaders including school board members.
- Oct 15 U.S. Department of Homeland Security hosts a briefing for public school leaders. The briefing indicated DHS and other federal law enforcement was seeing disturbing threats through online forums. They confirmed that in their communications with local and state law enforcement those trends were also being identified by those law enforcement agencies.

EXHIBIT 32

EXHIBIT 32

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News Releases

September 16, 2021

NASSP CALLS ON FEDERAL OFFICIALS TO PROTECT SCHOOL LEADERS FROM THREATS AND VIOLENCE

Reston, VA—The National Association for Secondary School Principals (NASSP) is calling on federal officials to provide support for school leaders being threatened and undermined by those who disagree with school guidelines on COVID-19 best practices.

While the pandemic has impacted every one—school leaders are bearing the brunt of conflicts over masks, quarantines, vaccines, and other highly charged issues. They have been faced with hostile community members, threats to their own safety or safety of the school, and with non-compliance with rules that are meant to keep us all safe.

Dr. Teresa M. Hill, Principal at Walden Grove High School in Arizona and NASSP member, tells of her experience with threats at her school: “One month ago, seven people refused to leave our campus demanding a quarantined student attend class. After a lockdown of the front office for three hours, we were forced to arrest three of them. This has resulted in multiple threatening and intimidating voice messages, emails, and social media comments directly targeting me. Calling me a Nazi, a fascist, using profanity, and being told to ‘eat the end of a shotgun’ is beyond disturbing. Two weeks later, three men threatened and intimidated an elementary principal in my area by demanding a citizen’s arrest while holding zip ties in their hands.”

“While we appreciate the guidance and words of support from the Biden Administration, the Department of Education and the Centers for Disease Control, more concrete action is needed fast to protect our school leaders and schools,” said NASSP CEO Ronn Nozoe. “We need the full authority of the federal government to help us remove or ban threatening individuals from our schools who are determined to do nothing more than disrupt learning or potentially harm us or our staff. At the very least, we need the U.S. Department of Education to issue specific guidance on the authority school leaders have to protect themselves and our ability to remove or ban hostile parents and individuals from school grounds who threaten our safety.”

School leaders are facing threats because they are simply trying to follow the health and scientific safety guidance that the CDC, state, and local health departments are issuing. NASSP is calling on federal officials to protect school leaders from rampant hostility and violence that disrupts our schools and threatens the safety of our educators and students. Learn more [here](#).

###

About NASSP

[The National Association of Secondary School Principals](#) (NASSP) is the leading organization of middle level and high school principals and other school leaders across the United States. NASSP seeks to transform education through school leadership, recognizing that the fulfillment of each student’s potential relies on great leaders in every school committed to the success of each student. Reflecting its long-standing commitment to student leadership development, NASSP administers the [National Honor Society](#), [National Junior Honor Society](#), [National Elementary Honor Society](#), and [National Student Council](#).

Contact

 Regina Grossman, NASSP

 media@nassp.org



National Association of Secondary School Principals

1904 Association Drive, Reston, VA 20191-1537
(703) 860-0200

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EXHIBIT 33

EXHIBIT 33

From: Nozoe, Ronn <nozoer@nassp.org>
Sent: Friday, September 17, 2021 5:15 PM
To: Holmes, Alexis [NEA]; Marla Ucelli-Kashyap, Educational Issues; Richard Long
Cc: LFA Board; Frequent Attendee; LFA Communications
Subject: Re: Announcement from NASSP re to protect school leaders

Thank you Alexis and NEA!

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Holmes, Alexis [NEA] <aholmes@nea.org>
Sent: Friday, September 17, 2021 11:33 AM
To: Marla Ucelli-Kashyap, Educational Issues; Richard Long
Cc: LFA Board; Frequent Attendee; LFA Communications
Subject: Re: Announcement from NASSP re to protect school leaders

Agreed!

NEA will provide social media lift too.

Alexis Holmes
Manager, Education Policy & Practice
National Education Association
aholmes@nea.org



From: Marla Ucelli-Kashyap, Educational Issues <mucelli@aft.org>
Sent: Friday, September 17, 2021 6:43 AM
To: Richard Long <longr@learningfirst.org>
Cc: LFA Board <lfaboard@learningfirst.org>; Frequent Attendee <frequent@learningfirst.org>; LFA Communications <communications@learningfirst.org>
Subject: Re: Announcement from NASSP re to protect school leaders

This is important. Thanks to Ronn, Amanda, and NASSP for doing it. AFT is proud to lift it up on our social media.

Sent from my iPad

On Sep 16, 2021, at 2:09 PM, Richard Long <longr@learningfirst.org> wrote:

I have been asked to circulate the following.

Good afternoon,

NASSP has a new action alert calling on federal officials to provide support to school leaders who have been threatened in recent months as they implement COVID mitigation measures and diversity & equity training for staff. They had an outpouring of response from members similar to the stories in this [Education Week article](#) and felt we needed to take action. Please contact Amanda Karhuse (karhusea@nassp.org) with questions.

[<image001.jpg>](#)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

September 16, 2021

Contact:

Regina Grossman, NASSP, 305-807-8085, grossmanr@nassp.org

NASSP Calls on Federal Officials to Protect School Leaders from Threats and Violence

Reston, VA—The National Association for Secondary School Principals (NASSP) is calling on federal officials to provide support for school leaders being threatened and undermined by those who disagree with school guidelines on COVID-19 best practices.

While the pandemic has impacted every one—school leaders are bearing the brunt of conflicts over masks, quarantines, vaccines, and other highly charged issues. They have been faced with hostile community members, threats to their own safety or safety of the school, and with non-compliance with rules that are meant to keep us all safe.

Dr. Teresa M. Hill, Principal at Walden Grove High School in Arizona and NASSP member, tells of her experience with threats at her school: “One month ago, seven people refused to leave our campus demanding a quarantined student attend class. After a lockdown of the front office for three hours, we were forced to arrest three of them. This has resulted in multiple threatening and intimidating voice messages, emails, and social media comments directly targeting me. Calling me a Nazi, a fascist, using profanity, and being told to ‘eat the end of a shotgun’ is beyond disturbing. Two weeks later, three men threatened and intimidated an elementary principal in my area by demanding a citizen’s arrest while holding zip ties in their hands.”

“While we appreciate the guidance and words of support from the Biden Administration, the Department of Education and the Centers for Disease Control, more concrete action is needed fast to protect our school leaders and schools,” **said NASSP CEO Ronn Nozoe.** “We need the full authority of the federal government to help us remove or ban threatening individuals from our schools who are determined to do nothing more than

disrupt learning or potentially harm us or our staff. At the very least, we need the U.S. Department of Education to issue specific guidance on the authority school leaders have to protect themselves and our ability to remove or ban hostile parents and individuals from school grounds who threaten our safety.”

School leaders are facing threats because they are simply trying to follow the health and scientific safety guidance that the CDC, state, and local health departments are issuing. NASSP is calling on federal officials to protect school leaders from rampant hostility and violence that disrupts our schools and threatens the safety of our educators and students. Learn more [here](#).

###

About NASSP

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Richard Long, Ed.D.
Executive Director
Learning First Alliance
1250 N. Pitt St.
Alexandria, VA 22314
He/Him/His
longr@learningfirst.org

Check out www.publicschoolproud.org and join us Feb. 21- 25, 2022 for Public Schools Week!

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EXHIBIT 34

EXHIBIT 34

From: Chip Slaven
Sent: Thursday, September 16, 2021 12:32 PM
To: Ellerson Ng, Noelle
Cc: Jane Mellow; Deborah Rigsby; Renee Joe; Jason Amos
Subject: RE: idea for joint press statement calling on Federal Officials to Protect School Leaders from Threats and Violence

Hi Noelle,

We would be honored to participate in a joint release. We are in the middle of our CUBE Conference in Atlanta, GE so I am here with our communications team on site. I just spoke with Jane and she will run point on our end since she is back at home base. Jane will work with Renee and Jason on the communications side. I am also copying Deborah who is helping coordinate some of our work on this issue.

Please feel free to reach out to me directly but Jane can help get things moving.

Thanks,
Chip

Chip Slaven

Interim Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer

National School Boards Association

www.nsba.org

703.838.6742 (office)

[REDACTED] (cell)

1680 Duke Street, FL 2 Alexandria, VA



From: Ellerson Ng, Noelle <nellerson@aasa.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 16, 2021 1:44 PM
To: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Subject: idea for joint press statement calling on Federal Officials to Protect School Leaders from Threats and Violence

Hi Chip

Any interest in a quick joint statement with Dan, calling on Federal Officials to Protect School Leaders from Threats and Violence?

SSP put out a similar statement, and I think there would be a lot of power—and leadership and cover for our members dealing with this at the local level—if we had a joint stmt was NSBA and AASA.

Thoughts? I'd be happy to coordinate with the appropriate comms person on your team

NEN

Noelle Ellerson Ng

Associate Executive Director, Advocacy & Governance

AASA, The School Superintendents Association

nellerson@aasa.org

(C) [REDACTED]

Twitter: @Noellerson

#LovePublicEducation

EXHIBIT 35

EXHIBIT 35

From: Chip Slaven
Sent: Wednesday, September 29, 2021 9:01 PM
To: Jason Amos
Subject: Re: Email from Noelle

Thanks Jason. This is helpful. I was pretty open with Noelle we were going to our own letter but this is good context.

I'm excited for tomorrow as well.

Get some sleep!

Best,
Chip

From: Jason Amos <JAmos@nsba.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 29, 2021 10:12 PM
To: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Subject: Email from Noelle

Hi Chip,

Below are a series of emails regarding the joint statement we did with AASA. I thought it might be helpful for you to see Noelle's comments about federal involvement in case you get push back from them about why we didn't involve them. Start at the bottom of this email thread.

Thanks again for all your help today! I'm excited for tomorrow to see the fruit of our efforts!

Jason

From: Ellerson Ng, Noelle <nellerson@aasa.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 12:20 PM
To: Jason Amos <JAmos@nsba.org>; Minichello, James <jminichello@aasa.org>
Cc: Jane Mellow <JMellow@nsba.org>
Subject: RE: AASA, NSBA Issue Joint Statement Calling for End to Threats and Violence Around Safe School Opening Decisions

Also, if possible, if you move forward with a call for federal action that would impact school board meetings, we'd welcome the chance to review and collaborate. Thanks,

NEN

Noelle Ellerson Ng
Associate Executive Director, Advocacy & Governance
AASA, The School Superintendents Association
nellerson@aasa.org-
(C) [REDACTED]
Twitter @Noellerson
#LovePublicEducation

From: Jason Amos <JAmos@nsba.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 12:18 PM
To: Minichello, James <jminichello@aasa.org>; Ellerson Ng, Noelle <nellerson@aasa.org>
Cc: Jane Mellow <JMellow@nsba.org>
Subject: RE: AASA, NSBA Issue Joint Statement Calling for End to Threats and Violence Around Safe School Opening Decisions

Hi Noelle, (and Jimmy!)

Thanks so much for drafting this so quickly.

Chip has been in regular communications with the White House about what the appropriate response should be, but we are not in favor of federal involvement in local school board meetings. That said, we think we should strike that last sentence as I did below. I believe Chip mentioned a possible letter or statement from NSBA on this effort to you last week. We probably will be calling for more action, but we don't want to do it today or cloud this issue. That's why we recommend striking the last sentence.

Here's the statement we think we should send to Ed Week:

"We support NASSP and their work to support their members. Our statement is focused on highlighting the importance of school board meetings, working to ensure meetings are courteous, productive and efficient, and reminding the public that school superintendents and school board members are community members, and that we all—as community members—are focused on the same goal of safely reopening schools, and that violence, threats, and aggression only complicate the work."

And striking: ~~"We do not have an ask for increased federal involvement in local school board meetings."~~

Does that work for you?

Thanks,
Jason

From: Ellerson Ng, Noelle <nellerson@aasa.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 11:25 AM
To: Minichello, James <jminichello@aasa.org>
Cc: Jason Amos <JAmos@nsba.org>; Jane Mellow <JMellow@nsba.org>
Subject: RE: AASA, NSBA Issue Joint Statement Calling for End to Threats and Violence Around Safe School Opening Decisions

Looping Jane and Jason from NSBA.

We did this statement and NOT a call to action because, well (and not for public sharing), the NASSP call to action isn't much of a call to action, and it's not a level of federal involvement we'd support. On a call yesterday, Amanda from NASSP said that they are asking the fed gov to get involved, and leaving it up to them what that would look like. That seems like a recipe for disaster, and also not at all a role for the fed govt in school board meetings.

So, in terms of a response to Andrew, since this is a joint stmt, I'd write back 'We support NASSP and their work to support their members. Our statement is focused on highlighting the importance of school board meetings, working to ensure meetings are courteous, productive and efficient, and reminding the public that school superintendents and school board members are community members, and that we all—as community members—are focused on the same

goal of safely reopening schools, and that violence, threats, and aggression only complicate the work. We do not have an ask for increased federal involvement in local school board meetings.'

OK?

NEN

Noelle Ellerson Ng

Associate Executive Director, Advocacy & Governance

AASA, The School Superintendents Association

nellerson@aasa.org-

(C) [REDACTED]

Twitter @Noellerson

#LovePublicEducation

From: Minichello, James <jminichello@aasa.org>

Sent: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 11:20 AM

To: Ellerson Ng, Noelle <nellerson@aasa.org>

Subject: FW: AASA, NSBA Issue Joint Statement Calling for End to Threats and Violence Around Safe School Opening Decisions

Noelle – please see Andrew’s question below.

From: Andrew Ujifusa <AUjifusa@educationweek.org>

Sent: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 11:18 AM

To: Minichello, James <jminichello@aasa.org>; Jason Amos <JAmos@nsba.org>

Subject: Re: AASA, NSBA Issue Joint Statement Calling for End to Threats and Violence Around Safe School Opening Decisions

Hey guys - thanks for sending this along.

I had a question: Are NSBA and AASA supporting the call from the National Association of Secondary School Principals for the Ed. Department to issue guidance in support of principals facing violence and threats of violence related to safe school reopening? For reference:

<https://twitter.com/AndrewUjifusa/status/1438532037615497216>

Any specific requests or demands AASA and NSBA have in this context, like guidance or public support from Secretary Cardona, would be helpful to know. Thanks!

Andrew

EXHIBIT 36

EXHIBIT 36

September 17, 2021

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Re: Federal Intervention to Stop Threats and Acts of Violence Against Public Schoolchildren, School Board Members, and Other Public School District Officials and Educators

Dear Mr. President:

We need your immediate intervention to protect our students, school board members, and educators who are susceptible to acts of violence affecting interstate commerce because of threats to their districts, families, and personal safety. As our school boards continue coronavirus recovery operations within their respective districts, they are also persevering against other challenges that could impede this progress in a number of communities. Coupled with attacks against school board members and educators for approving policies for masks to protect the health and safety of students and school employees, an increasing number of public school officials is facing physical threats because of propaganda purporting the inclusion of critical race theory within classroom instruction and curricula.

On behalf of our state associations and the more than 90,000 school board members who govern our country's 14,000 local public school districts, that educate more than 50 million schoolchildren, the National School Boards Association (NSBA) appreciates your leadership to end the proliferation of COVID-19 in our communities and our school districts. In addition, we applaud your actions to restore resources to school districts that have not yet received their education stabilization funding through the Project SAFE (Supporting America's Families and Educators) grant program for coronavirus recovery efforts, including the use of face masks and other precautions to help prevent COVID-19 infections among students and educators. Now, we ask that the federal government intercept and prevent the current threats and acts of violence against our public school officials through existing statutes, executive authority, interagency and intergovernmental task forces, and other extraordinary measures to ensure the safety of our children and educators, to protect interstate commerce, and to preserve public school infrastructure and campuses.

While local and state law enforcement agencies are working with public school officials in several communities to prevent further disruptions to educational services and school district operations, law enforcement officials in some jurisdictions are reticent to intervene. Reportedly, this

apprehension is because a number of districts may have previously revised or ordered a hiatus of contracts and memoranda of understanding with law enforcement agencies for school resource officer support and other public safety services. As these threats and acts of violence have become more prevalent – during public school board meetings, via documented threats transmitted through the U.S. Postal Service, through social media and other online platforms, and around personal properties – NSBA respectfully solicits the expertise and resources of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Secret Service, and its National Threat Assessment Center regarding the level of risk to public schoolchildren, educators, board members, and facilities/campuses. Further, we ask that the Army National Guard and its Military Police be deployed to certain school districts and related events where students and school personnel have been subjected to acts and threats of violence. We also request the assistance of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service to intervene against threatening letters and cyberbullying attacks that have been transmitted to students, school board members, district administrators, and other educators.

As these acts of malice, violence, and threats against public school officials have increased, the classification of these heinous actions could be the equivalent to a form of domestic terrorism and hate crimes. As such, NSBA requests a joint expedited review by the U.S. Departments of Justice, Education, and Homeland Security, along with the appropriate training, coordination, investigations, and enforcement mechanisms from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), including any technical assistance necessary from, and state and local coordination with, its National Security Branch and Counterterrorism Division, as well as any other federal agency with relevant jurisdictional authority and oversight. Additionally, NSBA requests that such review examine appropriate enforceable actions against these crimes and acts of violence under the Gun-Free School Zones Act, PATRIOT Act, Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, Violent Interference with Federally Protected Rights statute, Conspiracy Against Rights statute, an Executive Order to enforce all applicable federal laws for the protection of students and public school district personnel, and any related measure.

These acts of violence against our school districts are impacting the delivery of educational services to students and families, as many districts receive federal funds and subsidies for services to millions of students with disabilities, health screenings and supplemental supports for disadvantaged students, child nutrition, broadband connectivity, educator development, school safety activities, career and technical education, and more. School board meetings have been disrupted in California, Florida, Georgia, and other states because of local directives for mask coverings to protect students and educators from COVID-19. An individual was arrested in Illinois for aggravated battery and disorderly conduct during a school board meeting.

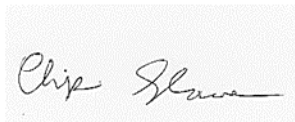
During two separate school board meetings in Michigan, an individual yelled a Nazi salute in protest to masking requirements and another individual prompted the board to call a recess because of opposition to critical race theory. In New Jersey, Ohio, and other states, anti-mask proponents are inciting chaos during board meetings. In Virginia, an individual was arrested, another man was ticketed for trespassing, and a third person was hurt during a school board meeting on CRT and equity issues. In other states including Washington, Texas, Wisconsin,

Wyoming, and Tennessee, school boards have been confronted by angry mobs and forced to end meetings abruptly.

A resident in Alabama, who has self-proclaimed himself as a “vaccine police” has called school administrators while filming himself on Facebook Live. Other groups are posting watchlists against school boards and purporting misinformation that boards are adopting critical race theory curriculum and working to maintain online learning by haphazardly attributing it to COVID-19. In Ohio, an individual mailed a letter to a board member labeling the return address on the envelope from a local neighborhood association and then enclosing threatening hate mail from another entity. This correspondence states that, “We are coming after you and all the members on the ... BoE [Board of Education].” This hate mail continues by stating, “You are forcing them to wear mask—for no reason in this world other than control. And for that you will pay dearly.” Among other incendiaries, this same threat also calls the school board member a “filthy traitor,” implies loss of pension funds, and labels the school board as Marxist. Earlier this month, a student in Tennessee was mocked during a board meeting for advocating masks in schools after testifying that his grandmother, who was an educator, died because of COVID-19.

With such acute threats and actions that are disruptive to our students’ well-being, to the safety of public school officials and personnel, and to interstate commerce, we urge the federal government’s intervention against plotters who are targeting our schools and educators. NSBA is committed to working with you to address this crisis affecting America’s public schools, and greatly appreciates your prompt attention to our requests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chip Slaven". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored, textured background.

Chip Slaven, Esq.
Interim Executive Director & CEO

CS:dr

EXHIBIT 37

EXHIBIT 37

From: Deborah Rigsby
Sent: Friday, September 17, 2021 6:42 AM
To: Jane Mellow; Chip Slaven
Subject: NSBA Letter for Federal Intervention - 9-2021
Attachments: NSBA Letter for Federal Intervention - 9-2021.docx

Good morning Chip and Jane,

Sending the attached draft of the letter you requested re: federal actions to protect school board members. I have included references about how the acts of violence/ threats against school board members and educators are impacting interstate commerce throughout the letter in an effort to urge immediate federal intervention. The examples from Jinghong, the letter to the Ohio board member, and related reports are mentioned to convey the severity of these acts. (Will add the references and page numbers once I have your edits, as the template has not been cooperating.)

Thanks.
Deborah

EXHIBIT 38

EXHIBIT 38

September 17, 2021

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Re: Federal Intervention to Stop Threats and Acts of Violence Against Public Schoolchildren, School Board Members, and Other Public School District Officials and Educators

Dear Mr. President:

America's public schools and its education leaders are under an immediate threat. The National School Boards Association (NSBA) respectfully asks for immediate federal law enforcement and other assistance to deal with the growing number of threats of violence and acts of intimidation occurring across the nation.

NSBA believes ~~We need your~~ immediate intervention ~~is required~~ to protect our students, school board members, and educators who are susceptible to acts of violence affecting interstate commerce because of threats to their districts, families, and personal safety. As our school boards continue coronavirus recovery operations within their respective districts, they are also persevering against other challenges that could impede this progress in a number of communities. Coupled with attacks against school board members and educators for approving policies for masks to protect the health and safety of students and school employees, ~~an increasing number of many~~ public school officials ~~is-are also~~ facing physical threats because of propaganda purporting the false inclusion of critical race theory within classroom instruction and curricula. This propaganda continues despite the fact that critical race theory is not taught in public schools and remains a complex law school and graduate school subject well beyond the scope of a K-12 class.

On behalf of our state associations and the more than 90,000 school board members who govern our country's 14,000 local public school districts, that educate more than 50 million schoolchildren, the National School Boards Association (NSBA) appreciates your leadership to end the proliferation of COVID-19 in our communities and our school districts. We also appreciate recent discussions with White House and Department of Education staff on many critical issues facing public schools including threats school officials are receing. In addition, we applaud your actions to restore resources to school districts that have not yet received their education stabilization funding through the Project SAFE (Supporting America's Families and Educators) grant program for coronavirus recovery efforts, including the use of face masks and other precautions to help prevent COVID-19 infections among students and educators. Now, we

Commented [CS1]: Should we address directly to President Biden?

Commented [DR2]: Removed the preposition for the plural word "are."

ask that the federal government investigate, intercept, and prevent the current threats and acts of violence against our public school officials through existing statutes, executive authority, interagency and intergovernmental task forces, and other extraordinary measures to ensure the safety of our children and educators, to protect interstate commerce, and to preserve public school infrastructure and campuses.

Commented [JM3]: Do we want to add "investigate" before intercept

While local and state law enforcement agencies are working with public school officials in several communities to prevent further disruptions to educational services and school district operations, law enforcement officials in some jurisdictions need assistance including help with monitoring the threat level ~~are reticent to intervene. Reportedly, this apprehension is because a number of districts may have previously revised or ordered a hiatus of contracts and memoranda of understanding with law enforcement agencies for school resource officer support and other public safety services.~~ As these threats and acts of violence have become more prevalent – during public school board meetings, via documented threats transmitted through the U.S. Postal Service, through social media and other online platforms, and around personal properties – NSBA respectfully asks that a joint collaboration among federal law enforcement agencies, state and local law enforcement, and with public school officials be undertaken to focus on these threats. NSBA specifically solicits the expertise and resources of the U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Secret Service, and its National Threat Assessment Center regarding the level of risk to public schoolchildren, educators, board members, and facilities/campuses. Further, we ask that the Army National Guard and its Military Police be deployed to certain school districts and related events where students and school personnel have been subjected to acts and threats of violence. We also request the assistance of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service to intervene against threatening letters and cyberbullying attacks that have been transmitted to students, school board members, district administrators, and other educators.

Commented [JM4]: We should all talk about this

Commented [CS5]: I went back and forth on this one. I think we should leave it out for now. I am concerned it could be seen as us asking for too much of a federal intervention. However, if things start to get bad, we can revisit.

As these acts of malice, violence, and threats against public school officials have increased, the classification of these heinous actions could be the equivalent to a form of domestic terrorism and hate crimes. As such, NSBA requests a joint expedited review by the U.S. Departments of Justice, Education, and Homeland Security, along with the appropriate training, coordination, investigations, and enforcement mechanisms from the ~~Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI),~~ including any technical assistance necessary from, and state and local coordination with, its National Security Branch and Counterterrorism Division, as well as any other federal agency with relevant jurisdictional authority and oversight. Additionally, NSBA requests that such review examine appropriate enforceable actions against these crimes and acts of violence under the Gun-Free School Zones Act, the PATRIOT Act in regards to domestic terrorism, Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, Violent Interference with Federally Protected Rights statute, Conspiracy Against Rights statute, an Executive Order to enforce all applicable federal laws for the protection of students and public school district personnel, and any related measure. As the threats grow and news of extremist hate organizations showing up at school board meetings are being reported, this is a critical time for a proactive approach to deal with this difficult issue.

These acts of violence against our school districts are impacting the delivery of educational services to students and families, as many districts receive federal funds and subsidies for services to millions of students with disabilities, health screenings and supplemental supports for disadvantaged students, child nutrition, broadband connectivity, educator development, school safety activities, career and technical education, and more. School board meetings have been disrupted in California, Florida, Georgia, and other states because of local directives for mask coverings to protect students and educators from COVID-19. An individual was arrested in Illinois for aggravated battery and disorderly conduct during a school board meeting.

During two separate school board meetings in Michigan, an individual yelled a Nazi salute in protest to masking requirements and another individual prompted the board to call a recess because of opposition to critical race theory. In New Jersey, Ohio, and other states, anti-mask proponents are inciting chaos during board meetings. In Virginia, an individual was arrested, another man was ticketed for trespassing, and a third person was hurt during a school board meeting discussing CRT, critical race theory and equity issues. In other states including Washington, Texas, Wisconsin, Wyoming, and Tennessee, school boards have been confronted by angry mobs and forced to end meetings abruptly.

A resident in Alabama, who has self-proclaimed himself as a “vaccine police” has called school administrators while filming himself on Facebook Live. Other groups are posting watchlists against school boards and purporting misinformation that boards are adopting critical race theory curriculum and working to maintain online learning by haphazardly attributing it to COVID-19. In Ohio, an individual mailed a letter to a board member labeling the return address on the envelope from a local neighborhood association and then enclosing threatening hate mail from another entity. This correspondence states that, “We are coming after you and all the members on the ... BoE [Board of Education].” This hate mail continues by stating, “You are forcing them to wear mask—for no reason in this world other than control. And for that you will pay dearly.” Among other incendiaries, this same threat also calls the school board member a “filthy traitor,” implies loss of pension funds, and labels the school board as Marxist. Earlier this month, a student in Tennessee was mocked during a board meeting for advocating masks in schools after testifying that his grandmother, who was an educator, died because of COVID-19. These threats and acts of violence are affecting our nation’s democracy at the very foundational levels, causing school board members – including many who are not paid – to resign immediately and/or discontinue their service after their respective terms. Further, this increasing violence is a clear and present danger to civic participation, in which other citizens who have been contemplating service as either an elected or appointed school board member have reconsidered.

NSBA believes public discussions and transparency by local school board members are important for the safe and effective operations of schools. It is vital that public discourses be encouraged in a safe and open environment in which varying viewpoints can be offered in a peaceful manner. Our children are watching the examples of the current debates and we must encourage a positive debate even with different opinions. However, with such acute threats and actions that are disruptive to our students’ well-being, to the safety of public school officials and personnel, and to interstate commerce, we urge the federal government’s intervention against individuals or hate groups, letters

Commented [CS6]: I need to check with Charlie and see if we can reference the letter. I am not sure if they wanted it released publicly but I am glad you included. It sends the message of how bad things are right now.

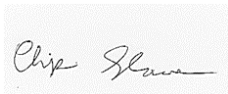
Commented [JM7]: I’m not sure where we should include this but I want to insert something along these lines:

These types of incidents are causing many school board members, most of whom are not paid, to decide to not run again. It also has the effect of causing good people who are interested in making a difference in their community choose not to engage.

Commented [DR8R7]: I added language that addresses this statement.

who are targeting our schools and educators. NSBA is committed to working with you [and your administration as a partner](#) to address this crisis affecting America's public schools, and greatly appreciates your prompt attention to our requests. [We stand ready to work with you.](#)

~~Sincerely~~ Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chip Slaven". The signature is written in a cursive style and is placed on a light gray rectangular background.

Chip Slaven, Esq.
Interim Executive Director & CEO

CS:dr

EXHIBIT 39

EXHIBIT 39

September 23, 2021

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Re: *Federal Intervention to Stop Threats and Acts of Violence Against Public Schoolchildren, Public School Board Members, and Other Public School District Officials and Educators*

Dear Mr. President:

America’s public schools and its education leaders are under an immediate threat. The National School Boards Association (NSBA) respectfully asks for immediate federal law enforcement and other assistance to deal with the growing number of threats of violence and acts of intimidation occurring across the nation.

NSBA believes immediate intervention is required to protect our students, school board members, and educators who are susceptible to acts of violence affecting interstate commerce because of threats to their districts, families, and personal safety. As our school boards continue coronavirus recovery operations within their respective districts, they are also persevering against other challenges that could impede this progress in a number of communities. Coupled with attacks against school board members and educators for approving policies for masks to protect the health and safety of students and school employees, many public school officials are also facing physical threats because of propaganda purporting the false inclusion of critical race theory within classroom instruction and curricula.¹ This propaganda continues despite the fact that critical race theory is not taught in public schools and remains a complex law school and graduate school subject well beyond the scope of a K-12 class.

On behalf of our state associations and the more than 90,000 school board members who govern our country’s 14,000 local public school districts, that educate more than 50 million schoolchildren, NSBA appreciates your leadership to end the proliferation of COVID-19 in our communities and our school districts. We also appreciate recent discussions with White House and U.S. Department of Education staff on many critical issues facing public schools including threats school officials are receiving. In addition, we applaud your actions to restore resources to school districts that have not yet received their education stabilization funding through the Project

¹ The Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED), “Fact Sheet: Demonstrations over Critical Race Theory in the United States,” July 14, 2021, https://acleddata.com/acleddatanew/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/ACLED_Fact-Sheet_CRT-Demos_2021.pdf.

Commented [CS1]: Should we address directly to President Biden?

Commented [DR2R1]: I believe re: formal correspondence the correct protocol is to state “The President.”

Commented [DR3]: Removed the preposition for the plural word “are.”

SAFE (Supporting America's Families and Educators) grant program for coronavirus recovery efforts, including the use of face masks and other precautions to help prevent COVID-19 infections among students and educators. Now, we ask that the federal government investigate, intercept, and prevent the current threats and acts of violence against our public school officials through existing statutes, executive authority, interagency and intergovernmental task forces, and other extraordinary measures to ensure the safety of our children and educators, to protect interstate commerce, and to preserve public school infrastructure and campuses.

Commented [JM4]: Do we want to add "investigate" before intercept

While local and state law enforcement agencies are working with public school officials in several communities to prevent further disruptions to educational services and school district operations, law enforcement officials in some jurisdictions need assistance including help with monitoring the threat levels. As these threats and acts of violence have become more prevalent – during public school board meetings, via documented threats transmitted through the U.S. Postal Service, through social media and other online platforms, and around personal properties – NSBA respectfully asks that a joint collaboration among federal law enforcement agencies, state and local law enforcement, and with public school officials be undertaken to focus on these threats.² NSBA specifically solicits the expertise and resources of the U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Secret Service, and its National Threat Assessment Center³ regarding the level of risk to public schoolchildren, educators, board members, and facilities/campuses. Further, in egregious circumstances and via coordination with local and state authorities, we ask that the Army National Guard and its Military Police be deployed to certain school districts and related events where students and school personnel have been subjected to acts and threats of violence. We also request the assistance of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service to intervene against threatening letters and cyberbullying attacks that have been transmitted to students, school board members, district administrators, and other educators.

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Commented [CS5]: I went back and forth on this one. I think we should leave it out for now. I am concerned it could be seen as us asking for too much of a federal intervention. However, if things start to get bad, we can revisit.

Commented [DR6R5]: If a district and its officials have received imminent threats and have canceled contracts with local police/sheriff departments – and is experiencing threats, protests, and related disruptions and also any changes in community standard(s) – perhaps the National Guard is needed ... especially if a governor will not intervene with state law enforcement. We are already seeing punitive actions from governors over masks, thereby jeopardizing lives.

As these acts of malice, violence, and threats against public school officials have increased, the classification of these heinous actions could be the equivalent to a form of domestic terrorism and hate crimes. As such, NSBA requests a joint expedited review by the U.S. Departments of Justice, Education, and Homeland Security, along with the appropriate training, coordination, investigations, and enforcement mechanisms from the FBI, including any technical assistance necessary from, and state and local coordination with, its National Security Branch and Counterterrorism Division, as well as any other federal agency with relevant jurisdictional authority and oversight. Additionally, NSBA requests that such review examine appropriate enforceable actions against these crimes and acts of violence under the Gun-Free School Zones Act, the PATRIOT Act, in regards to domestic terrorism, the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, the Violent Interference with Federally Protected Rights statute, the Conspiracy Against Rights statute, an Executive Order to enforce all applicable federal laws for the

Commented [DR7]: This phrase may be redundant as the PATRIOT Act was enacted to protect the US domestically. Overseas surveillance, if needed, would be linked to accounts or electronic correspondence, for example, transmitted domestically.

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² The Herald Editorial Board, *HeraldNet*, "Editorial: Mob's actions at school board meeting unacceptable," September 1, 2021, <https://www.heraldnet.com/opinion/editorial-mobs-actions-at-school-board-meeting-unacceptable/>.

³ U.S. Secret Service, National Threat Assessment Center, "Averting Targeted School Violence," March 2021, <https://www.secretservice.gov/sites/default/files/reports/2021-03/USSS%20Averting%20Targeted%20School%20Violence%202021.03.pdf>.

protection of students and public school district personnel, and any related measure. As the threats grow and news of extremist hate organizations showing up at school board meetings is being reported, this is a critical time for a proactive approach to deal with this difficult issue.

These acts of violence against our school districts are impacting the delivery of educational services to students and families, as many districts receive federal funds and subsidies for services to millions of students with disabilities, health screenings and supplemental supports for disadvantaged students, child nutrition, broadband connectivity, educator development, school safety activities, career and technical education, and more. School board meetings have been disrupted in California⁴, Florida⁵, Georgia⁶, and other states⁷ because of local directives for mask coverings to protect students and educators from COVID-19. An individual was arrested in Illinois for aggravated battery and disorderly conduct during a school board meeting.⁸

During two separate school board meetings in Michigan⁹, an individual yelled a Nazi salute in protest to masking requirements and another individual prompted the board to call a recess

⁴ Elizabeth Marie Himchak, *Poway News Chieftain/Rancho Bernardo News Journal*, "Protesters disrupt Poway Unified board meeting, cause its adjournment," September 9, 2021, <https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/pomeroado-news/news/schools/story/2021-09-09/protesters-disrupt-poway-unified-board-meeting-force-its-ag>.

⁵ Ryan McKinnon, *Sarasota Herald-Tribune*, "Sarasota school board may limit public input after some meetings get disorderly," September 20, 2021, <https://www.heraldtribune.com/story/news/education/2021/09/20/sarasota-school-board-may-limit-public-input-after-meetings-gone-wild/8417784002/>.

⁶ Alia Malik, *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, "Anti-mask crowd disrupts Gwinnett school board meeting," May 21, 2021, <https://www.ajc.com/news/anti-mask-crowd-disrupts-gwinnett-school-board-meeting/IYO7R6GHJ5DTLEFCQHER7V3GBA/>

⁷ Julie Wootton-Greener, *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, "School board meeting turns contentious over COVID-19 policies," August 12, 2021, <https://www.reviewjournal.com/local/education/school-board-meeting-turns-contentious-over-covid-19-policies-2418652/>.

WAVY.com, "Norfolk school officials, police monitoring threats made toward Norview schools," September 21, 2021, <https://www.wavy.com/news/local-news/norfolk/norfolk-school-officials-police-monitoring-threats-made-toward-norview-schools/>.

WBTV-Charlotte, "Gov. Roy Cooper addresses 'threats, bullying, intimidation' at school board meetings over mask requirements," September 21, 2021, <https://www.wbvtv.com/2021/09/21/gov-roy-cooper-address-fight-against-covid-19-north-carolina/>.

⁸ WGEM, "Mendon man arrested following disruption at Unity School board meeting," September 2, 2021, <https://wgem.com/2021/09/02/mendon-man-arrested-following-disruption-at-unity-school-board-meeting/>.

⁹ Steve Neavling, *Detroit Metro Times*, "Nazi salute, insults hurled at chaotic Birmingham schools meeting over mask mandate," August 19, 2021, <https://www.metrotimes.com/news-hits/archives/2021/08/19/nazi-salute-insults-hurled-at-ruckus-birmingham-schools-meeting-over-mask-mandate>.

Kalie Marantette, *WLNS.com*, "Grand Ledge school board goes into recess due to public 'disruption,'" June 16, 2021, <https://www.wlns.com/news/grand-ledge-school-board-goes-into-recess-due-to-public-disruption/>.

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because of opposition to critical race theory. In New Jersey¹⁰, Ohio¹¹, and other states¹², anti-mask proponents are inciting chaos during board meetings. In Virginia¹³, an individual was arrested, another man was ticketed for trespassing, and a third person was hurt during a school board meeting **discourse distinguishing current curricula from critical race theory and regarding equity** issues. In other states including Washington¹⁴, Texas¹⁵, Wisconsin¹⁶, Wyoming¹⁷, and Tennessee¹⁸, school boards have been confronted by angry mobs and forced to end meetings abruptly.

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A resident in Alabama, who has self-proclaimed himself as a “vaccine police” has called school administrators while filming himself on Facebook Live.¹⁹ Other groups are posting watchlists against school boards and purporting misinformation that boards are adopting critical race theory

¹⁰ Joe Strupp, *Asbury Park Press*, “NJ mask mandate for students sparks school board disruption, suspends meeting,” August 26, 2021, <https://www.app.com/story/news/education/in-our-schools/2021/08/26/nj-school-mask-mandate-sparks-disruption-boe/5585283001/>.

¹¹ Maia Belay, Fox8, “Sheriff deputies called to tense Nordon Hills school board meeting due to mask policy,” August 31, 2021, <https://fox8.com/news/sheriff-deputies-called-to-tense-nordonia-hills-school-board-meeting-due-to-mask-policy/>.

¹² Pete Bannon, *The Delaware County Daily Times*, “Mask protest brings police to Garnet Valley School Board meeting,” August 25, 2021, Updated August 26, 2021, <https://www.delcotimes.com/2021/08/25/mask-protest-brings-cops-to-garnet-valley-school-board-meeting/>.

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Brenley Goertzen, Salon.com, “Anti-mask mob swarms school board meeting,” August 12, 2021, <https://www.salon.com/2021/08/12/anti-mask-mob-swarm-school-board-meeting/>.

¹³ Drew Wilder, Jackie Bensen, Andrea Swalec and NBC4 Washington Staff, NBCWashington.com, “‘The Meeting Has Degenerated’: 1 Arrest, 1 Injury at Loudoun Schools Meeting on Equity,” June 22, 2021, Updated June 23, 2021, <https://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/northern-virginia/loudoun-school-board-transgender-student-policy-race-equity/2708185/>.

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Adele Uphaus, *The Free Lance-Star*, “Unruly crowd causes Spotsylvania School Board meeting to adjourn after 13 minutes,” August 24, 2021, https://fredericksburg.com/news/local/unruly-crowd-causes-spotsylvania-school-board-meeting-to-adjourn-after-13-minutes/article_1d39b83c-fa43-5626-acca-4e2768a811de.html.

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¹⁴ Emily Gilbert, *Whidbey News Times*, “Oak Harbor school board clears the room after audience shouts disrupt meeting,” August 13, 2021, <https://www.whidbeynewstimes.com/news/oak-harbor-school-board-clears-the-room-after-audience-shouts-disrupt-meeting/>.

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¹⁵ Talia Richman and Brayden Garcia, *The Dallas Morning News*, “‘Critical race theory’ roils Fort Worth school board meeting as Texas braces for continued fight,” June 22, 2021, <https://www.dallasnews.com/news/education/2021/06/22/critical-race-theory-roils-fort-worth-school-board-meeting-as-texas-braces-for-continued-fight/>.

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¹⁶ WBAY news staff and Jason Zimmerman, WBAY.com, “Oshkosh School Board meeting postponed after protesters disrupt it, argument breaks out,” August 25, 2021, Updated August 26, 2021, <https://www.wbay.com/2021/08/25/oshkosh-school-board-meeting-called-off-after-protesters-enter-board-members-walk-out/>.

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¹⁷ Margaret Austin, Wyoming Tribune Eagle via Wyoming News Exchange, *Pinedale Roundup*, “School board meeting over COVID stopped after disruption,” August 4, 2021, <https://pinedaleroundup.com/article/school-board-meeting-over-covid-stopped-after-disruption>.

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¹⁸ Jackie Delpilar, WZTV Nashville, “Anti-mask protesters show lack of empathy at recent Middle Tennessee school meetings,” September 12, 2021, <https://fox17.com/news/local/anti-mask-protesters-show-lack-of-empathy-at-recent-middle-tennessee-school-meetings>.

¹⁹ Aubrey Bailey, WHNT.com, “‘If you give one more shot, you yourself will be executed’ Alabama man tells Missouri pharmacists,” August 24, 2021, <https://whnt.com/news/alabama-news/if-you-give-one-more-shot-you-yourself-will-be-executed-alabama-man-tells-missouri-pharmacists/>.

curriculum and working to maintain online learning by haphazardly attributing it to COVID-19.²⁰ In Ohio, an individual mailed a letter to a school board member labeling the return address on the envelope from a local neighborhood association and then enclosing threatening hate mail from another entity.²¹ This correspondence states that, “We are coming after you and all the members on the ... BoE [Board of Education].” This hate mail continues by stating, “You are forcing them to wear mask—for no reason in this world other than control. And for that you will pay dearly.” Among other incendiaries, this same threat also calls the school board member a “filthy traitor,” implies loss of pension funds, and labels the school board as Marxist. Earlier this month, a student in Tennessee was mocked during a board meeting for advocating masks in schools after testifying that his grandmother, who was an educator, died because of COVID-19.²² These threats and acts of violence are affecting our nation’s democracy at the very foundational levels, causing school board members – including many who are not paid – to resign immediately and/or discontinue their service after their respective terms.²³ Further, this increasing violence is a clear and present danger to civic participation, in which other citizens who have been contemplating service as either an elected or appointed school board member have reconsidered.

NSBA believes public discussions and transparency by local school board members are important for the safe and effective operations of schools.²⁴ It is vital that public discourses be encouraged in a safe and open environment, in which varying viewpoints can be offered in a peaceful manner. Our children are watching the examples of the current debates; and, we must encourage a positive dialogue even with different opinions. However, with such acute threats and actions that are disruptive to our students’ well-being, to the safety of public school officials and personnel, and to interstate commerce, we urge the federal government’s intervention against individuals or hate groups/plotters who are targeting our schools and educators. NSBA is committed to working with you and your Administration as a partner to address this crisis affecting America’s public schools, and greatly appreciates your prompt attention to our requests. We stand ready to work with you.

²⁰ Nick Surgery, *Documented*, “TPUSA launches project targeting school board members,” August 20, 2021, <https://substack.documented.net/p/tpusa-school-board-watchlist>

²¹ Lindsey Mills, WBNS, “Disturbing’: Worthington school board member receives threats for masks in schools,” September 21, 2021, <https://www.10tv.com/article/news/local/worthington-school-board-member-receives-threats-for-masks-in-schools/530-f3c04240-76b4-456b-aad9-8555397b5427>.

²² Kim Bellware, *The Washington Post*, “Student mocked at school board meeting after sharing that his grandmother died of covid-19,” September 10, 2021, https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2021/09/10/grady-knox-tennessee/?utm_campaign=wp_main&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook&fbclid=IwAR29rIKzIY0tz4p0yB5VJdk_n_dj5AJPp6oiEvzJC1oRAYsMMMMOPb8EvjY.

²³ Andy Humbles, *The Nashville Tennessean*, “Jon White resigns as Wilson County School Board member,” September 8, 2021, <https://www.tennessean.com/story/news/local/wilson/2021/09/08/jon-white-resigns-wilson-county-school-board-member/5750949001/>.

Terri Pederson, *The Daily Citizen*, “Beaver Dam school board member resigns citing safety concerns for family,” September 20, 2021, Updated September 21, 2021, https://www.wiscnews.com/bdc/news/local/education/beaver-dam-school-board-member-resigns-citing-safety-concerns-for-family/article_066fc86c-4356-5a00-9940-187e02eb7340.html.

²⁴ National School Boards Association and AASA, The School Superintendents Association, “NSBA, AASA Issue Joint Statement Calling for End to Threats and Violence Around Safe School Opening Decisions,” September 22, 2021, <https://www.nsba.org/News/2021/end-threats-violence-joint-statement>.

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Commented [CS8]: I need to check with Charlie and see if we can reference the letter. I am not sure if they wanted it released publicly but I am glad you included. It sends the message of how bad things are right now.

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Commented [JM9]: I’m not sure where we should include this but I want to insert something along these lines:

These types of incidents are causing many school board members, most of whom are not paid, to decide to not run again. It also has the effect of causing good people who are interested in making a difference in their community choose not to engage.

Commented [DR10R9]: I added language that addresses this statement.

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Commented [DR11]: “Plotters” is an actual term used by the U.S. Secret Service, including in its investigations into incidents of school violence.

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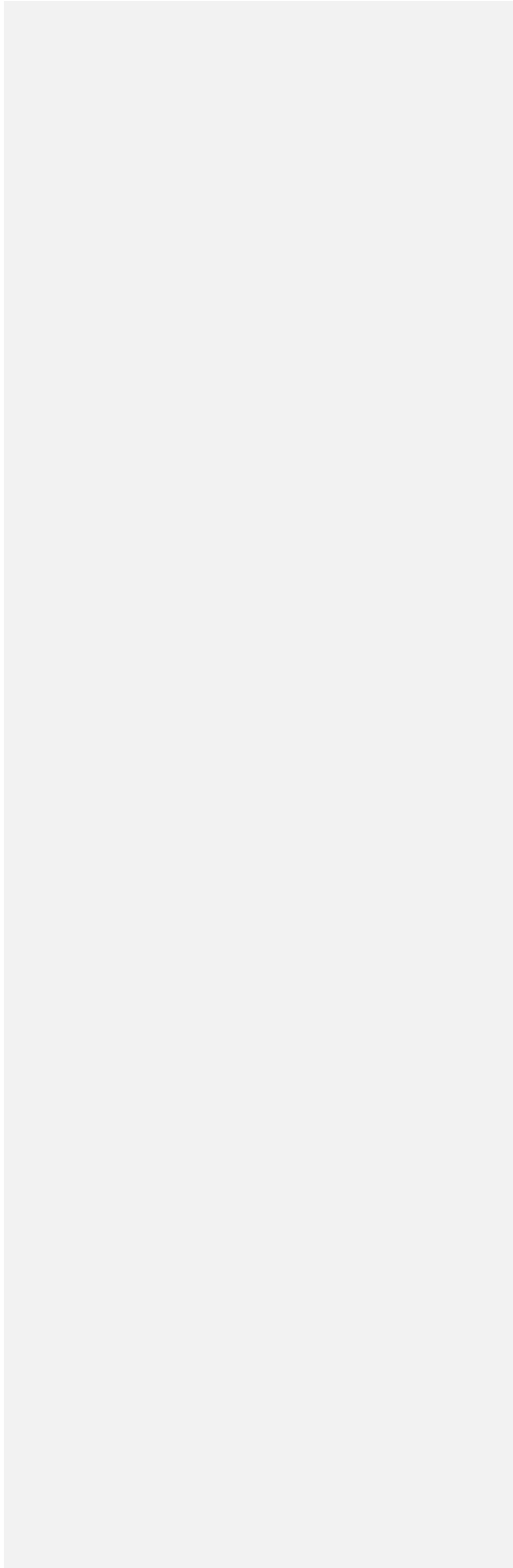
A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chip Slaven".

Chip Slaven, Esq.
Interim Executive Director & CEO

|

CS:dr

|



September 23, 2021

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Re: *Federal Intervention to Stop Threats and Acts of Violence Against Public Schoolchildren, Public School Board Members, and Other Public School District Officials and Educators*

Dear Mr. President:

America's public schools and its education leaders are under an immediate threat. The National School Boards Association (NSBA) respectfully asks for immediate federal law enforcement and other assistance to deal with the growing number of threats of violence and acts of intimidation occurring across the nation. Local school board members want to hear from their communities on important issues and that must be at the forefront of good school board governance and promotion of free speech. However, there also must be safeguards in place to protect public schools and dedicated education leaders as they do their jobs.

NSBA believes immediate intervention is required to protect our students, school board members, and educators who are susceptible to acts of violence affecting interstate commerce because of threats to their districts, families, and personal safety. As our school boards continue coronavirus recovery operations within their respective districts, they are also persevering against other challenges that could impede this progress in a number of communities. Coupled with attacks against school board members and educators for approving policies for masks to protect the health and safety of students and school employees, many public school officials are also facing physical threats because of propaganda such as purporting the false inclusion of critical race theory within classroom instruction and curricula.¹ This propaganda continues despite the fact that critical race theory is not taught in public schools and remains a complex law school and graduate school subject well beyond the scope of a K-12 class.

On behalf of our state associations and the more than 90,000 school board members who govern our country's 14,000 local public school districts, that educate more than 50 million schoolchildren, NSBA appreciates your leadership to end the proliferation of COVID-19 in our communities and our school districts. We also appreciate recent discussions with White House

¹ The Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED), "Fact Sheet: Demonstrations over Critical Race Theory in the United States," July 14, 2021, https://acleddata.com/acleddatanew/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/ACLED_Fact-Sheet_CRT-Demos_2021.pdf.

Commented [CS1]: Should we address directly to President Biden?

Commented [DR2R1]: I believe re: formal correspondence the correct protocol is to state "The President."

Commented [CS3]: I added this line just to reinforce the notion we still want public discourse, just not chaos.

Commented [DR4]: Removed the preposition for the plural word "are."

and U.S. Department of Education staff on many critical issues facing public schools including threats school officials are receiving. In addition, we applaud your actions to restore resources to school districts that have not yet received their education stabilization funding through the Project SAFE (Supporting America's Families and Educators) grant program for coronavirus recovery efforts, including the use of face masks and other precautions to help prevent COVID-19 infections among students and educators. Now, we ask that the federal government investigate, intercept, and prevent the current threats and acts of violence against our public school officials through existing statutes, executive authority, interagency and intergovernmental task forces, and other extraordinary measures to ensure the safety of our children and educators, to protect interstate commerce, and to preserve public school infrastructure and campuses.

Commented [JM5]: Do we want to add "investigate" before intercept

While local and state law enforcement agencies are working with public school officials in several communities to prevent further disruptions to educational services and school district operations, law enforcement officials in some jurisdictions need assistance including help with monitoring the threat levels. As these threats and acts of violence have become more prevalent – during public school board meetings, via documented threats transmitted through the U.S. Postal Service, through social media and other online platforms, and around personal properties – NSBA respectfully asks that a joint collaboration among federal law enforcement agencies, state and local law enforcement, and with public school officials be undertaken to focus on these threats.² NSBA specifically solicits the expertise and resources of the U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Secret Service, and its National Threat Assessment Center³ regarding the level of risk to public schoolchildren, educators, board members, and facilities/campuses. Further, in egregious circumstances and via coordination with local and state authorities, we ask that the Army National Guard and its Military Police be deployed to certain school districts and related events where students and school personnel have been subjected to acts and threats of violence. We also request the assistance of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service to intervene against threatening letters and cyberbullying attacks that have been transmitted to students, school board members, district administrators, and other educators.

Commented [CS6]: I've reviewed this section again and think it will be seen as a federal intervention into local and state issues. School districts that have this issue should be reaching out to their Governor first who can deploy State Police. I also think this is not a widespread problem. If we leave this in it will garner a lot of attention away from the broader context. I think we leave it out and can revisit it if things turn out to be more widespread.

As these acts of malice, violence, and threats against public school officials have increased, the classification of these heinous actions could be the equivalent to a form of domestic terrorism and hate crimes. As such, NSBA requests a joint expedited review by the U.S. Departments of Justice, Education, and Homeland Security, along with the appropriate training, coordination, investigations, and enforcement mechanisms from the FBI, including any technical assistance necessary from, and state and local coordination with, its National Security Branch and Counterterrorism Division, as well as any other federal agency with relevant jurisdictional authority and oversight. Additionally, NSBA requests that such review examine appropriate

Commented [CS7]: I went back and forth on this one. I think we should leave it out for now. I am concerned it could be seen as us asking for too much of a federal intervention. However, if things start to get bad, we can revisit.

² The Herald Editorial Board, *HeraldNet*, "Editorial: Mob's actions at school board meeting unacceptable," September 1, 2021, <https://www.heraldnet.com/opinion/editorial-mobs-actions-at-school-board-meeting-unacceptable/>.

³ U.S. Secret Service, National Threat Assessment Center, "Averting Targeted School Violence," March 2021, <https://www.secretservice.gov/sites/default/files/reports/2021-03/USSS%20Averting%20Targeted%20School%20Violence%202021.03.pdf>.

Commented [DR8R7]: If a district and its officials have received imminent threats and have canceled contracts with local police/sheriff departments – and is experiencing threats, protests, and related disruptions and also any changes in community standard(s) – perhaps the National Guard is needed ... especially if a governor will not intervene with state law enforcement. We are already seeing punitive actions from governors over masks, thereby jeopardizing lives.

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enforceable actions against these crimes and acts of violence under the Gun-Free School Zones Act, the PATRIOT Act **in regards to domestic terrorism**, the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, the Violent Interference with Federally Protected Rights statute, the Conspiracy Against Rights statute, an Executive Order to enforce all applicable federal laws for the protection of students and public school district personnel, and any related measure. As the threats grow and news of extremist hate organizations showing up at school board meetings is being reported, this is a critical time for a proactive approach to deal with this difficult issue.

These **threats, acts or actual acts** of violence against our school districts are impacting the delivery of educational services to students and families, as many districts receive federal funds and subsidies for services to millions of students with disabilities, health screenings and supplemental supports for disadvantaged students, child nutrition, broadband connectivity, educator development, school safety activities, career and technical education, and more. School board meetings have been disrupted in California⁴, Florida⁵, Georgia⁶, and other states⁷ because of local directives for mask coverings to protect students and educators from COVID-19. An individual was arrested in Illinois for aggravated battery and disorderly conduct during a school board meeting.⁸

During two separate school board meetings in Michigan⁹, an individual yelled a Nazi salute in protest to masking requirements and another individual prompted the board to call a recess

⁴ Elizabeth Marie Himchak, *Poway News Chieftain/Rancho Bernardo News Journal*, "Protesters disrupt Poway Unified board meeting cause its adjournment" September 9 2021. <https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/pomeroado-news/news/schools/story/2021-09-09/protesters-disrupt-poway-unified-board-meeting-force-its-ag>.

⁵ Ryan McKinnon, *Sarasota Herald-Tribune*, "Sarasota school board may limit public input after some meetings get disorderly" September 20 2021. <https://www.heraldtribune.com/story/news/education/2021/09/20/sarasota-school-board-may-limit-public-input-after-meetings-gone-wild/8417784002/>.

⁶ Alia Malik, *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, "Anti-mask crowd disrupts Gwinnett school board meeting" May 21 2021. <https://www.ajc.com/news/anti-mask-crowd-disrupts-gwinnett-school-board-meeting/IYO7R6GHJ5DTLEFCQHER7V3GBA/>.

⁷ Julie Wootton-Greener, *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, "School board meeting turns contentious over COVID-19 policies" August 12 2021. <https://www.reviewjournal.com/local/education/school-board-meeting-turns-contentious-over-covid-19-policies-2418652/>.

⁸ WAVY.com, "Norfolk school officials police monitoring threats made toward Norview schools" September 21 2021. <https://www.wavy.com/news/local-news/norfolk/norfolk-school-officials-police-monitoring-threats-made-toward-norview-schools/>.

⁹ WBTV-Charlotte, "Gov. Roy Cooper addresses 'threats bullying intimidation' at school board meetings over mask requirements" September 21 2021. <https://www.wbvt.com/2021/09/21/gov-roy-cooper-address-fight-against-covid-19-north-carolina/>.

⁸ WGEM, "Mendon man arrested following disruption at Unity School board meeting" September 2 2021. <https://wgem.com/2021/09/02/mendon-man-arrested-following-disruption-at-unity-school-board-meeting/>.

⁹ Steve Neavling, *Detroit Metro Times*, "Nazi salute insults hurled at chaotic Birmingham schools meeting over mask mandate" August 19 2021. <https://www.metrotimes.com/news-hits/archives/2021/08/19/nazi-salute-insults-hurled-at-ruckus-birmingham-schools-meeting-over-mask-mandate>.

Kalie Marantette, *WLNS.com*, "Grand Ledge school board goes into recess due to public 'disruption'" June 16 2021. <https://www.wlns.com/news/grand-ledge-school-board-goes-into-recess-due-to-public-disruption/>.

Commented [DR9]: This phrase may be redundant as the PATRIOT Act was enacted to protect the US domestically. Overseas surveillance, if needed, would be linked to accounts or electronic correspondence, for example, transmitted domestically.

Commented [CS10]: You are right Deborah but I recommend keeping it in because there is often confusion on the PATRIOT Act from the public so I thought calling it was important so there is not confusion.

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because of opposition to critical race theory. In New Jersey¹⁰, Ohio¹¹, and other states¹², anti-mask proponents are inciting chaos during board meetings. In Virginia¹³, an individual was arrested, another man was ticketed for trespassing, and a third person was hurt during a school board meeting **discussion that course distinguishing current curricula from critical race theory and regarding equity** issues. In other states including Washington¹⁴, Texas¹⁵, Wisconsin¹⁶, Wyoming¹⁷, and Tennessee¹⁸, school boards have been confronted by angry mobs and forced to end meetings abruptly.

A resident in Alabama, who has self-proclaimed himself as a “vaccine police” has called school administrators while filming himself on Facebook Live.¹⁹ Other groups are posting watchlists against school boards and purporting misinformation that boards are adopting critical race theory

¹⁰ Joe Strupp, *Ashbury Park Press*, “NJ mask mandate for students sparks school board disruption, suspends meeting” August 26, 2021. <https://www.app.com/story/news/education/in-our-schools/2021/08/26/nj-school-mask-mandate-sparks-disruption-boe/5585283001/>.

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¹¹ Maia Belay, *Fox8*, “Sheriff deputies called to tense Nordon Hills school board meeting due to mask policy” August 31, 2021. <https://fox8.com/news/sheriff-deputies-called-to-tense-nordonia-hills-school-board-meeting-due-to-mask-policy/>.

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¹² Pete Bannon, *The Delaware County Daily Times*, “Mask protest brings police to Garnet Valley School Board meeting” August 25, 2021. Updated August 26, 2021. <https://www.delcotimes.com/2021/08/25/mask-protest-brings-cops-to-garnet-valley-school-board-meeting/>.

Brenley Goertzen, *Salon.com*, “Anti-mask mob swarms school board meeting” August 12, 2021. <https://www.salon.com/2021/08/12/anti-mask-mob-swarm-school-board-meeting/>.

¹³ Drew Wilder, Jackie Bensen, Andrea Swalec and NBC4 Washington Staff, *NBC Washington.com*, “The Meeting Has Degenerated”: 1 Arrest, 1 Injury at Loudoun Schools Meeting on Equity,” June 22, 2021. Updated June 23, 2021. <https://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/northern-virginia/loudoun-school-board-transgender-student-policy-race-equity/2708185/>.

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¹⁴ Adele Uphaus, *The Free Lance-Star*, “Unruly crowd causes Spotsylvania School Board meeting to adjourn after 13 minutes” August 24, 2021. https://fredericksburg.com/news/local/unruly-crowd-causes-spotsylvania-school-board-meeting-to-adjourn-after-13-minutes/article_1d39b83c-fa43-5626-acc4-4e2768a811de.html.

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¹⁴ Emily Gilbert, *Whidbey News Times*, “Oak Harbor school board clears the room after audience shouts disrupt meeting” August 13, 2021. <https://www.whidbeynewstimes.com/news/oak-harbor-school-board-clears-the-room-after-audience-shouts-disrupt-meeting/>.

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¹⁵ Talia Richman and Brayden Garcia, *The Dallas Morning News*, “‘Critical race theory’ roils Fort Worth school board meeting as Texas braces for continued fight” June 22, 2021. <https://www.dallasnews.com/news/education/2021/06/22/critical-race-theory-roils-fort-worth-school-board-meeting-as-texas-braces-for-continued-fight/>.

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¹⁶ WBAY news staff and Jason Zimmerman, *WBAY.com*, “Oshkosh School Board meeting postponed after protesters disrupt it, argument breaks out” August 25, 2021. Updated August 26, 2021. <https://www.wbay.com/2021/08/25/oshkosh-school-board-meeting-called-off-after-protesters-enter-board-members-walk-out/>.

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¹⁷ Margaret Austin, *Wyoming Tribune Eagle* via Wyoming News Exchange, *Pinedale Roundup*, “School board meeting over COVID stopped after disruption” August 4, 2021. <https://pinedaleroundup.com/article/school-board-meeting-over-covid-stopped-after-disruption>.

¹⁸ Jackie Del Pilar, *WZTV Nashville*, “Anti-mask protesters show lack of empathy at recent Middle Tennessee school meetings” September 12, 2021. <https://fox17.com/news/local/anti-mask-protesters-show-lack-of-empathy-at-recent-middle-tennessee-school-meetings>.

¹⁹ Aubrey Bailey, *WHNT.com*, “‘If you give one more shot you yourself will be executed’ Alabama man tells Missouri pharmacists” August 24, 2021. <https://whnt.com/news/alabama-news/if-you-give-one-more-shot-you-yourself-will-be-executed-alabama-man-tells-missouri-pharmacists/>.

curriculum and working to maintain online learning by haphazardly attributing it to COVID-19.²⁰ In Ohio, an individual mailed a letter to a school board member labeling the return address on the envelope from a local neighborhood association and then enclosing threatening hate mail from another entity.²¹ This correspondence states that, "We are coming after you and all the members on the ... BoE [Board of Education]." This hate mail continues by stating, "You are forcing them to wear mask for no reason in this world other than control. And for that you will pay dearly." Among other incendiaries, this same threat also calls the school board member a "filthy traitor," implies loss of pension funds, and labels the school board as Marxist. [Earlier] this month, a student in Tennessee was mocked during a board meeting for advocating masks in schools after testifying that his grandmother, who was an educator, died because of COVID-19.²² These threats and acts of violence are affecting our nation's democracy at the very foundational levels, causing school board members - including many who are not paid - to resign immediately and/or discontinue their service after their respective terms.²³ Further, this increasing violence is a clear and present danger to civic participation, in which other citizens who have been contemplating service as either an elected or appointed school board member have reconsidered their decision.

NSBA believes public discussions and transparency by local school board members are important for the safe and effective operations of schools.²⁴ It is vital that public discourses be encouraged in a safe and open environment, in which varying viewpoints can be offered in a peaceful manner. Our children are watching the examples of the current debates; and, we must encourage a positive dialogue even with different opinions. However, with such acute threats and actions that are disruptive to our students' well-being, to the safety of public school officials and personnel, and to interstate commerce, we urge the federal government's intervention against individuals or hate groups plotters who are targeting our schools and educators. NSBA is committed to working with you and your Administration as a partner to address this crisis affecting America's public schools, and greatly appreciates your prompt attention to our requests. We stand ready to work with you.

²⁰Nick Surgery Documented "TPUSA launches project targeting school board members." August 20, 2021. <https://substack.com/documented.net/p/tpusa-school-board-watchlist>

²¹Lindsey Mills WBNS "Disturbing: Worthington school board member receives threats for masks in schools." September 21, 2021. <https://www.10tv.com/article/news/local/worthington-school-board-member-receives-threats-for-masks-in-schools/530-f3c04240-76b4-456b-aad9-8555397b5427>

²²Kim Bellware The Washington Post "Student mocked at school board meeting after sharing that his grandmother died of covid 19." September 10, 2021. https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2021/09/10/grady-linn-tennessee/?utm_campaign=wp-main&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook&fbclid=IwAR29rIKzIY0tz4p0v85VjDk_n_dh5AJPp6eiEzJCl0RAYcMMMOPb8EviY

²³Andy Humbles The Nashville Tennessean "Jon White resigns as Wilson County School Board member." September 8, 2021. <https://www.tennessean.com/story/news/local/wilson/2021/09/08/jon-white-resigns-wilson-county-school-board-member/5750949001/>

²⁴Terri Pederson The Daily Citizen "Beaver Dam school board member resigns citing safety concerns for family." September 20, 2021. Updated September 21, 2021. <https://www.wiscnews.com/bdc/news/local/education/beaver-dam-school-board-member-resigns-citing-safety-concerns-for-family/article-066fc86c-4356-5a00-9940-187e02eb7340.html>

²⁴National School Boards Association and AASA The School Superintendents Association "NSBA AASA Issue Joint Statement Calling for End to Threats and Violence Around Safe School Opening Decisions." September 22, 2021. <https://www.nsba.org/News/2021/end-threats-violence-joint-statement>

Commented [CS11]: I need to check with Charlie and see if we can reference the letter. I am not sure if they wanted it released publicly but I am glad you included. It sends the message of how bad things are right now.

Commented [CS12]: I'm going to go ahead and take this out. I am not sure they are actively talking around this publicly and I don't want to put them in a bad situation.

Commented [JM13]: I'm not sure where we should include this but I want to insert something along these lines:

These types of incidents are causing many school board members, most of whom are not paid, to decide to not run again. It also has the effect of causing good people who are interested in making a difference in their community choose not to engage.

Commented [DR14R13]: I added language that addresses this statement.

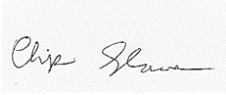
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Commented [DR15]: "Plotters" is an actual term used by the U.S. Secret Service, including in its investigations into incidents of school violence.

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Respectfully,

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chip Slaven".

Chip Slaven, Esq.
Interim Executive Director & CEO

|

CS:dr

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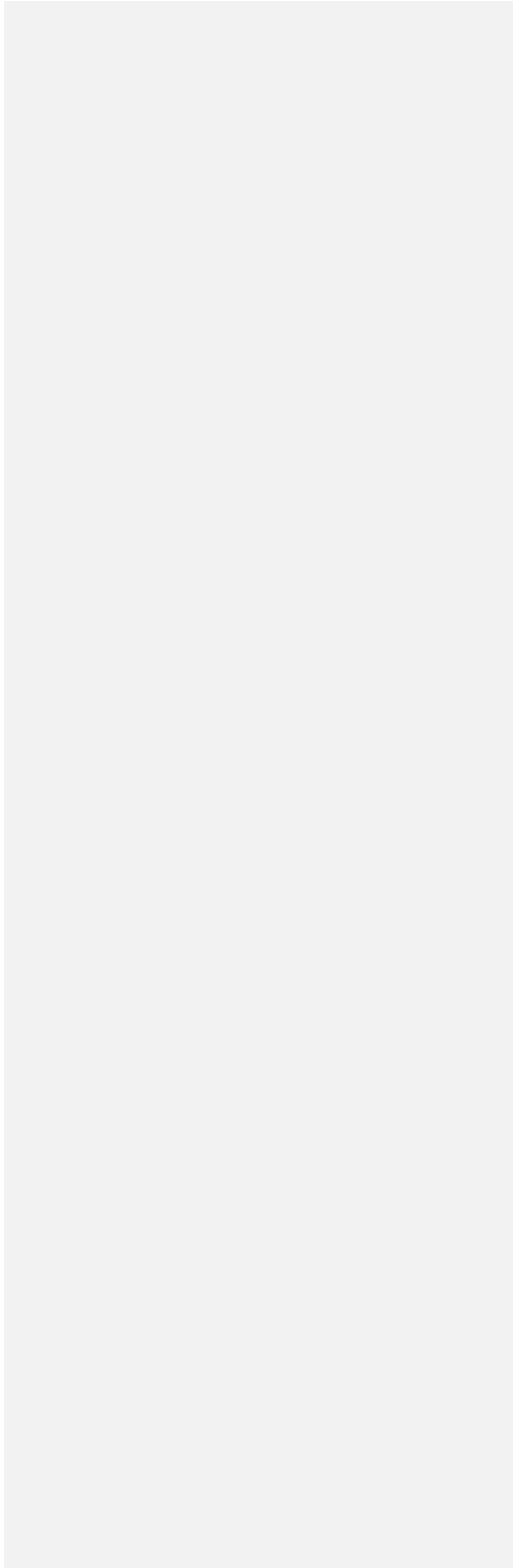


EXHIBIT 40

EXHIBIT 40

From: Jane Mellow
Sent: Tuesday, September 28, 2021 1:49 PM
To: Jason Amos; Deborah Rigsby
Subject: Couple edits

Just talked to Chip and he has a couple edits to the letter and release:

I think in the first graph we say “immediately” two times in a row. Ditch one of them.

Change “intervention” to “assistance” in the headline and first graph of the release and in the letter.
He was concerned that “intervention” would draw an immediate negative reaction among some and I think he’s right.

Can you both make those edits and send to :
Chip, Jane, Deborah, Jason, Francisco



Jane Mellow
Interim Chief Advocacy Officer
National School Boards Association
jmellow@nsba.org | [REDACTED]

EXHIBIT 41

EXHIBIT 41

From: National School Boards Association <Mail@ConnectedCommunity.org>
Sent: Friday, September 17, 2021 10:51 AM
To: Chip Slaven
Subject: RE: Executive Directors : NASSP Letter to President Asking for Help Protecting Principals--What About School Board Members?

Executive Directors

[Post New Message](#)

Re: NASSP Letter to President Asking for Help Protecting Principals--What About School Board Members?

[Reply to Group](#)

[Reply to Sender](#)



Sep 17, 2021 12:51 PM

[Chip Slaven](#)

Hi Tom,

Thanks for the question. It is a very important one. Threats to school board members and public schools has risen to the top of a lot of concerns for me right now. I mentioned this as an important issue for me and all of us on the OSAED earlier this week and referenced some of what I will outline for you below in that conversation.

NSBA is taking a number of actions regarding calling for protection and resources to assist school board members with these threats including a call for the President and federal government for more assistance.

On Tuesday of this week, I had a one on one phone call with a White House staff member on behalf of NSBA and our state association members discussing these concerns. I requested the meeting specifically to talk about these concerns. I walked through several examples of threats we had learned about recently and what is happening to trigger some of these incidents and threats. Additionally, we discussed a number of options to help school board members and I was promised the White House would explore how to help us and we would speak again to follow up how best to proceed. I also informed them in that call we are formally asking the federal government for assistance.

On Monday of next week, we will be releasing a joint statement with AASA calling for action and expressing the concerns of both school board members and superintendents who are also receiving high levels of threats. Further, NSBA has drafted its own individual letter that has been in the planning for several days that will also go out next week. This is a very detailed letter calling attention to the problem and laying out some very specific requests for action. That letter will be shared out with all of you next week when it is sent out so you can share it with your members and also your Congressional Delegations. I also anticipate taking several other actions on this issue.

These actions are in addition to other recent interactions with the U.S. Department of Education concerning these concerns. I firmly believe this is a significant problem that requires a high level of attention at the national level. I think any action by the state associations on this issue would also be

beneficial and we would be glad to assist you in those efforts.

Thanks again for the question Tom, I am glad I can provide this information. Please let me know if you have other questions.

Take care,
Chip

Chip Slaven
Chief Advocacy Officer
National School Boards Association
Alexandria, VA

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Original Message:

Sent: 09-17-2021 10:28:19 AM

From: Thomas Bertrand

Subject: NASSP Letter to President Asking for Help Protecting Principals--What About School Board Members?

Good morning,

NASSP released this document...wondering if there may be an opportunity to show support and empathy for our school board members across the country with something similar from NSBA? I am considering something similar for our Illinois Congressional Delegation, but a national approach may have more impact.

Stay well,

Tom

Thomas Bertrand
Executive Director
Illinois Association of School Boards
Springfield, IL


You are subscribed to "Executive Directors" as cslaven@nsba.org. To change your subscriptions, go to [My Subscriptions](#). To unsubscribe from this community discussion, go to [Unsubscribe](#).

EXHIBIT 42

EXHIBIT 42

From: Chip Slaven
Sent: Thursday, October 14, 2021 9:17 AM
To: Chip Slaven
Subject: FW: NSBA Letter to President Biden on Threats School Boards Members and Public Schools

From: Beverly Slough <Beverly.Slough@stjohns.k12.fl.us>
Sent: Friday, October 1, 2021 2:01 PM
To: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>; 2021-2022 Board of Directors <2021-2022-BOD@nsba.org>
Cc: Elena Kukanova – Carpenter <ECarpenter@nsba.org>; Francisco Negron <fnegron@nsba.org>; Jane Mellow <JMellow@nsba.org>; Renee Joe <RJoe@nsba.org>; Kimberly Muse <KMuse@nsba.org>; Patricia Boyd-King <pboyd-king@nsba.org>
Subject: Re: NSBA Letter to President Biden on Threats School Boards Members and Public Schools

I must object to the sending of this letter in the strongest way. Something of this magnitude should never have been sent without the concurrence of the full Board of Directors. While I realize that we have all been under duress at our meetings, I do not feel that it rises to the level of asking for federal law enforcement to manage the meetings.

In my mind, it was bad enough that the letter was sent without full board approval. To go the extra step of issuing a press release has resulted in greater problems for some of us who live in highly conservative areas. I am greatly disappointed that all this was done without discussion and approval by the National Board.

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From: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 29, 2021 8:18:21 PM
To: 2021-2022 Board of Directors <2021-2022-BOD@nsba.org>
Cc: Elena Kukanova – Carpenter <ECarpenter@nsba.org>; Francisco Negron <fnegron@nsba.org>; Jane Mellow <JMellow@nsba.org>; Renee Joe <RJoe@nsba.org>; Kimberly Muse <KMuse@nsba.org>; Patricia Boyd-King <pboyd-king@nsba.org>
Subject: NSBA Letter to President Biden on Threats School Boards Members and Public Schools

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. **Do not** click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. Please report suspicious or potentially dangerous emails using the "Phish Alert Button".

Good evening,

Attached is a letter President Garcia asked that I share with the board. It was sent to President Biden concerning threats to public schools and school board members. We co-signed the letter which lays out the current issues local school board members are facing and asks for federal cooperation with state and local law enforcement as well as public schools to address these serious issues. It also asks for threat assessments regarding the current situation. Additionally, in talks over the last several weeks with White House staff, they requested additional information on some of the specific threats, so the letter also details many of the incidents that have been occurring.

As you are probably aware, the level of threats and actual violence have increased the last few weeks and there are now some groups recognized for violence showing up at schools and school board meetings. The level of concern is rising. It

is hoped the letter will also call out the bad behavior occurring and promote calmer thinking when people are debating these important issues. This letter is embargoed until tomorrow morning when it will be shared publicly. The letter will also be shared this evening with the state association executive directors.

Thank you for all your leadership on your local school board.

Take care,
Chip

EXHIBIT 43

EXHIBIT 43

From: Chip Slaven
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 9:27 PM
To: Wall, Mary C. EOP/WHO
Subject: RE: examples
Attachments: Internal NSBA Summary on School Board Disruption.docx

Hi Mary,

Thanks for letting me know about your meeting tomorrow. I am glad to hear of the interest level. We want to prepare you with as much information as possible.

Attached please find an internal NSBA document detailing some of the publicly available information concerning threats to school board members and disruptions of meetings. We used this document as a reference point to help draft the letter we plan to send. It is about two weeks old and there have been numerous new issues since then, but this should give you an idea of what school boards are facing. In addition to this summary, I have also been personally informed about several incidents that are very concerning that I will share with you. In West Virginia, an individual showed up at a school board meeting and displayed pictures of a board members young children taken at a camp in which they were not wearing masks. The individual had gone on to the school board members personal Facebook page and captured the images of his children. In Ohio, one school board has been facing large crowds attempting to block entry into meetings, screaming and sometimes spitting at the members, and keying their cars. That same board has also received a letter sent with a fake address claiming they would be coming after the board and will make them pay dearly. The threat was nonspecific, but you get the idea of what is happening. There are also reports of Proud Boys showing up at various school board meetings and teaming up with anti-maskers, Qanon followers now considering running for school board elections and becoming more interested in school boards, and general levels of hostility around mask wearing and political issues such as debate over critical race theory—which is not actually taught in any public school. Misinformation and social media fueled by national groups and extremists are driving much of the debate as well as partisan politics. School board elections are generally nonpartisan and locally driven. This seems like a test drive for issues during the upcoming national campaigns. I would not be surprised if there are intentional social media campaigns from foreign powers or other bad operators also popping up like what happened during the 2016 election.

I want to help you with your meeting tomorrow so I am providing some bullets below that I hope will be useful to you. Please bear in mind the letter is not final yet and we are still vetting through our legal team as well as our officers. But I can tell you that the areas for consideration I am interested in terms of federal requests and/or recommendations are below. I think our goals are the same so we want to offer as much information to you as we can in advance. Please just don't consider them formal until our official letter comes. There could be changes or modifications tomorrow, but our interest is in the following areas:

- NSBA would like to see a joint collaboration among federal law enforcement agencies, state and local law enforcement, and public school officials to focus on the threats to public schools and how to deal with them.
- NSBA is interested in getting the assistance and resources of the U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Secret Service, and its National Threat Assessment Center regarding the level of risk to public schoolchildren, educators, board members, and facilities/campuses. We would also like to see the assistance of the U.S. Postal Inspection

Service to intervene against threatening letters and cyberbullying attacks that have been transmitted to students, school board members, district administrators, and other educators.

- NSBA is considering requesting a joint expedited review by the U.S. Departments of Justice, Education, and Homeland Security, along with the appropriate training, coordination, investigations, and enforcement mechanisms from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), including any technical assistance necessary from, and state and local coordination with, its National Security Branch and Counterterrorism Division, as well as any other federal agency with relevant jurisdictional authority and oversight.
- Additionally, NSBA is interested in a review of appropriate enforceable actions against these crimes and acts of violence under the Gun-Free School Zones Act, the PATRIOT Act in regards to domestic terrorism, Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, Violent Interference with Federally Protected Rights statute, Conspiracy Against Rights statute, an Executive Order to enforce all applicable federal laws for the protection of students and public school district personnel, and any related measure.

The letter will go into greater detail and will also contain additional clarity and examples of incidents school board members are facing. Many of the examples that will be cited are from the attached internal document. Please let me know if you have any questions and/or comments. Our members need a strong stance and leadership from NSBA so that is what I am hoping to do with the letter. My hope is this just the beginning of additional collaboration. We very much want to be part of the solution going forward and work with you.

Thanks again for your leadership,
Chip

From: Wall, Mary C. EOP/WHO <Mary.C.Wall@who.eop.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 10:10 PM
To: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Subject: RE: examples

Chip:

Thanks for the heads up. Is there any way we can take a look at the letter in advance of release? In specific, I'm meeting w colleagues from other WH offices and DOJ tomorrow morning to see if there might be any options we can pursue here, so if you have concrete recommendations in your letter (e.g., the threat assessment you mentioned), would be good to know so I can include in discussions.

Thanks,
MW

From: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 9:34 PM
To: Wall, Mary C. EOP/WHO <Mary.C.Wall@who.eop.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: examples

Good evening Mary,

Thanks very much for the email and the conversation last week. I will work with our team and send you some of the most egregious examples of the conduct tomorrow.

Just so you know, we plan to release a joint statement tomorrow with AASA concerning the current situation. As I indicated last week, NSBA is also planning to send the President a letter requesting federal assistance to help school board members and public schools manage these threats. We hope to have that letter ready to go by Thursday. I will be sure you receive a copy of it.

We really appreciate the responsiveness of the Administration and wish we could simply focus on helping students get back in school, but the new reality is at times very ugly. I will get the examples to you tomorrow as soon as I can.

Have a good night and thanks,
Chip

Chip Slaven

Interim Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer

National School Boards Association

www.nsba.org

703.838.6742 (office)

[REDACTED] (cell)

1680 Duke Street, FL 2 Alexandria, VA



From: Wall, Mary C. EOP/WHO <Mary.C.Wall@who.eop.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 9:37 AM

To: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>

Subject: examples

Hi Chip! Hope you're well.

When we spoke last week I think you said you could send through to me some of the more egregious examples of your members who have faced safety issues and/or reached out to law enforcement without adequate response.

Do you have any examples on hand? Would be helpful as we brainstorm solutions.

Thanks!

MW

EXHIBIT 44

EXHIBIT 44

From: Deborah Rigsby
Sent: Friday, September 24, 2021 1:44 PM
To: Francisco Negrón; Renee Joe; Jason Amos; Elena Kukanova – Carpenter
Cc: Chip Slaven; Jane Mellow; Lenora Johnson; Kimberly Muse; Alesha Stuart
Subject: For Your Review -- EMBARGOED COPY -- NSBA Letter-Federal Intervention 9-2021
Attachments: NSBA Letter-Federal Intervention 9-2021.pdf

Good afternoon Everyone,

Jane and I are forwarding the attached letter for your review that Chip has approved, regarding a formal request to the President for federal intervention to prevent further threats and acts of violence against students, school boards, and educators. Please let us know if further information is needed for this letter.

Chip is planning to forward this to the Board over the weekend.

Thanks for reviewing!

Jane and Deborah

EXHIBIT 45

EXHIBIT 45

From: Jason Amos
Sent: Monday, September 27, 2021 11:29 AM
To: Jane Mellow
Subject: RE: For Your Review -- EMBARGOED COPY -- NSBA Letter-Federal Intervention 9-2021

Sure thing! That gray background was really annoying me and, I felt, left a bad impression to what was otherwise a wonderfully written letter.

From: Jane Mellow <JMellow@nsba.org>
Sent: Monday, September 27, 2021 1:25 PM
To: Jason Amos <JAmos@nsba.org>
Subject: RE: For Your Review -- EMBARGOED COPY -- NSBA Letter-Federal Intervention 9-2021

Thank you for doing that.



Jane Mellow | *Interim Chief Advocacy Officer* |
National School Boards Association | jmellow@nsba.org | [REDACTED]

From: Jason Amos <JAmos@nsba.org>
Sent: Monday, September 27, 2021 1:20 PM
To: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>; Jane Mellow <JMellow@nsba.org>; Deborah Rigsby <drigsby@nsba.org>; Francisco Negrón <fnegrón@nsba.org>; Renee Joe <RJJoe@nsba.org>; Elena Kukanova – Carpenter <ECarpenter@nsba.org>
Cc: Lenora Johnson <ljohnson@nsba.org>; Kimberly Muse <KMuse@nsba.org>; Alesha Stuart <AStuart@nsba.org>
Subject: RE: For Your Review -- EMBARGOED COPY -- NSBA Letter-Federal Intervention 9-2021

Hey Chip,

Definitely not today given that we don't have a final copy of the letter yet. We might even need to wait until Wednesday if we really want to try to blow out the media coverage.

Also, I asked Chris to develop a new digital signature for Chip to avoid the gray block around the signature that's currently on the letter. It is attached and hopefully looks a little better.

From: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Sent: Monday, September 27, 2021 12:14 PM
To: Jane Mellow <JMellow@nsba.org>; Deborah Rigsby <drigsby@nsba.org>; Francisco Negrón <fnegrón@nsba.org>; Renee Joe <RJJoe@nsba.org>; Jason Amos <JAmos@nsba.org>; Elena Kukanova – Carpenter <ECarpenter@nsba.org>
Cc: Lenora Johnson <ljohnson@nsba.org>; Kimberly Muse <KMuse@nsba.org>; Alesha Stuart <AStuart@nsba.org>
Subject: RE: For Your Review -- EMBARGOED COPY -- NSBA Letter-Federal Intervention 9-2021

Hi all,

The officers would like Viola's signature added to the letter which I think makes it that much stronger. Can someone work on that for me? There is also one misspelled word. It is "However" Could someone copyedit that one? Please get

back to Jane or Deborah with any other edits, concerns, or questions. As for timing, would Tuesday be a better day Jason?

Thanks,
Chip

From: Jane Mellow <JMellow@nsba.org>
Sent: Monday, September 27, 2021 9:37 AM
To: Deborah Rigsby <driigsby@nsba.org>; Francisco Negron <fnegron@nsba.org>; Renee Joe <RJoe@nsba.org>; Jason Amos <JAmos@nsba.org>; Elena Kukanova – Carpenter <ECarpenter@nsba.org>
Cc: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>; Lenora Johnson <ljohnson@nsba.org>; Kimberly Muse <KMuse@nsba.org>; Alesha Stuart <ASTuart@nsba.org>
Subject: RE: For Your Review -- EMBARGOED COPY -- NSBA Letter-Federal Intervention 9-2021

Checking in on where everyone is on reviewing this letter. Are we still hoping to get it out the door today?



Jane Mellow | *Interim Chief Advocacy Officer* |
National School Boards Association | jmellow@nsba.org | [REDACTED]

From: Deborah Rigsby <driigsby@nsba.org>
Sent: Friday, September 24, 2021 3:44 PM
To: Francisco Negron <fnegron@nsba.org>; Renee Joe <RJoe@nsba.org>; Jason Amos <JAmos@nsba.org>; Elena Kukanova – Carpenter <ECarpenter@nsba.org>
Cc: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>; Jane Mellow <JMellow@nsba.org>; Lenora Johnson <ljohnson@nsba.org>; Kimberly Muse <KMuse@nsba.org>; Alesha Stuart <ASTuart@nsba.org>
Subject: For Your Review -- EMBARGOED COPY -- NSBA Letter-Federal Intervention 9-2021

Good afternoon Everyone,

Jane and I are forwarding the attached letter for your review that Chip has approved, regarding a formal request to the President for federal intervention to prevent further threats and acts of violence against students, school boards, and educators. Please let us know if further information is needed for this letter.

Chip is planning to forward this to the Board over the weekend.

Thanks for reviewing!

Jane and Deborah

EXHIBIT 46

EXHIBIT 46

From: Chip Slaven
Sent: Monday, September 27, 2021 10:10 AM
To: Kristi Swett
Cc: Garcia, Viola; Henderson , Frank - KS; Wilson, Charlie - OH
Subject: RE: Draft Letter to the President

Good morning,

Thanks for the great feedback. Viola if you would like to add your name, we can certainly do that for this letter. Please just let me know what you prefer. I agree the letter is lengthy but the White House has been asking me to provide examples of some of the activity, so we thought the letter was an appropriate means to give them that information. Charlie, thanks for the copyedit, I will correct the spelling.

Take care,
Chip

From: Kristi Swett [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 27, 2021 11:07 AM
To: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Cc: Garcia, Viola [REDACTED]; Henderson , Frank - KS [REDACTED]; Wilson, Charlie - OH
Subject: Re: Draft Letter to the President

Thank you, Chip, the letter looks good... a bit long, but the content is relevant and provides perspective to the issues. I would agree with Charlie, I would like to see Violas name included, unless she has objections.

Kristi

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 26, 2021, at 7:29 PM, Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org> wrote:

Good evening Viola, Frank, Kristi, and Charlie:

I wanted to share with you the letter we plan on sending the President regarding threats to school board members and public schools. Deborah Rigsby worked on it and did a great job. It is very bold and calls for threat assessments to be conducted by various federal law enforcement agencies. It also calls out several of the problems that have been publicly reported. We will be doing some more editing in the morning, but I wanted to make sure I shared it with you prior to it going out. Jason believes this will get some attention. Please let me know if you have any questions or see any necessary edits.

Thanks,
Chip
<NSBA Letter-Federal Intervention 9-2021.pdf>

Scanned By Microsoft EOP

EXHIBIT 47

EXHIBIT 47

From: Wilson, Charlie <wilson.49@osu.edu>
Sent: Sunday, September 26, 2021 7:47 PM
To: Chip Slaven; Garcia, Viola; Henderson, Frank - KS; Swett, Kristi (UT)
Subject: Re: Draft Letter to the President

The letter looks fine to me with just one typo that I saw. However is misspelled early in the letter. I do, however, have one question: Should the letter be signed by both the CEO and our President? --charlie

From: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 26, 2021 9:29 PM
To: Garcia, Viola [REDACTED]; Henderson, Frank - KS [REDACTED]; Swett, Kristi (UT)
[REDACTED]; Wilson, Charlie [REDACTED]
Subject: Draft Letter to the President

Good evening Viola, Frank, Kristi, and Charlie:

I wanted to share with you the letter we plan on sending the President regarding threats to school board members and public schools. Deborah Rigsby worked on it and did a great job. It is very bold and calls for threat assessments to be conducted by various federal law enforcement agencies. It also calls out several of the problems that have been publicly reported. We will be doing some more editing in the morning, but I wanted to make sure I shared it with you prior to it going out. Jason believes this will get some attention. Please let me know if you have any questions or see any necessary edits.

Thanks,
Chip

EXHIBIT 48

EXHIBIT 48

Sent: Tuesday, September 28, 2021 10:25 AM
To: Kreighbaum, Andrew
Subject: RE: Story Heads Up: Letter Asking Biden for Federal Intervention to Stop Threats Against Public School Leaders
Attachments: NSBA Letter-Federal Intervention - EMBARGOED-NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION.pdf

Sure thing. I've attached the embargoed—not for distribution version of letter.

As for the embargo release time, it definitely won't be today. We're still putting some minor touches on the letter, copyedits and what not. Nothing that should affect the content. I'll let you know when I have a final version of the letter and the embargo release time.

Is there a particular time that would be helpful to you in terms of the embargo release? I can't promise anything, but I wanted to ask.

From: Kreighbaum, Andrew <akreighbaum@bloombergindustry.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 28, 2021 12:15 PM
To: Jason Amos <JAmos@nsba.org>
Subject: RE: Story Heads Up: Letter Asking Biden for Federal Intervention to Stop Threats Against Public School Leaders

Hey Jason,

Was just about to check in -- would definitely be interested in taking a look at the letter. What would the embargo time be?

Thanks,

Andrew

From: Jason Amos <JAmos@nsba.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 28, 2021 12:13 PM
To: Kreighbaum, Andrew <akreighbaum@bloombergindustry.com>
Subject: Story Heads Up: Letter Asking Biden for Federal Intervention to Stop Threats Against Public School Leaders

Hi Andrew,

You may remember last week that I mentioned we were working on something to address some of the threats and harassment that school board members are facing.

I'm writing today to give you a heads up that, tomorrow morning, we plan to release a letter to the White House calling for federal intervention to stop threats and acts of intimidation against school board members and other education leaders.

Is this something that you would be interested in covering? If so, I'm happy to provide you with an embargoed copy of the letter. The letter includes more than 20 reported instances of threats, harassment, disruption, and acts of intimidation targeted at school board members. It also makes specific asks regarding several federal agencies and the laws granting them authority to intervene.

What do you think?

Thanks,
Jason

From: Kreighbaum, Andrew <akreighbaum@bloombergindustry.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 11:13 AM
To: Jason Amos <JAmos@nsba.org>
Cc: Charlotte Blane <cblane@nsba.org>
Subject: Statement on threats, violence targeting educators

Hey Jason,

Hope all is well. I got NSBA's release earlier on threats and violence targeting educators over Covid protocols. I've been looking into this issue after speaking to NASSP about this last week.

Does Chip have time for a call today about what the Education Department or other federal agencies could do to address this issue? I'm available outside of 2-2:45 this afternoon.

Thanks,

.....

Andrew Kreighbaum

Education and Labor Reporter

Bloomberg Government

(he/him)

Cell: [REDACTED]

akreighbaum@bloombergindustry.com

EXHIBIT 49

EXHIBIT 49

Sent: Tuesday, September 28, 2021 12:54 PM
To: Calfas, Jennifer
Subject: Story Heads Up: Letter Asking Biden for Federal Intervention to Stop Threats Against Public School Leaders
Attachments: NSBA Letter-Federal Intervention - EMBARGOED-NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION.pdf

Hi Jen,

I'm writing to give you a heads up that, tomorrow morning, the National School Boards Association plans to release a letter to the White House calling for federal intervention to stop threats and acts of intimidation against school board members and other education leaders.

Is this something that you would be interested in covering? If so, I'm happy to provide you with an embargoed copy of the letter. The letter includes more than 20 reported instances of threats, harassment, disruption, and acts of intimidation targeted at school board members. It also makes specific asks regarding several federal agencies and the laws granting them authority to intervene.

What do you think?

Thanks,
Jason

Jason Amos
Director of Communications
National School Boards Association
jamos@nsba.org

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[Facebook.com/SchoolBoards](https://www.facebook.com/SchoolBoards)

EXHIBIT 50

EXHIBIT 50

From: Deborah Rigsby
Sent: Tuesday, September 28, 2021 9:30 AM
To: Jason Amos
Subject: RE: Please Review: Press Release on Letter to President Biden

Thanks Jason. One suggestion for the press release follows.

For this sentence -- "The letter cites more than twenty instances of threats, harassment, disruption, and acts of intimidation targeted at school board members." What about stating the following? The letter cites more than twenty instances of threats, harassment, disruption, and acts of intimidation that **have transpired during school board meetings** and that are targeted at school **officials. board members.**

Deborah

From: Jason Amos <JAmos@nsba.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 28, 2021 10:34 AM
To: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>; Jane Mellow <JMellow@nsba.org>; Deborah Rigsby <driigsby@nsba.org>; Renee Joe <RJoe@nsba.org>; Charlotte Blane <cblane@nsba.org>; Jaclyn Goddette <JGoddette@nsba.org>
Subject: Please Review: Press Release on Letter to President Biden

Hi Everyone,

Here's the draft press release on the letter that Deborah drafted to President Biden. Please let me know if you have any edits.

I'm going to start reaching out to reporters about the letter today and plan to send out the press release tomorrow morning.

Thanks!
Jason

Jason Amos
Director of Communications
National School Boards Association
jamos@nsba.org
[REDACTED]

NSBA.org
[@NSBAPublicEd](https://www.facebook.com/NSBAPublicEd)
[Facebook.com/SchoolBoards](https://www.facebook.com/SchoolBoards)

EXHIBIT 51

EXHIBIT 51

To: Rodriguez, Julie C. EOP/WHO
Cc: Pantangco, Katherine R. EOP/WHO; Wall, Mary C. EOP/WHO; Samuel, Aaliyah; Watkins-Foote, Kimberly; partnerships@who.eop.gov; Jane Mellow; Deborah Rigsby; Jason Amos
Subject: Letter to President Biden from the National School Boards Association
Attachments: NSBA Letter to President Biden Concerning Threats to Public Schools and School Board Members.pdf

Dear Julie,

Please find attached a letter to President Biden sent on behalf of the National School Boards Association (NSBA), our state association members, and the thousands of local school board members across the nation concerning threats to public schools and school board members. We appreciate the recent opportunity to discuss these issues with White House and Administration officials. The letter requests that federal law enforcement and relevant agencies work with state and local authorities and public schools to address these ongoing threats. It also outlines some of the publicly reported threats and incidents that have taken place.

We plan to release this letter to our members this evening and will make it available to the media tomorrow, it is embargoed until then, but wanted to get it to you prior to that release. NSBA appreciates the concern White House staff, Secretary Cardona, and other members of the Biden Administration have shown on this issue and we pledge to work with President Biden and the appropriate federal officials on this growing concern. If you have any questions concerning the letter, you may reach out to me or Jane Mellow, NSBA's interim chief advocacy officer, who is copied on this letter.

Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,
Chip Slaven

Chip Slaven

Interim Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer
National School Boards Association

www.nsba.org

703.838.6742 (office)

[REDACTED] (cell)

1680 Duke Street, FL 2 Alexandria, VA



EXHIBIT 52

EXHIBIT 52

From: Charlotte Blane
Sent: Thursday, September 30, 2021 8:08 AM
To: Jason Amos; Jaclyn Goddette
Subject: RE: Letter to Biden

Yup, that's for sure!

Say, do we want to give Chip and Viola a heads up that they may receive emails and particularly in the case of Viola that she forward them to us and not respond on her own. Just in case..

Charlotte Blane
Communications Manager
National School Boards Association
www.nsba.org

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and [Facebook.com/SchoolBoards](https://www.facebook.com/SchoolBoards)

From: Jason Amos <JAmos@nsba.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 30, 2021 10:04 AM
To: Jaclyn Goddette <JGoddette@nsba.org>; Charlotte Blane <cblane@nsba.org>
Subject: FW: Letter to Biden

Our first unsolicited hate mail! Now we know we're breaking through the noise.

From: Dean Schwichtenberg [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 30, 2021 9:56 AM
To: Media <media@nsba.org>
Subject: Letter to Biden

How dare you compare your issues with domestic violence.

EXHIBIT 53

EXHIBIT 53

From: Renee Joe
Sent: Friday, October 1, 2021 9:34 AM
To: NSBA Staff
Subject: White House Letter and Response

Dear NSBA Colleagues,

On Wednesday, NSBA sent a letter to the White House requesting assistance with the threats, harassments, and acts of intimidation that school board members and other education leaders are facing around the country.

Yesterday, we started our media push and it received great interest, including being mentioned during the White House press briefing yesterday. Chip conducted several rounds of media interviews, including the Associated Press, USA Today, Wall Street Journal, CBS Radio, and TV appearances on CNBC, MSNBC, and the CBS Evening News. This morning, NSBA President Viola Garcia was on "New Day" on CNN. You can see our press release, which includes a link to the letter, at <https://nsba.org/News/2021/federal-assistance-letter>.

The amount of media coverage we've gotten has naturally placed a spotlight on NSBA and all of us. As a result, some of you have received phone calls, voicemails, or email messages with some nasty messages and hateful words. **DO NOT RESPOND.** Please forward all inquiries to Jason's email. It is critical that you **NOT ENGAGE** with angry callers. In the event that if you find yourself on a phone call with someone who wants to vent or rant about the work we are doing, please transfer them to Jason's voicemail at [REDACTED]. **Centralization of these calls/messages is important to ensure consistency of messaging, tracking, and potential reporting to authorities.**

Similarly, if you receive attacks or hateful message on social media, do not engage with these people. They aren't interested in facts, they're only interested in the argument. If you get a particularly hateful, racist, or threatening message of social media, please forward to Jason.

Thanks to each of you for the work you are doing. Yesterday and today are an example of what school board members are facing in their communities every day, not to mention death threats and threats to their families they are receiving. It's why we wrote the letter to the White House and it's why we do the work that we do.

I am hopeful that as the news cycles through to the next hot topic, so will this heightened activity. Until then, I appreciate your patience and ask that you contact me or if you have any questions or want to talk through anything you receive that is particularly troubling.

With great appreciation,
Renée

Renée B. Joe
Interim Chief Transformation Officer
National School Boards Association
www.nsba.org
[REDACTED]

EXHIBIT 54

EXHIBIT 54

Sent: Saturday, October 2, 2021 12:25 PM
To: viola garcia; Henderson , Frank - KS; Swett, Kristi (UT); Wilson, Charlie - OH
Subject: RE: NSBA Letter to President Biden on Threats School Boards Members and Public Schools

Good afternoon,

I'm going to refrain from any board wide communications on this for now. Viola, your response was excellent, and I appreciate you sending it. But I did want to offer a few things for us to consider that may help in responding to the questions and concerns.

First, the letter was shared with the board of directors Wednesday evening prior to it going out to the press which didn't happen until Thursday morning. I received no emails or even acknowledgment let alone questions or concerns. The first I saw of any board interest occurred almost two days after the letter was shared. They only are complaining now because they are being asked about it. The correct response by them should be to stay they stand by the letter because they are concerned about stopping violence. For them not to back strenuously that NSBA is not calling parents terrorists or limiting free speech is an outrageous lack of moral courage and a demonstration of a willingness to lead.

In the letter, the word(s) "student" or "students" are used 19 times. The word(s) schoolchildren or children are used 5 times. Terrorism is referred to twice. *"As these acts of malice, violence, and threats against public school officials have increased, the classification of these heinous actions could be the equivalent to a form of domestic terrorism and hate crimes"* and domestic terrorism is referred to one other time related to the Patriot Act to distinguish it from the action available under foreign terrorism. The word(s) "parent" or "parents" are used 0 times. So, the claim we are calling parents terrorists is not only ridiculous, the fact is we don't refer to parents at all in the letter, not one time.

In regard to federal overreach, this is an absolutely legitimate request of the federal government. Threats through the mails or through electronic means are federal crimes. I know the FBI is already investigating at least one threat and I am sure there are many more we are not aware of they are also investigating. The U.S. Secret Service runs the National Threat Assessment Center to deal with this very kind of situation. They released a report on targeted school violence in 2019 to help prevent violence in and to schools. This is the description given in the report:

"The U.S. Secret Service has a longstanding tradition of conducting threat assessments as part of its mandate to ensure the safety of this Nation's highest elected officials. Our National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC) is dedicated to expanding the field of violence prevention by closely examining the targeted violence that affects communities across the United States. As part of this mission, NTAC has maintained a particular focus on the prevention of targeted school violence. For 20 years, the Center has studied these tragedies, and the following report, titled Protecting America's Schools: A U.S. Secret Service Analysis of Targeted School Violence, supports past Secret Service research findings that indicate targeted school violence is preventable."

It should also be noted that the California School Boards Association, our largest member by far, wrote a public letter to Governor Newsome requesting state law enforcement help because local police were not responding to threats and problems in many communities. As Charlie has pointed out, his own district has had difficulty getting local police to respond to the school district. We left those references out of the letter, but they are realities. This move is meant to push local authorities to do more without calling them out.

The final thing I would point out is that the Proud Boys which is a known extremist hate group with a history of violence, including at the U.S. Capitol, have been showing up at board meetings and they marched on a public school in session in Vancouver, WA to "escort" a mask-less student into the building and the schools had to be locked down. I don't want to call them out publicly because it gives them more publicity but their involvement as well as the interest schools are now

getting from the Qanon movement make this a very dangerous situation. The references to domestic terrorism acts are really referring to them.

This is definitely an uncomfortable situation and does make NSBA more visible to the opponents of public schools and some of the very people threatening school board members. I am now receiving some of the same emails school board members have received. Thankfully it has been a small number and they have not contained any direct threats, but national organizations are supposed to lead and this comes with the territory. NASSP called for federal action two weeks ago. It just didn't receive as much press. Randi Weingarten of AFT called me yesterday to commend us for being so bold and promised to work with us to try and cool temperatures down. The White House was extremely careful in their wording on Thursday as they should be, first responders are going to be local authorities, but she also called the incidents horrible and suggested there was movement going on in the federal government which has been occurring for several weeks. I was made aware the WH staff met with the DOJ a week ago Wednesday. I gave the WH the bullets that were going to be in the letter the night before that meeting and we sat on the letter for a week. In the private responses I received back on Thursday we were thanked for our leadership, and they pledged to work with us. The fact that there is pushback on this shows the power the letter carried. The coalition letter that came out in opposition clearly stated it was against violent acts. That is of itself was positive even if their response was inaccurate, which it was, National news are now showing clips of the incidents before they talk about the letter and that makes the organizers and dark money funders nervous. I would also add that San Diego has been a hotbed of incidents and problems. I have been very concerned about the security precautions for the Annual Conference. The letter will now make private calls to federal, state, and local authorities to help us secure the site so we can have a safe gathering.

These are just a few of my thoughts I wanted to share.

Thanks again for strong leadership the four of you are showing.

Take care,
Chip

From: viola garcia [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, October 2, 2021 9:14 AM
To: Henderson, Frank - KS [REDACTED]; Swett, Kristi (UT) [REDACTED]; Wilson, Charlie - OH [REDACTED]; Chip Slaven [REDACTED]
Subject: Fw: NSBA Letter to President Biden on Threats School Boards Members and Public Schools

FYI,
Viola

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: viola garcia [REDACTED]
To: Janine Bay Teske [REDACTED]
Cc: Swett, Kristi (UT) [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, October 2, 2021, 08:10:24 AM CDT
Subject: Re: NSBA Letter to President Biden on Threats School Boards Members and Public Schools

Thank you, Janine. I appreciate your words of wisdom. I think this is the section of the letter that you reference "calling parents terrorists." That's not what the section says, but it is obvious that "bad words" create fodder for those intent on misinformation.

I appreciate you!

Viola

As these acts of malice, violence, and threats against public school officials have increased, the classification of these heinous actions could be the equivalent to a form of domestic terrorism and hate crimes. As such, NSBA requests a joint expedited review by the U.S. Departments of Justice, Education, and Homeland Security, along with the appropriate training, coordination, investigations, and enforcement mechanisms from the FBI, including any technical assistance necessary from, and state and local coordination with, its National Security Branch and Counterterrorism Division, as well as any other federal agency with relevant jurisdictional authority and oversight. Additionally, NSBA requests that such review examine appropriate enforceable actions against these crimes and acts of violence under the Gun-Free School Zones Act, the PATRIOT Act in regards to domestic terrorism, the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, the Violent Interference with Federally Protected Rights statute, the Conspiracy Against Rights statute, an Executive Order to enforce all applicable federal laws for the protection of students and public school district personnel, and any related measure. As the threats grow and news of extremist hate organizations showing up at school board meetings is being reported, this is a critical time for a proactive approach to deal with this difficult issue.

On Saturday, October 2, 2021, 07:38:21 AM CDT, Janine Bay Teske [REDACTED] wrote:

Thank you for your email. As I was once in the media spotlight, I took a course on messaging. The course focused on good words and bad words. Bad words are words that evoke strong negative reactions. This letter is laced with bad words, calling parents terrorists, for example. We need to be the adults in the room and not revert to the same kind of action that is being used by those that are attacking us. We need to unite not divide. We should be setting the example for our students. We should be talking about civility, local control and the resources necessary to make our schools safe from the critics. This letter is divisive and certainly doesn't promote civility. We should not be using our schools as a political battleground.

On Sat, Oct 2, 2021 at 7:59 AM viola garcia [REDACTED] wrote:

Good morning NSBA Directors,

First of all, I want to thank you for your active engagement and recent responses. These are troubling times. NSBA has been engaged with the White House and the Department of Education on these and other issues related to the pandemic for several weeks now. The pandemic and our heightened political environment have created a lot of tension in our society.

School boards have been under the spotlight since the start of the pandemic, but it's risen to a new level over the last few weeks. We felt compelled to say something when we started hearing about the threats, harassment, and acts of intimidation at school board meetings.

What we have witnessed are coordinated efforts, *playbooks*, for creating chaos at school board meetings and in local communities. Letters across states are very similar and these incidents are beyond random acts. What we are now seeing is a pattern of threats and violence occurring across state lines and via online platforms, which is why we need the federal government's assistance.

Disagreements are one thing, even among us, but what we're seeing is rising to a dangerous level in some instances. We also want the public to understand that these disruptions are interfering with school boards' most important business—ensuring the health, safety, and education of our students. These disruptions are interfering with the REAL issues facing school boards—ensuring we have enough good teachers for all students; serving students with disabilities; and making sure all kids have access to their internet in their

homes. That's what school board members care about. It's why we decided to run for school board. We want to get back to the business of making sure that every student is preparing for a successful future.

I know, and we all acknowledge that email as a mode of communication about these serious matters does not optimize our ability to work through this together. I will follow up with the officers and Chip to coordinate next steps for all of us.

Regards, stay well and stay safe,

Viola

On Saturday, October 2, 2021, 12:11:18 AM CDT, Steven Chapman [REDACTED] wrote:

My hope for a letter like this, or any letter that we are going to send to the President of the United States and push through a press release is at least reviewed by the executive committee.

That being said, in Arizona earlier this year a governing board was forced to leave their boardroom due to security issues with those in attendance. After the board and staff left the room, those in the audience decided that it would be alright for them to stage their own board meeting, elect new board members, and vote on their own items. A month or so ago, we had an individual film himself with a parent and that parent's student on their way to a school site with a pair of zip tie handcuffs to arrest a principal for enforcing a quarantine policy that was approved by the county and state. And these are just a few of several examples just in my state. These are not acts of concerned parents, nor should they be dismissed as just one off situations.

I agree that if a board meeting remains civil, and the community is at the microphone during public comment criticizing board/district decisions, threatening to recall or vote them out, that it is fair game whether we agree on their rationale or not. But when it becomes more, it needs to be taken seriously. We have seen what happens when it is not taken seriously.

We need to be mindful of the political ramifications of any action or inaction we take, but we also cannot shy away from every controversial issue. No elected official or public servant should be in physical danger because of the work they do.

Steven Chapman
Board of Directors, Pacific Region | NSBA
Immediate Past President | ASBA
Immediate Past Chair | NSBA Pacific Region
Past President, Board Member | Tolleson UHSD



[Click 2 Connect](#)



[Click 2 Connect](#)



[Click 2 Connect](#)

On Fri, Oct 1, 2021 at 7:54 PM Beverly Slough [REDACTED] wrote:

Thank you, John. Very thoughtful analysis of our current situation. I agree - we must do better.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: John Halkias [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, October 1, 2021 10:50:52 PM
To: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Cc: 2021-2022 Board of Directors <2021-2022-BOD@nsba.org>; Elena Kukanova – Carpenter <ECarpenter@nsba.org>; Francisco Negron <fnegron@nsba.org>; Jane Mellow <JMellow@nsba.org>; Renee Joe <RJoe@nsba.org>; Kimberly Muse <KMuse@nsba.org>; Patricia Boyd-King <pboyd-king@nsba.org>
Subject: Re: NSBA Letter to President Biden on Threats School Boards Members and Public Schools

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. **Do not** click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. Please report suspicious or potentially dangerous emails using the "Phish Alert Button".

After a challenging week and seeing the responses of some of my fellow board members to this issue, I wanted to think through this more deeply and share my thoughts.

I have no doubt that this was done with the best of intentions and in an attempt to support our members and our schools during this difficult time for us. Many of us have faced challenges these last two years that we have never faced in our history as school board members. It has indeed been difficult, but we have faced them and persevered. We do want the understanding and support of our association for our membership.

However, while I believe the intent was good, unfortunately, instead of helping our members and working to decrease the tensions and hostility that many of us are facing, we seem to have fanned those flames of hostility and division. Rather than helping our cause and calming the waters, this letter has re-awakened hostilities that were just beginning to finally calm down as the things many of us put in place were having a positive effect on student safety, learning, and attendance.

I agree with many of my colleagues that the Board of Directors should have been consulted before a letter like this was sent out publicly, and no less to the President of the United States and the National Press. I also agree that the letter took a stance that went beyond what many of us would consider to be reasonable and used terms that were extreme, and asked for action by the Federal Government that many of us would not request. In fact in a recent press conference, the White House Press Secretary stated that when these incidents occur, it is a matter for local law enforcement and local authorities, and NOT the Federal government. Local control has been a stalwart of our principles, and we do not want to abandon that concept now.

Many of us have been put in a position now of explaining or defending this action of our association as we are asked by members of our community if we consider them domestic terrorists for showing up to our meetings and expressing their opinions. As a Member of this Board, I can defend the intent, but not the approach or much of the tone or content. And it makes me chagrined to have to say that. I have learned in my own state of Ohio that is filled with diverse views that it does me no good to ignore the views of my neighbors and not try to find common ground rather than sow division.

This letter has created a new and renewed firestorm. We have given our loudest critics more ammunition to criticize us. I believe this letter was created unfortunately in the same kind of vacuum that has fueled the recent criticism of this Board and our Association.

We can, and should do better, but we can only do that if we work together and collaborate for our common good rather than acting without our full consent and counsel. We owe that to our association and our membership if we are to continue and succeed.

Sorry for the length of this, but what happened with this letter and the backlash I am seeing has made me reflect on my service on this board to this point, and how we have gone about our business that goes beyond this letter, and has caused me concern. If we don't do better, the very survival and relevance of NSBA is at stake.

John W. Halkias
Director, Central Region NSBA

Sent from my iPad

On Sep 29, 2021, at 8:18 PM, Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org> wrote:

Good evening,

Attached is a letter President Garcia asked that I share with the board. It was sent to President Biden concerning threats to public schools and school board members. We co-signed the letter which lays out the current issues local school board members are facing and asks for federal cooperation with state and local law enforcement as well as public schools to address these serious issues. It also asks for threat assessments regarding the current situation. Additionally, in talks over the last several weeks with White House staff, they requested additional information on some of the specific threats, so the letter also details many of the incidents that have been occurring.

As you are probably aware, the level of threats and actual violence have increased the last few weeks and there are now some groups recognized for violence showing up at schools and school board meetings. The level of concern is rising. It is hoped the letter will also call out the bad behavior occurring and promote calmer thinking when people are debating these important issues. This letter is embargoed until tomorrow morning when it will be shared publicly. The letter will also be shared this evening with the state association executive directors.

Thank you for all your leadership on your local school board.

Take care,

Chip


--
Janine Bay Teske
Associate Broker
Jackson Hole Real Estate Associates


EXHIBIT 55

EXHIBIT 55

From: Deborah Rigsby
Sent: Monday, October 4, 2021 2:21 PM
To: Adam Lustig; Renee Joe; Jason Amos; Jane Mellow
Subject: RE: 9/29 NSBA Letter to President Biden: CISA School Safety Connect?

Hi Adam,

As part of this meeting with Julia, I am requesting that the DHS Director of State and Local Affairs be included. There is a system in place at DHS with the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to assist state and local governments re: coordination with law enforcement, first responders, the intelligence community, and others. Having the leadership from this office, who I also believe is one of the Deputy Secretaries, would be helpful.

Thanks.
Deborah

From: Adam Lustig <ALustig@nsba.org>
Sent: Monday, October 4, 2021 1:19 PM
To: Renee Joe <RJoe@nsba.org>; Jason Amos <JAmos@nsba.org>; Jane Mellow <JMellow@nsba.org>; Deborah Rigsby <drigsby@nsba.org>
Subject: RE: 9/29 NSBA Letter to President Biden: CISA School Safety Connect?

Thank you for the follow up.

Jane and Deborah if you provide me with some dates and times that work for you I can get this scheduled.



Adam Lustig
Director, School Safety/Education & Training
National School Boards Association
www.nsba.org
[REDACTED]
1680 Duke Street, FL 2 Alexandria, VA



From: Renee Joe <RJoe@nsba.org>
Sent: Monday, October 4, 2021 1:17 PM
To: Adam Lustig <ALustig@nsba.org>; Jason Amos <JAmos@nsba.org>; Jane Mellow <JMellow@nsba.org>; Deborah Rigsby <drigsby@nsba.org>
Subject: RE: 9/29 NSBA Letter to President Biden: CISA School Safety Connect?

Hello Adam,

Connected with Chip about this request and he asked for Jane, Deborah and you (if you are comfortable) to take the meeting.

Deborah and Jane, please find the request for interview below from Julia Treanor, Department of Homeland Security Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, Infrastructure Security Division, School Safety Task Force.

Please let me know when the meeting is scheduled and any support you may need. Jason has a living talking points document and closer the interview he'll send the latest and greatest.

Thanks,
Renée



Renée B. Joe

Interim Chief Transformation Officer

National School Boards Association

www.nsba.org



From: Adam Lustig <ALustig@nsba.org>

Sent: Monday, October 4, 2021 8:34 AM

To: Renee Joe <RJoe@nsba.org>

Subject: RE: 9/29 NSBA Letter to President Biden: CISA School Safety Connect?

Thanks Renee, I will keep an eye out for this.



Adam Lustig

Director, School Safety/Education & Training

National School Boards Association

www.nsba.org



1680 Duke Street, FL 2 Alexandria, VA



From: Renee Joe <RJoe@nsba.org>

Sent: Monday, October 4, 2021 8:13 AM

To: Adam Lustig <ALustig@nsba.org>

Subject: Fwd: 9/29 NSBA Letter to President Biden: CISA School Safety Connect?

Expect for direction from Chip today.

Renée B. Joe

Interim Chief Transformation Officer

National School Boards Association

www.nsba.org



Begin forwarded message:

From: Renee Joe <RJoe@nsba.org>

Date: October 4, 2021 at 8:05:50 AM EDT

To: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>

Cc: Jason Amos <JAmos@nsba.org>

Subject: Re: 9/29 NSBA Letter to President Biden: CISA School Safety Connect?

Hi Chip,

Putting this near the top of your inbox. Please let me know if you'd like to respond directly to Julia or if you'd like for Adam to facilitate communications. And your preference for interview.

Renée B. Joe

Interim Chief Transformation Officer

National School Boards Association

www.nsba.org



On Oct 1, 2021, at 1:23 PM, Renee Joe <RJoe@nsba.org> wrote:

Loop.

Chip, Adam received a letter from a task force of Homeland inviting us to discuss the letter. Please see below.

If you'd like to proceed, my inclination is to include Deborah in the discussion. Let's connect on next steps.

Renée B. Joe

Interim Chief Transformation Officer

National School Boards Association

www.nsba.org



Begin forwarded message:

From: Adam Lustig <ALustig@nsba.org>

Date: October 1, 2021 at 11:22:06 AM CDT

To: Jason Amos <JAmos@nsba.org>
Cc: Renee Joe <RJoe@nsba.org>
Subject: FW: 9/29 NSBA Letter to President Biden: CISA School Safety Connect?

Good Afternoon Jason,

Please see the request below from DHS regarding our letter to President Biden. I have worked with Julia before but wanted to connect with you on how best to proceed. Happy to jump on a call to discuss if needed. I am also sure you have more than enough going on right now so I did let them know we may not be able to respond until next week.

<image002.jpg> **Adam Lustig**
Director, School Safety/Education & Training
National School Boards Association
www.nsba.org
[REDACTED]
1680 Duke Street, FL 2 Alexandria, VA
[<image003.png>](#)
[<image004.png>](#)
[<image005.png>](#)

From: TREATOR, JULIA <julia.treanor@cisa.dhs.gov>
Sent: Friday, October 1, 2021 11:32 AM
To: Adam Lustig <ALustig@nsba.org>
Subject: 9/29 NSBA Letter to President Biden: CISA School Safety Connect?

Adam,

I hope this note finds you well! Our team here at the DHS Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) School Safety Task Force received notice of the letter NSBA sent on September 29 to President Biden, entitled *Federal Assistance to Stop Threats and Acts of Violence Against Public Schoolchildren, Public School Board Members, and Other Public School District Officials and Educators*. We wanted to reach out to you and see if we could perhaps connect with you (and any of your

NSBA colleagues) to learn more about the letter, and gain a bit of background on NSBA's requests in relation to it.

Would you (and any additional NSBA staff you'd like to include) be available to connect sometime this coming Monday, October 4th by chance? If that day doesn't work, is there another time next week that is convenient?

Thank you in advance for your time and help. If you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Best – Julia

Julia Treanor
Department of Homeland Security
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency
Infrastructure Security Division, School Safety Task Force
C. [REDACTED]
Julia.Treanor@cisa.dhs.gov

<image001.png>

EXHIBIT 56

EXHIBIT 56

From: Chip Slaven
Sent: Monday, October 4, 2021 1:22 PM
To: Coley, Anthony D. (PAO)
Subject: RE: Hello from Main Justice

Hi Anthony,

I appreciate you reaching out to me. I am available for a call. We can set up a time or you are free to reach me on my cell phone at [REDACTED]. Please just let me know which option you prefer.

Thanks,
Chip

From: Coley, Anthony D. (PAO) <Anthony.D.Coley@usdoj.gov>
Sent: Monday, October 4, 2021 3:19 PM
To: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Subject: Hello from Main Justice

Hi Chip, I hope you're well.

Wondering if you'd have a couple minutes to chat this afternoon.

Anthony D. Coley, Director
Office of Public Affairs &
Sr. Advisor to the Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Direct: [REDACTED]
Cell: [REDACTED]
@AnthonyColeyDO

EXHIBIT 57

EXHIBIT 57

From: ED Stakeholder <EDStakeHolder@ed.gov>
Sent: Monday, October 4, 2021 8:10 PM
Subject: Justice Department Addresses Violent Threats Against School Officials and Teachers

Department of Justice
Office of Public Affairs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, October 4, 2021

Justice Department Addresses Violent Threats Against School Officials and Teachers

Citing an increase in harassment, intimidation and threats of violence against school board members, teachers and workers in our nation's public schools, today Attorney General Merrick B. Garland directed the FBI and U.S. Attorneys' Offices to meet in the next 30 days with federal, state, Tribal, territorial and local law enforcement leaders to discuss strategies for addressing this disturbing trend. These sessions will open dedicated lines of communication for threat reporting, assessment and response by law enforcement.

"Threats against public servants are not only illegal, they run counter to our nation's core values," wrote Attorney General Garland. "Those who dedicate their time and energy to ensuring that our children receive a proper education in a safe environment deserve to be able to do their work without fear for their safety."

According to the Attorney General's [memorandum](#), the Justice Department will launch a series of additional efforts in the coming days designed to address the rise in criminal conduct directed toward school personnel. Those efforts are expected to include the creation of a task force, consisting of representatives from the department's Criminal Division, National Security Division, Civil Rights Division, the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, the FBI, the Community Relations Service and the Office of Justice Programs, to determine how federal enforcement tools can be used to prosecute these crimes, and ways to assist state, Tribal, territorial and local law enforcement where threats of violence may not constitute federal crimes.

The Justice Department will also create specialized training and guidance for local school boards and school administrators. This training will help school board members and other potential victims understand the type of behavior that constitutes threats, how to report threatening conduct to the appropriate law enforcement agencies, and how to capture and preserve evidence of threatening conduct to aid in the investigation and prosecution of these crimes.

Threats of violence against school board members, officials, and workers in our nation's public schools can be reported by the public to the FBI's National Threat Operations Center (NTOC) via its national tip line (1-800-CALL-FBI) and online through the FBI website (<http://fbi.gov/tips>). To ensure that threats are communicated to the appropriate authorities, NTOC will direct credible threats to FBI field offices, for coordination with the U.S. Attorney's Office and law enforcement partners as appropriate. Reporting threats of violence through NTOC will help the federal government identify increased threats in specific jurisdictions as well as coordinated widespread efforts to intimidate educators and education workers.

EXHIBIT 58

EXHIBIT 58

From: Chip Slaven
Sent: Monday, October 4, 2021 4:40 PM
To: Elena Kukanova – Carpenter; Francisco Negron; Jane Mellow; Jason Amos
Subject: FW: Follow-Up: DOJ Memo Regarding Threats Against School Personnel
Attachments: Attorney General Memorandum - Partnership Among Federal, State, Local, Tribal and Territorial Law Enforcement to Address Threats Against School Administrators , Board Members, Teachers, and Staff.pdf

I wanted to share this information with all of you. This is a significant development. I will forward the press release in just a minute. Thanks.

From: Roberts, Alivia P. (PAO) <Alivia.P.Roberts@usdoj.gov>
Sent: Monday, October 4, 2021 4:59 PM
To: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Cc: Coley, Anthony D. (PAO) <Anthony.D.Coley@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Follow-Up: DOJ Memo Regarding Threats Against School Personnel

Hi Chip,

It was a pleasure to speak with you today regarding efforts the Department of Justice is taking to address threats against school administrators, board members, teachers, and staff. As promised, I have attached the memo from the Attorney General that will be made public later today and we will notify you once it is public. As Anthony mentioned during our conversation, we thank you for raising this concern with us, and we hope to continue this dialogue as this is a very important issue the department is committed to addressing.

Best,
Alivia

EXHIBIT 59

EXHIBIT 59

RICHARD J. DURBIN, ILLINOIS, CHAIR

PATRICK J. LEAHY, VERMONT
DIANNE FEINSTEIN, CALIFORNIA
SHELDON WHITEHOUSE, RHODE ISLAND
AMY KLOBUCHAR, MINNESOTA
CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, DELAWARE
RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, CONNECTICUT
MAZIE HIRONO, HAWAII
CORY A. BOOKER, NEW JERSEY
ALEX PADILLA, CALIFORNIA
JON OSSOFF, GEORGIA

CHARLES E. GRASSLEY, IOWA
LINDSEY O. GRAHAM, SOUTH CAROLINA
JOHN CORNYN, TEXAS
MICHAEL S. LEE, UTAH
TED CRUZ, TEXAS
BEN SASSE, NEBRASKA
JOSHUA D. HAWLEY, MISSOURI
TOM COTTON, ARKANSAS
JOHN KENNEDY, LOUISIANA
THOM TILLIS, NORTH CAROLINA
MARSHA BLACKBURN, TENNESSEE

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

October 7, 2021

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

The Honorable Merrick B. Garland
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Garland:

On October 4, you issued a memorandum titled, “Partnership Among Federal, State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Law Enforcement to Address Threats Against School Administrators, Board Members, Teachers, and Staff.”¹ That memorandum discussed a “disturbing spike in harassment, intimidation, and threats of violence against school administrators, board members, teachers, and staff who participate in the vital work of running our nation’s public schools.”² You directed the FBI and the various United States Attorneys to hold meetings with “federal, state, local, Tribal, and territorial leaders in each federal judicial district within 30 days” in order to “facilitate the discussion of strategies for addressing threats against school administrators, board members, teachers, and staff...”³ Your press release for this memorandum involves numerous offices within DOJ, including, inexplicably the National Security Division, the FBI, and DOJ’s Civil Rights Division.⁴

A few days earlier, on September 29, the National School Boards Association sent a letter to President Biden asking for help from federal law enforcement “to deal with the growing number of threats of violence and acts of intimidation occurring across the nation.”⁵ According to that organization, it is seeing an increased number of “attacks against school board members and educators for approving policies for masks to protect the health and safety of students and school employees” as well as “physical threats because of propaganda purporting the false inclusion of critical race theory within classroom instruction.”⁶ The letter references the PATRIOT Act, a statute that helps the federal government fight international terrorism, a reference that is entirely inappropriate.

We are concerned about the appearance of the Department of Justice policing the speech of citizens and concerned parents. We urge you to make very clear to the American public that the Department of Justice will not interfere with the rights of parents to come before school boards and speak with educators about their concerns, whether regarding coronavirus-related measures, the teaching of

¹ Memorandum from Attorney Gen. Merrick Garland, Partnership Among Federal, State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Law Enforcement to Address Threats Against School Administrators, Board Members, Teachers, and Staff (Oct. 4, 2021), at <https://www.justice.gov/ag/page/file/1438986/download>.

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

⁴ Department of Justice, Justice Department Addresses Violent Threats Against School Officials and Teachers (Oct. 4, 2021), at <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-addresses-violent-threats-against-school-officials-and-teachers>.

⁵ Letter from Viola M. Garcia, President, and Chip Slaven, Interim Executive Director & CEO, National School Boards Association, to Joseph R. Biden, President of the United States (September 29, 2021), at <https://nsba.org/-/media/NSBA/File/nsba-letter-to-president-biden-concerning-threats-to-public-schools-and-school-board-members-029219.pdf> (hereinafter NSBA letter).

⁶ NSBA letter.

critical race theory in schools, sexually explicit books in schools, or any other topic. Furthermore, we urge you to instruct the FBI and the various United States Attorneys to make clear in the meetings discussed above that speech and democratic processes, like those that occur at a local school board meeting, must be respected.

To be clear, violence⁷ and true threats of violence are not protected speech and have no place in the public discourse of a democracy. To the extent such violence and true threats of violence employ mechanisms within federal jurisdiction, the FBI is squarely within its authority to help local law enforcement investigate such crimes. However, the FBI should not be involved in quashing and criminalizing discourse that is well beneath violent acts. The reported heated encounters between concerned parents and school boards often involve speech that is clearly protected by the First Amendment. Federal law enforcement muscle should never be used against protesting parents.⁸

For example, the NSBA letter references a school board meeting being disrupted in Florida⁹ and cites to a Sarasota Herald-Tribune article discussing how the Sarasota County School Board might change its public comment protocol because of that disruption.¹⁰ That article describes how “[o]ver the past year, large crowds have shown up [at Sarasota school board meetings] to address items that are not always on the agenda, like critical race theory, masking in schools, or complaints over items in the curriculum” and that “boards throughout the state are examining their public comment protocols.”¹¹ Large numbers of citizens expressing their concerns in an appropriate forum is not a matter for law enforcement, and it is even more difficult to imagine what role federal law enforcement would play in such a scenario.

In the very next example, the NSBA letter cites to a Board of Education meeting in Gwinnett County, Georgia being disrupted.¹² In that situation, the supposed disruption appears to have been participants refusing to wear masks while protesting the school district’s requirement that students wear masks in school.¹³ This too does not appear to warrant criminal investigation, especially by the federal government. Rather, these actions look a lot like civil disobedience in protest of public policy, a tactic often embraced as virtuous by Democrats when it comes to policies they oppose. Not wearing a mask in a public place may or may not be a violation of a local law, but at most it is a petty offense wholly unworthy of the federal government’s attention and the sort of civil disobedience many Democrats would embrace if the politics of wearing masks were reversed.

⁷ When this letter uses the word “violence,” it refers to the ordinary understanding of the word, generally meaning a physical assault. It does not use the word “violence” to refer to an idea making a listener feel uncomfortable, which seems to be a trendy definition of “violence” as of late in academic circles.

⁸ It is especially concerning that your memorandum does not discuss school board-based acts against parents, such as doxing them, perhaps in violation of the law. See Kelly Sadler, THE WASHINGTON TIMES, “Loudoun County teachers blacklist, dox parents critical of race teachings,” March 17, 2021, at <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2021/mar/17/loudoun-county-teachers-blacklist-dox-parents-crit/>. Such a one-sided approach gives an appearance that the Department of Justice is muscle for teachers and education administrators, which are historically strong sources of support for the Democratic Party.

⁹ NSBA letter at n.5.

¹⁰ Ryan McKinnon, SARASOTA HERALD-TRIBUNE, “Sarasota school board may limit public input after some meetings get disorderly,” Sept. 20, 2021, at <https://www.heraldtribune.com/story/news/education/2021/09/20/sarasotaschool-board-may-limit-public-input-after-meetings-gone-wild/8417784002/>.

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² NSBA letter at n.6.

¹³ Alia Malik, THE ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION, “Anti-mask crowd disrupts Gwinnett school board meeting,” May 21, 2021, at <https://www.ajc.com/news/anti-mask-crowd-disrupts-gwinnett-school-boardmeeting/IYO7R6GHJ5DTLEFCQHER7V3GBA/>.

The NSBA letter describes¹⁴ a similar meeting in Clark County, Nevada in which participants exchanged allegations of who was a “Marxist” and who was a “racist.”¹⁵ According to a news report, that meeting appears to have been disrupted on different occasions, but local law enforcement also appears to have been capable of handling the disruptions.¹⁶ Then the NSBA letter describes school board meetings in Michigan, one of which involved “the [school] board ... call[ing] a recess because of opposition to critical race theory.”¹⁷ The article cited in the letter about this incident described the school board meeting being delayed to another day because “two board members were speaking to one another and the audience kept interrupting. ... after multiple warnings to the public, [the school board president] announced that they would be going into recess and reconvene another day.”¹⁸ Again, this appears to be passionate civic engagement that local law enforcement can handle if it evolves into criminal action.

And at one point the NSBA letter states, “Other groups are posting watchlists against school boards and spreading misinformation that boards are adopting critical race theory curriculum and working to maintain online learning by haphazardly attributing it to COVID-19.”¹⁹ It supports this claim with a citation to a partisan Substack article titled, “TPUSA launches project targeting school member,” which attacks the right-wing group Turning Point USA.²⁰ Law enforcement at every level must always remain neutral in the marketplace of ideas, and your office should make clear that federal law enforcement may never intervene in the marketplace of ideas.

The school board meetings at issue in the National School Boards Association letter largely appear to involve parents being frustrated by COVID-19 mask mandates for children as well as the possibility of school curricula newly incorporating the controversial academic discipline generally known as critical race theory. Parents who get upset about these topics, and others, are engaging in speech that is clearly protected under the First Amendment. We ask you to explain how any of this rises to the definition of criminal harassment. After a year of prolonged school closures, even well after it was clear that schools could safely reopen amidst COVID-19, parents are understandably asking questions and seeking accountability. Even if tempers flare at school board meetings because of these and other topics, that does not make the discussions of them any less protected under the First Amendment. As a former federal appellate judge, you are surely well aware that the legal threshold in the United States for what speech can be sanctioned because of its propensity for inciting lawless action is a high bar. In the seminal Supreme Court case *Brandenburg v. Ohio*, the Court ruled that speech could only be sanctioned for condoning illegal activity if that speech “is directed to inciting or producing imminent lawless action and is likely to incite or produce such action.”²¹ We seriously doubt the discourse at school board meetings across the country rises to this level.

¹⁴ NSBA letter at n.7.

¹⁵ Julie Wootton-Greener, LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL, “School board meeting turns contentious over COVID-19 policies,” August 12, 2021, at <https://www.reviewjournal.com/local/education/school-board-meeting-turns-contentious-over-covid-19-policies-2418652/>.

¹⁶ *See id.*

¹⁷ NSBA letter at 3.

¹⁸ Kalie Marantette, WLNS.com, “Grand Ledge school board goes into recess due to public ‘disruption,’” June 16, 2021, at <https://www.wlns.com/news/grand-ledge-school-board-goes-into-recess-due-to-public-disruption/>.

¹⁹ NSBA letter at 5.

²⁰ Nick Surgery, Documented, “TPUSA launches project targeting school board members,” August 20, 2021, at <https://substack.documented.net/tpusa-school-board-watchlist>.

²¹ *Brandenburg v. Ohio*, 395 U.S. 444 (1969).

Moreover, angry parents are not necessarily threatening parents, especially in the eyes of the law. In *Virginia v. Black*, the Supreme Court ruled in 2003 that only “true threats” were unprotected by the First Amendment, stating, “‘True threats’ encompass those statements where the speaker means to communicate a serious expression of an intent to commit an act of unlawful violence to a particular individual or group of individuals.”²² Parents who are angry at school board members, and even verbally attack them on a personal level, are not necessarily making true threats, and is not the job of law enforcement – and cannot be the job of law enforcement, especially the FBI – to make sure parents are nice to their elected officials. They are certainly not domestic terrorists who require the use of tools such as the PATRIOT Act and the expertise of the National Security Division.

Violence and true threats of violence should have no place in our civic discourse, but parents should absolutely be involved in public debates over what and how our public schools teach their children, even if those discussions get heated. When you were sworn in as the Attorney General, you took an oath to uphold our Constitution, and now your fundamental job is to protect the rights of all Americans. Perhaps the most basic and most important right every American has is the right to question our governments, from the heights of the Congress and the Presidency all the way down to the local school boards. That includes asking them some very tough questions and requesting changes to school policies. It is not appropriate to use the awesome powers of the federal government – including the PATRIOT Act, a statute designed to thwart international terrorism – to quash those who question local school boards. By even suggesting that possibility, important speech by American citizens will be chilled in school board meetings across this country. Your job now is to make clear to all stakeholders and the American people that such action is decidedly not the role of the federal government nor the role of any other government in the United States – in fact, it can never be.

If you have any questions, please contact John Schoenecker on Ranking Member Grassley’s staff at (202) 224-5225.

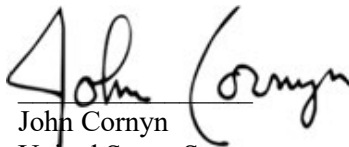
Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary



Lindsey O. Graham
United States Senator
Committee on the Judiciary



John Cornyn
United States Senator
Committee on the Judiciary



Michael S. Lee
United States Senator
Committee on the Judiciary

²² *Virginia v. Black*, 538 U.S. 343, 359 (2003).

Ted Cruz
United States Senator
Committee on the Judiciary

Ben Sasse
United States Senator
Committee on the Judiciary

Josh Hawley
United States Senator
Committee on the Judiciary

Tom Cotton
United States Senator
Committee on the Judiciary

John Kennedy
United States Senator
Committee on the Judiciary

Thom Tillis
United States Senator
Committee on the Judiciary

Marsha Blackburn
United States Senator
Committee on the Judiciary

EXHIBIT 60

EXHIBIT 60

From: Chip Slaven
Sent: Thursday, October 7, 2021 5:05 PM
To: Wall, Mary C. EOP/WHO
Subject: Re: quick question -- contact info?

Thanks so much Mary! Dr. Garcia was thrilled and said she had a wonderful conversation with the President.

It would be great to talk with you. I'd like to talk strategy on how to turn the conversation more towards the real safety issue and away from the false narratives concerning parents who are peacefully stating their opinion. Please feel free to give me a call on my cell at [REDACTED]. I have some events tomorrow but would welcome the chance to speak.

Have a good night,
Chip

From: Wall, Mary C. EOP/WHO <Mary.C.Wall@who.eop.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 7, 2021 6:43 PM
To: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Subject: RE: quick question -- contact info?

Hi Chip –

I know I didn't call on Tuesday, but I think Dr. Garcia got a call from someone way better than me. :)

Please know we have your back, and we're exploring every avenue we can. Happy to give you a ring tomorrow or over the weekend if you'd like to discuss further.

MW

From: Wall, Mary C. EOP/WHO
Sent: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 5:27 PM
To: 'Chip Slaven' <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Subject: RE: quick question -- contact info?

Will try to call this afternoon/evening. Feel free to give Dr. Garcia a heads up as well.

From: Wall, Mary C. EOP/WHO
Sent: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 5:19 PM
To: 'Chip Slaven' <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Subject: RE: quick question -- contact info?

Thank you Chip!

From: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 5:03 PM
To: Wall, Mary C. EOP/WHO <Mary.C.Wall@who.eop.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: quick question -- contact info?

Hi Mary,

My number is [REDACTED]

Viola Garcia is at [REDACTED]

Please let me know if you need anything else.

Thanks,
Chip

From: Wall, Mary C. EOP/WHO <Mary.C.Wall@who.eop.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 4:44 PM

To: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>

Subject: quick question -- contact info?

Hi Chip – can I grab a phone number for you and for your president?

Thank you!

EXHIBIT 61

EXHIBIT 61

Search...

ARCHIVED INFORMATION

Five Board Members Appointed to Board Overseeing The Nation's Report Card

Former North Carolina Gov. Beverly Perdue named chair of National Assessment Governing Board

OCTOBER 13, 2021

Contact: Press Office, (202) 401-1576, press@ed.gov (<mailto:press@ed.gov>)

Editor's Note: Former Utah Gov. Gary R. Herbert was appointed Nov. 5 by Secretary Cardona to a four-year term on the National Assessment Governing Board. The 26-member board includes a **one** Democratic and **one** Republican governor. Gov. Herbert will fill the position of the Republican governor. Former North Carolina Gov. Beverly Perdue serves as the Democratic governor and the Board's chair. Announcement [here](https://www.nagb.gov/news-and-events/news-releases/2021/appoints-former-utah-governor-herbert.html) (<https://www.nagb.gov/news-and-events/news-releases/2021/appoints-former-utah-governor-herbert.html>).

U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona has appointed an elementary school principal, a business executive, a local school board member, a testing and measurement expert, and a former governor to the [National Assessment Governing Board](https://links.gd//eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkjoxMDEsinVyaSI6ImJwMjpbGjJaylslmJ1bGxldGluX2lkjoiMjAyMTEwMTMuNDcyODYyODEiLCJ1cmwiOiJoc) (<https://links.gd//eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkjoxMDEsinVyaSI6ImJwMjpbGjJaylslmJ1bGxldGluX2lkjoiMjAyMTEwMTMuNDcyODYyODEiLCJ1cmwiOiJoc>)), which oversees the only ongoing, nationally representative assessment of what American students know and can do in various subjects.

The Governing Board is a nonpartisan body established by Congress in 1988 to oversee and set policy for the [National Assessment of Educational Progress \(NAEP\)](https://links.gd//eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkjoxMDEsinVyaSI6ImJwMjpbGjJaylslmJ1bGxldGluX2lkjoiMjAyMTEwMTMuNDcyODYyODEiLCJ1cmwiOiJoc) (<https://links.gd//eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkjoxMDEsinVyaSI6ImJwMjpbGjJaylslmJ1bGxldGluX2lkjoiMjAyMTEwMTMuNDcyODYyODEiLCJ1cmwiOiJoc>)), also known as "the Nation's Report Card." NAEP provides objective information on student performance in various subjects and for different student groups and reports on student achievement across the nation, in states, and in large urban districts.

The 26-member Governing Board is responsible for deciding which subjects NAEP assesses, determining the assessments' content, setting achievement levels that describe student performance, and pursuing new ways to make NAEP results useful and meaningful to the public. Although the Board operates independently, NAEP law calls for members to be appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Education.

"It is my pleasure to appoint this distinguished group of leaders to the National Assessment Governing Board," said U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona. "As we address students' educational needs during this challenging time, I'm confident these leaders will bring the perspectives necessary to ensure the National Assessment of Educational Progress remains the gold standard in measuring student academic outcomes. The pandemic has disrupted our students' educational opportunities and their learning, with impacts on students' academic and social and emotional development, as well as their mental health. As we work to address students' academic needs, we need the Nation's Report Card now more than ever to help us understand students' academic progress and where additional supports can be targeted, ensuring all students reach their full potential."

The Governing Board appointees announced today include two new Board members and three reappointed members. The appointees' terms officially began on October 1, 2021, and will end on September 30, 2025, with the exception of the local school board member's term which will end on September 30, 2024. Secretary Cardona will also appoint a former Republican governor to serve on the Governing Board for the 2021-2025 term later this year.

The Governing Board members appointed today and the roles they represent on the Board are:

- **Dana Boyd, Elementary School Principal (reappointed):** Boyd is the principal of Parkland Elementary School in El Paso, Texas. In 2020, Boyd was named a winner of the H-E-B Excellence in Education Award. Her other accolades include being named the 2016 Texas National Distinguished Principal of the Year by the Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association as well as the 2007 Texas Teacher of the Year by the Texas Association of School Administrators. Boyd joined the Governing Board in 2017; she chairs the Board's Assessment Development Committee and serves on the Executive Committee.
- **Tyler Cramer, General Public Representative (reappointed):** Cramer is the CEO of Remarc Associates, LLC. Cramer is a leader in the San Diego education and business community, having previously served as chair of the San Diego Business Roundtable for Education, education committee chair of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce (where he also was director), and member of the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System Advisory Board. Cramer joined the Governing Board in 2017.
- **Viola Garcia, Local School Board Member:** Garcia has served on the Aldine Independent School District Board of Trustees in Texas since 1992. She was elected president of the National School Boards Association in 2021. Garcia is an emeritus professor in the department of urban education at the University of Houston-Downtown, where she trains future teachers for local school districts.
- **Scott Marion, Testing and Measurement Expert:** Marion is the president and executive director of the National Center for the Improvement of Educational Assessment – a nonprofit consulting firm that aims to increase student learning through educational assessment and accountability practices. Marion was the director of assessment and accountability for the Wyoming Department of Education from 1999 to 2003.
- **Beverly Perdue, Governor – Democrat (reappointed):** Perdue served as governor of North Carolina from 2009 to 2013. Since leaving office, Perdue has consulted on a wide range of education issues and has initiated many education efforts, including founding DigiLEARN – a nonprofit designed to accelerate digital learning opportunities for all ages. Perdue joined the Governing Board in 2017.

Secretary Cardona also named former North Carolina Gov. Beverly Perdue chair of the Governing Board for the 2021-2022 year. Perdue previously served as chair of the Board from 2018 to 2019.

"We welcome these esteemed new and reappointed members who will bring important insights as our nation continues to navigate the impacts of the pandemic and the toll it has taken on our nation's schools and students," said Lesley Muldoon, the executive director of the Governing Board. "We will work together to ensure that NAEP continues to answer critical questions of how our nation's students are doing, informing efforts to improve outcomes for all children."

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Accessibility (<https://www2.ed.gov/notices/accessibility/index.html?src=ft>) Security (<https://www2.ed.gov/notices/security/index.html?src=ft>)

Information Quality (<https://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/infoqualguide.html?src=ft>) Inspector General (<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oig/index.html?src=ft>)

Whitehouse.gov (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/>) USA.gov (<https://www.usa.gov/>) Benefits.gov (<https://www.benefits.gov/>) Regulations.gov (<https://www.regulations.gov/>)

EXHIBIT 62

EXHIBIT 62

From: Chip Slaven
Sent: Saturday, October 23, 2021 8:06 PM
To: Celinda Lake
Subject: Re: DOJ: "Concerned parents = domestic terrorists?"

They really are all over it Celinda. Thanks for sharing this with me. Our board decided last night to apologize over my strong objections and it has only made things worse which is what I predicted. The story is all over conservative news again and we look terrible.

It is very frustrating how this effort has been distorted. This does not bode well for public schools.

From: Celinda Lake <clake@lakeresearch.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 23, 2021 1:26 PM
To: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Subject: Fwd: DOJ: "Concerned parents = domestic terrorists?"

I'm on some right wing lists. These people as you mentioned are all over it

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Celinda Lake <clake@lakeresearch.com>
Date: October 23, 2021 at 1:24:12 PM EDT
To: tinselyn <tinselyn@wemakethefuture.us>, anat@asocommunications.com, mpodhorzer@aflcio.org
Subject: Fwd: DOJ: "Concerned parents = domestic terrorists?"

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Nicole Neily, Parents Defending Education"
<news@editions.washingtonexaminer.com>
Date: October 23, 2021 at 9:00:04 AM EDT
To: Celinda Lake <clake@lakeresearch.com>
Subject: DOJ: "Concerned parents = domestic terrorists?"
Reply-To: news@editions.washingtonexaminer.com

Unsubscribe



Fellow American,

Maybe you heard the news – recently, the U.S. Department of Justice said **they will mobilize the FBI against parents ... for standing up for their own children!**

On October 4, 2021, the DOJ announced a new initiative to address “harassment, intimidation and threats of violence” against school board members and employees – including but not limited to **the creation of a federal task force as well as dedicated lines of communication for threat reporting, assessment, and response by law enforcement under the auspices of the FBI.**

Tell the DOJ this is unacceptable

My name is Nicole Neily, and I’m the President of Parents Defending Education. We’re a national grassroots organization working to reclaim our schools from activists promoting harmful agendas, and fighting against indoctrination in the classroom -- and *for* the restoration of a healthy, non-political education for our kids.

We are also standing with parents like you who are troubled by what’s happening in our schools today.

You might be wondering how something so outrageous -- **the FBI being mobilized against parents for simply speaking up for their own children** -- could happen in “the land of the free.”

It all started recently, when the National School Board Association (NSBA) sent a letter to President Biden asking for help **silencing parents like you** who are demanding change at school board meetings.

In their letter, NSBA cites a tiny number of minor incidents to insinuate that **parents who are criticizing and protesting the decisions of school boards are or may be engaging in “domestic terrorism and hate crimes.”** While PDE naturally does not support *anyone* who uses violence or threats against school board members, officials, or teachers, the NSBA choosing to invoke the PATRIOT Act (which was passed after 9/11 to uncover potential terrorist plots) takes it WAY too far.

The association of legitimate protest with terrorism and violence reveals both NSBA's contempt for parents and their unwillingness to understand and hear the sincere cries of parents on behalf of their children.

In short, ***NSBA's letter to President Biden was a thinly veiled threat***, intended to intimidate into silence and submission the very constituents -- parents and taxpayers like you, -- that its members ostensibly represent. And the Department of Justice is wholly complicit in this charade.

Tell the DOJ you OPPOSE FBI persecution of parents

I'm in awe that NSBA would choose to threaten parents for having the courage to hold them accountable -- as I'm sure you are. And it's unthinkable that concerned parents should be equated with domestic terrorists.

We will not be bullied. We refuse to have our free speech chilled by threats. America's parents have a constitutional right to petition our elected officials -- and Parents Defending Education will continue to do so, with the support of parents, grandparents, and concerned citizens like you!

The good news is that this proves the NSBA, the teachers' unions, and radical school boards around the country are running scared. They've been bullying us for decades -- and now that parents are standing up to them, they're terrified.

The mere fact that they've summoned the Biden administration to back up their crazy power trip clearly shows they feel the power slipping from their hands.

In cities and towns across America, we're seeing a backlash against the school administrators and bureaucrats who disdain the parents whose children they are entrusted with educating.

This behavior is arrogant and out of touch and these fiefdoms must be exposed and held accountable.

And that's exactly what Parents Defending Education is doing -- keeping the pressure on the NSBA, teachers' unions, and school boards. But we need the support of parents, teachers, and concerned Americans like you to effectively fight back against these bullies and defend the rights of American parents and school children.

Tell the DOJ you won't be bullied

So thank you for standing with us -- and standing *up* for America's parents!

Nicole Neily
President
Parents Defending Education

4532 Lee Hwy #119
Arlington VA 22207

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EXHIBIT 63

EXHIBIT 63

TO: NSBA Members
FROM: NSBA Board of Directors
DATE: October 22, 2021
RE: Message to NSBA Members

As you all know, there has been extensive media and other attention recently around our letter to President Biden regarding threats and acts of violence against school board members. We wanted to write to you directly to address this matter.

On behalf of NSBA, we regret and apologize for the letter. To be clear, the safety of school board members, other public school officials and educators, and students is our top priority, and there remains important work to be done on this issue. However, there was no justification for some of the language included in the letter. We should have had a better process in place to allow for consultation on a communication of this significance. We apologize also for the strain and stress this situation has caused you and your organizations.

As we've reiterated since the letter was sent, we deeply value not only the work of local school boards that make important contributions within our communities, but also the voices of parents, who should and must continue to be heard when it comes to decisions about their children's education, health, and safety.

We are going to do better going forward. We are engaged in a formal review of our processes and procedures. We will announce specific improvements soon to ensure there is improved coordination and consultation among our staff, our board, and our members across the country. The review will include not only the proceedings leading to the letter, but also other related concerns raised by members even before the letter was sent.

We will have more to share with you soon as our review continues. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us. Thank you.

EXHIBIT 64



STATE OF INDIANA

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

TODD ROKITA
INDIANA ATTORNEY GENERAL

INDIANA GOVERNMENT CENTER SOUTH, FIFTH FLOOR
302 WEST WASHINGTON STREET ● INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204-2770
www.AttorneyGeneral.IN.gov

TELEPHONE: 317 232 6201
FAX: 317 232 7979

October 26, 2021

Chip Slaven
Interim Executive Director
& Chief Executive Officer
National School Boards Association
1680 Duke Street, Floor 2
Alexandria, Virginia 22314-3493

Viola M. Garcia, EdD
President
Board of Directors
National School Boards Association
1680 Duke Street, Floor 2
Alexandria, Virginia 22314-3493

Re: NSBA's Fraud on the American People

Dear Mr. Slaven and Ms. Garcia,

One week ago in a [letter dated October 18, 2021](#), my fellow Attorneys General and I, in a letter to the White House and the Department of Justice, laid out the facts surrounding the massive fraud that the National School Boards Association (NSBA) has perpetrated on the American people. Our letter rebutted in detail the premise of a letter to the Department of Justice dated September 29, 2021, where NSBA accused parents throughout the United States of "domestic terrorism and hate crimes" warranting the invocation of "the PATRIOT Act in regards to domestic terrorism."

Our October 18 letter also objected to Attorney General Garland's reliance on the fraudulent claims of the September 29 NSBA letter as a basis for the Department of Justice's October 4, 2021, [Memorandum](#) creating a task force to investigate parental school board protests. In our view, that task force was "designed to intimidate parents into giving up their constitutional rights to direct the upbringing and education of their children."

We appreciate and note that the NSBA has now admitted its part in this fraud on the American people in its October 22, 2021, ["Message to NSBA Members"](#), which specifically states that "there was no justification for some of the language included in that [September 29] letter."¹ However, given the damage wrought by NSBA's lies and the federal government's reliance on those lies to target lawful protests by parents concerned with the health and safety of their children attending public schools, NSBA must do far more.

¹ It is worth noting that that the NSBA website includes the September 29 letter to the DOJ and an October 4 statement praising the DOJ for its memo, but the October 22 repudiation letter is nowhere on its website. See <https://www.nsba.org/News>.

According to your website the “NSBA is a federation of state associations and the U.S. territory of the Virgin Islands that represent locally elected school board officials serving approximately 51 million public school students.”² As of the date of this letter almost half of your own state associations have recognized that the September 29, 2021 letter was a lie and have repudiated that letter in the strongest language.³ For example:

- Delaware: “Disagrees, in the strongest possible terms, with parents and citizens protesting school board meetings being characterized as ‘domestic terrorists’ and their protests being likened to ‘hate crimes.’”
- Idaho: “Had we been asked, we would have readily pointed out the mischaracterization of parents and patrons in our communities as domestic terrorists who merited federal investigation.”
- Mississippi: “The terminology used in the letter was inflammatory.”
- North Carolina: “The Association does not agree with the tone or language in the letter nor the request for federal agencies to intervene in our communities.”
- Ohio: “[R]ejects the labeling of parents as domestic terrorists.”

State associations have also expressed serious concerns over the partisan nature of the letter and of the NSBA, and indeed some have disaffiliated with the NSBA as a consequence:

- Delaware: “The DSBA is an apolitical advocacy organization, and we do not engage in partisan politics. The DSBA Constitution prohibits the endorsement of political candidates.”
- Florida: “[W]e did not submit payment for 2020-2021 dues, which were due July 1, 2021. We have been clear about reassessing the value of our affiliation with NSBA due to concerns surrounding NSBA’s governance, leadership, transparency, and failure to embrace non-partisanship.”
- Kentucky: “KSBA’s leadership is currently evaluating the benefits of continued membership in NSBA.”
- Louisiana: “The LSBA has long been a member of the NSBA but has not yet paid membership dues for the 2021-2022 year.”
- Ohio: “The OSBA board of trustees will be discussing our membership and relationship with NSBA at our next meeting of our Board of Trustees in November.”

² <https://www.nsba.org/About>.

³ The current list of states includes Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and Wyoming. <https://defendinged.org/press-releases/state-school-board-associations-responses-to-the-nsba-letter>.

- Pennsylvania: “On Thursday, Oct. 14, 2021, the Pennsylvania Schools Boards Association released a statement that it voted to withdraw from the National School Boards Association.”

School boards are governmental entities funded by taxpayers. The state associations and the NSBA are nonprofit entities who receive taxpayer funds from local school boards in the form of membership fees (state associations from local school boards) and dues (NSBA from state associations).⁴ It is no surprise that the associations should be appalled not only by the false statements in the September 29, 2021 letter, but NSBA’s use of taxpayer funds to engage in blatant partisan politics jeopardizing the nonprofit status of both NSBA and themselves.

Recent reporting and e-mails not only make clear that NSBA likely colluded with the Biden administration, but also suggest that Biden administration officials may have participated in the development of the September 29 letter and asked you to sign it. In your e-mail to the NSBA Board dated September 29, 2021, you specifically stated that you had been “in talks over the last several weeks with White House staff, they requested additional information on some of the specific threats, so the letter details many of the incidents that have been occurring.”⁵

Indeed, Attorney General Garland [under questioning by Rep. Jim Jordan](#) admitted during his testimony before the House Judiciary Committee that the DOJ was involved in discussions with the White House concerning the content of the NSBA letter before he issued the October 4, 2021 memorandum: “I am sure that the communication from the National School Boards was discussed by the White House and the Justice Department.”

Your fraudulent letter, prepared by a nonprofit organization using taxpayer funds, drafted by or in coordination with the Biden Administration labeling parents as domestic terrorists and calling for the invocation of the Patriot Act, requires an immediate and transparent response. As your apology of October 22 itself makes clear, a full accounting of this incident must include “not only the proceedings leading to the letter but also other related concerns.”

To that end, we request that the NSBA immediately take the following steps:

1. Revoke the September 29, 2021 letter in its entirety because, as you admitted on October 22, 2021, there was “no justification for some of the language included in that letter”;

⁴ As the NSBA website notes: “Our members are state school boards associations and U.S. territory of the Virgin Islands. State school boards associations are nonprofit organizations that represent local school board members who serve on local school boards.” <https://www.nsba.org/About>.

⁵ See e.g. [“White House in contact with school board group for 'weeks' before controversial 'Patriot Act' letter: emails: NSBA's CEO said they were in talks with White House for 'several weeks' before sending letter”](#) and [White House Collaborated With School Board Group On Letter Comparing Parents To 'Domestic Terrorists'.](#)

2. Join us in calling on President Biden and Attorney General Garland to revoke the October 4, 2021, DOJ memorandum creating a task force to investigate parents—a memorandum that was based on your admittedly false allegations.
3. Call on these same officials to cease efforts to target parents for exercising their First Amendment rights;
4. Release all complete and unredacted communications to or from federal agencies or officials (using either official or personal email accounts and devices) relating to what your October 22, 2021, “apology” letter referred to as “the proceedings leading to the [September 29] letter,” including but not limited to the following:
 - A. Correspondence of any kind whether text, written or electronic to or from any individual employed by or affiliated with the White House or White House related entities such as the Domestic Policy Council;
 - B. Correspondence of any kind whether text, written or electronic to or from any individual employed by or affiliated with the United States Department of Justice, including but not limited to Attorney General Merrick Garland, Deputy Attorney General Lisa Monaco, Associate Attorney General Vanita Gupta, Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clark, or their “front office staff” including but not limited to their deputies, senior advisors, and senior counsel;
 - C. Correspondence of any kind whether text, written or electronic to or from any individual employed by or affiliated with the United States Department of Education, including but not limited to Secretary Miguel Cardona, Deputy Secretary Cindy Marten, Acting General Counsel Emma Leheny, Assistant Secretary for the Office of Civil Rights Catherine Llhamon, or their “front office staff” including but not limited to their deputies, senior advisors, and senior counsel;
 - D. All documents, e-mails, memoranda or other materials prepared by you or received from any source that relate to or discuss your e-mail to the NSBA Board dated September 29, 2021, wherein you stated that you had been “in talks over the last several weeks with White House staff, they requested additional information on some of the specific threats, so the letter details many of the incidents that have been occurring;”
 - E. All drafts, discussion copies, memoranda or other material exchanged with any federal government employees of what ended up being the September 29, 2021, letter; and,

Chip Slaven
Viola M. Garcia
October 26, 2021

- F. Notes, memoranda, internal e-mails, or other NSBA documents discussing, summarizing or memorializing any of the above referenced communications.⁶

The actions of the NSBA colluding with the White House and the Department of Justice to create a pretext for using the USA PATRIOT Act against protesting parents have been both reprehensible and offensive. Your October 22, 2021, apology letter seems to admit as much, but its half-hearted concessions are insufficient. Immediate and voluntary compliance with the foregoing requests, while not righting the wrong, would be a productive next step toward ensuring accountability to the parents and students you claim to serve.

Sincerely,



Todd Rokita
Indiana Attorney General



Steve Marshall
Alabama Attorney General



Treg R. Taylor
Alaska Attorney General



Mark Brnovich
Arizona Attorney General



Leslie Rutledge
Arkansas Attorney General



Christopher M. Carr
Georgia Attorney General



Derek Schmidt
Kansas Attorney General



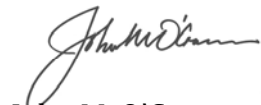
Eric S. Schmidt
Missouri Attorney General



Austin Knudsen
Montana Attorney General

⁶ To the extent applicable, please also take these requests as requests for information/public records under any applicable state or federal statutes.

Chip Slaven
Viola M. Garcia
October 26, 2021



John M. O'Connor
Oklahoma Attorney General



Alan Wilson
South Carolina Attorney General



Ken Paxton
Texas Attorney General

EXHIBIT 65

EXHIBIT 65

From: Renee Joe
Sent: Thursday, October 28, 2021 3:03 PM
To: NSBA Staff
Subject: Message from Dr Garcia
Attachments: NSBA Membership Update - October 28 2021.pdf

Good Afternoon,

Please find attached an update for members, sent to NSBA Executive Directors, on behalf of Dr. Viola Garcia. As you may have noticed an increase in communication, expect this to continue as NSBA works to augment communication and counsel with membership.

As you communicate with members and other interested parties about recent events that have received media attention, please reaffirm:

- NSBA has reiterated our view that the voices of parents should and must continue to be heard when it comes to decisions about their children's education, health, and safety.
- NSBA has apologized for the letter and continues to be focused on our mission of advocating for public education in America.
- NSBA shall assess, adjust, and align our operations based on collaboration and communication with our members.
- NSBA is a non-partisan organization.

Do let me know if you have any questions about this communication.

Thank you,
Renée



Renée B. Joe

Interim Chief Transformation Officer
National School Boards Association

www.nsba.org



1680 Duke Street, FL 2 Alexandria, VA



EXHIBIT 66

EXHIBIT 66

TO: NSBA Members
FROM: Dr. Viola M. Garcia, NSBA President
DATE: October 28, 2021
RE: Update for NSBA Members

As you may be aware, last week the NSBA Board expressed its regret and shared an apology for the recent letter to President Biden regarding threats and acts of violence against school board members. Not unexpectedly, we continue to receive attention from the media, political groups, policymakers, and others; we have been cited in Congressional hearings and have received inquiries from members of Congress requesting information.

Our focus will remain exactly where it should be as adopted by the 2021 NSBA Delegate Assembly: working exclusively with and through our member state school board associations in carrying out their missions in a full partnership to ensure each student everywhere has access to an excellent and equitable public education where they live, governed by high-performing school board leaders.

Leaders from our staff and board will be reaching out to all of you in the near future to begin new conversations about our strategic organizational outlook and path forward including:

- Expedited recruitment and hiring process for a new NSBA Executive Director and CEO
- Improved member engagement through increased communications and feedback opportunities between NSBA Board and Member Association leaders
- Reformed governance structure based on best practice with experts in executive/nonprofit board training space
- Enhanced review of current processes and protocols, reaffirming our commitment to providing excellent member service

As you are communicating with your own members and other interested parties about recent events that have received media attention, please feel welcome to reaffirm some key points:

- NSBA has reiterated our view that the voices of parents should and must continue to be heard when it comes to decisions about their children's education, health, and safety.
- NSBA has apologized for the letter and continues to be focused on our mission of advocating for public education in America.
- NSBA shall assess, adjust, and align our operations based on collaboration and communication with our members.
- NSBA is a non-partisan organization.

We continue to be committed to ensuring increased collaboration and dialogue with you going forward. Thank you.

EXHIBIT 67

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
2138 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6216
(202) 225-3951
judiciary.house.gov

November 12, 2021

Mr. Chip Slaven
Interim Executive Director & CEO
National School Boards Association
1680 Duke St., Floor 2
Alexandria, VA 22314-3493

Dear Mr. Slaven:

We are investigating the troubling attempts by the Department of Justice and the White House to use the heavy hand of federal law enforcement to target concerned parents at local school board meetings and chill their protected First Amendment activity.¹ Publicly available documents suggest that you, as the Interim Executive Director & CEO of the National School Boards Association (NSBA), have information that is relevant and necessary to our investigation. Accordingly, we ask that you make yourself available for a transcribed interview with Committee staff.

On September 29, 2021, on behalf of the NSBA, you and Dr. Viola Garcia sent a letter to President Joe Biden requesting help from the federal government with concerned parents voicing their opinions at school board meetings.² Your letter stated that “malice, violence, and threats” against school officials “could be the equivalent of a form of domestic terrorism or hate crimes.”³ Your letter also cited the Patriot Act as a potential federal statute that the Biden Administration could use to prosecute parents.⁴

In an email that same day, you shared your letter with the NSBA board of directors, explaining how the letter was the product of “several weeks” of discussions with the Biden White House. You wrote:

We co-signed the letter which lays out the current issues local school board members are facing and asks [*sic*] for federal cooperation with state and local law enforcement as well as public schools to address these serious issues. . . .

¹ Letter from Rep. Jim Jordan et al., Ranking Member, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, to Dr. Viola M. Garcia et al, President, Nat’l School Boards Assoc. (Oct. 27, 2021).

² Letter from Dr. Viola M. Garcia, President, Nat’l School Board Assoc. & Mr. Chip Slaven, Chief Exec. Officer, Nat’l School Board Assoc., to President Joseph R. Biden, White House (Sept. 29, 2021).

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*

Additionally, in talks over the last several weeks with White House staff, they requested additional information on some of these specific threats, so the letter also details many of the incidents that have been occurring.⁵

Five days after your letter to the President, Attorney General Merrick Garland directed the Federal Bureau of Investigation and U.S. Attorneys' Offices to address the “disturbing spike in harassment, intimidation, and threats of violence” at school board meetings.⁶ In a press release publicizing the memorandum, the Justice Department noted that the Department's National Security Division—the Department component responsible for prosecuting terrorism cases—would be part of a task force “to determine how federal enforcement tools can be used to prosecute these crimes.”⁷ In testimony to our Committee, Attorney General Garland confirmed that your letter was the basis for his unusual directive to target parents.⁸

On October 22, 2021, following Attorney General Garland's testimony, the NSBA Board of Directors issued a new memorandum to its members apologizing for your letter, stating: “On behalf of NSBA, we regret and apologize for the letter.”⁹ (emphasis in original). The Attorney General, however, has refused to withdraw his directive to target parents.

Parents have an undisputed right to direct the upbringing and education of their children, including expressing concerns about the inclusion of controversial curricula in their child's education.¹⁰ However, your letter to President Biden never once mentioned “parents” or parents' right with respect to their children's education, although the NSBA's subsequent apology purported to value the “voices of parents.”¹¹ Concerned parents are absolutely not domestic terrorists and, to the extent actual threats exist, local law enforcement—and not the FBI—are the appropriate authorities to address those situations.

Parents cannot tolerate this collusion between the NSBA and the Biden Administration to construct a justification for invoking federal law enforcement to intimidate and silence parents using their Constitutional rights to advocate for their child's future. Therefore, to assist our investigation, we request that you make yourself available for a transcribed interview with the Committee as soon as possible.

⁵ Email from Chip Slaven (Sept. 29, 2021, 8:18 p.m.), *available at* https://defendinged.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Email-Correspondence_NSBA-Letter-to-President-Biden_Redacted.pdf.

⁶ Memorandum from Atty Gen. Merrick Garland, U.S. Dep't of Justice, Partnership Among Federal, State, Local, Tribal, And Territorial Law Enforcement to Address Threats Against School Administrators, Board Members, Teachers, and Staff (Oct. 4, 2021).

⁷ Press Release, U.S. Dep't of Justice, Justice Department Addresses Violent Threats Against School Officials and Teachers (Oct. 4, 2021).

⁸ *Oversight of the United States Department of Justice: Hearing Before the H. comm. on the Judiciary*, 117th Cong. at 68 (2021) (testimony from Hon. Merrick Garland, Atty Gen., U.S. Dep't of Justice).

⁹ Memorandum from NSBA Board of Directors, Message to NSBA Members (Oct. 22, 2021).

¹⁰ *Troxel v. Granville*, 530 U.S. 57, 65 (2000) (citing *Meyer v. Nebraska*, 262 U.S. 390, 399 (1923)).

¹¹ *Compare* Letter from Dr. Viola M. Garcia, *supra* note 2, with Memorandum from NSBA Board of Directors, *supra* note 9.

If you have any questions and to schedule the interview, please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-6906. If you are represented by counsel, please ask your attorney to contact Committee staff on your behalf.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Jordan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "D".

Jim Jordan
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Jerrold L. Nadler
Chairman

EXHIBIT 68

EXHIBIT 68

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

2138 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6216

(202) 225-3951
judiciary.house.gov

October 27, 2021

Dr. Viola M. Garcia, President
Mr. Frank S. Henderson, Jr., President-elect
Ms. Kristi Sweet, Secretary-Treasurer
Mr. Charlie Wilson, Immediate Past President
National School Boards Association
1680 Duke St., Second Floor
Alexandria, VA 22314-3493

Dear Dr. Garcia, Mr. Henderson, Ms. Sweet, and Mr. Wilson:

We are investigating the troubling attempts by the Department of Justice and the White House to use the heavy hand of federal law enforcement to target concerned parents at local school board meetings and chill their protected First Amendment activity. Because you are the officers of the National School Boards Association's (NSBA) board of directors, which exercises "supervision, control and direction of the affairs of the Association,"¹ we respectfully request your assistance with our investigation.

On September 29, 2021, the NSBA sent a letter to President Joe Biden requesting help from the federal government with concerned parents voicing their opinions at school board meetings.² The NSBA letter stated that "malice, violence, and threats" against school officials "could be the equivalent of a form of domestic terrorism or hate crimes."³ The letter cited a number of interactions at school board meetings, the vast majority of which did not involve violence or threats.⁴ Notably, as one "example" of alleged domestic terrorism, the NSBA cited an instance in Loudoun County, Virginia, where a father angrily confronted members at a school board meeting about the heinous sexual assault of his daughter.⁵

¹ Nat'l School Board Assn., Constitution and Bylaws of the National School Board Association, Art. VI, sec. 1 (as amended Aug. 13, 2021), <https://www.nsba.org/-/media/NSBA/File/nsba-constitution-and-bylaws-8-13-21.pdf?la=en&hash=2AD2BB0EDE213D8D4BE90ADC3B833FE73EE78B95>.

² Letter from Dr. Viola M. Garcia, President, Nat'l School Board Assoc. & Mr. Chip Slaven, Chief Exec. Officer, Nat'l School Board Assoc., to President Joseph R. Biden, White House (Sept. 29, 2021)

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*; see also Caroline Downey, *Vast majority of incidents cited by school-board group to justify federal intervention didn't involve threats*, NAT'L REV. (Oct. 2, 2021).

⁵ *Id.*; see also Jessica Chasmar, *Loudoun County father arrested at school board events says school tried to cover up daughter's bathroom assault*, FOX NEWS (Oct. 12, 2021).

On October 4, 2021, a mere five days after the NSBA sent its letter to President Biden, Attorney General Merrick Garland issued an unusual memorandum that directed the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and U.S. Attorneys' Offices to address the "disturbing spike in harassment, intimidation, and threats of violence" at school board meetings.⁶ In a press release publicizing the memorandum, the Justice Department indicated its directive would "open dedicated lines of communication for threat reporting, assessment and response by law enforcement"—in other words, a snitch line for complaints about concerned parents.⁷ The press release noted that the Department's National Security Division—the Department component responsible for prosecuting terrorism cases—would be part of a task force "to determine how federal enforcement tools can be used to prosecute these crimes."⁸

On October 21, 2021, Attorney General Garland testified before our Committee. During his testimony, Attorney General Garland acknowledged that he relied upon the NSBA letter as the basis for issuing his memorandum.⁹ In addition, a news report published the same day revealed that the NSBA communicated with the White House about the September 29 letter *prior* to its transmission.¹⁰ In one email dated September 29—the same date as the NSBA letter—the NSBA Interim Executive Director & CEO, Chip Slaven, wrote:

[I]n talks over the last several weeks with White House staff, they requested additional information on some of the specific threats, so the letter also details many of the incidents that have been occurring.¹¹

Similarly, on October 2, the NSBA's President, Dr. Viola Garcia, separately wrote that the NSBA had "been engaged with the White House and Department of Education . . . for several weeks now."¹² On October 13, less than a month after the NSBA letter to President Biden, the Biden Administration announced that it had appointed Dr. Garcia to be one of five members of a federal education advisory board.¹³

The Biden Administration seemingly relied upon the NSBA letter—which it coordinated in advance with the NSBA—as justification to unleash the full weight of the federal law enforcement apparatus upon America's parents. During his testimony, Attorney General Garland

⁶ Memorandum from Atty Gen. Merrick Garland, U.S. Dep't of Justice, Partnership Among Federal, State, Local, Tribal, And Territorial Law Enforcement to Address Threats Against School Administrators, Board Members, Teachers, and Staff (Oct. 4, 2021).

⁷ Press Release, U.S. Dep't of Justice, Justice Department Addresses Violent Threats Against School Officials and Teachers (Oct. 4, 2021).

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ *Oversight of the United States Department of Justice: Hearing Before the H. comm. on the Judiciary*, 117th Cong. at 68 (2021) (testimony from Hon. Merrick Garland, Atty Gen., U.S. Dep't of Justice).

¹⁰ Caroline Downey, *National school board group communicated with White House while crafting letter likening parents to terrorists*, NAT'L REV. (Oct. 21, 2021).

¹¹ Email from Chip Slaven (Sept. 29, 2021, 8:18 p.m.), available at https://defendinged.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Email-Correspondence_NSBA-Letter-to-President-Biden_Redacted.pdf.

¹² Email from Viola Garcia (Oct. 2, 2021, 6:59 a.m.), available at https://defendinged.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Email-Correspondence_NSBA-Letter-to-President-Biden_Redacted.pdf.

¹³ Press Release, Dep't of Education, Five Board Members Appointed to Board Overseeing the Nation's Report Card (Oct. 13, 2021).

denied that the intent of his memorandum was to threaten parents or chill their protected First Amendment activity. However, on October 22, 2021, following Attorney General Garland’s testimony, the NSBA Board of Directors, apparently recognizing the ill-conceived consequences of its letter and the resulting Justice Department action, issued a new memorandum to its members apologizing for the letter, stating: “On behalf of NSBA, we regret and apologize for the letter.”¹⁴ (emphasis in original).

Parents have an undisputed right to direct the upbringing and education of their children, including expressing concerns about the inclusion of controversial curricula in their child’s education.¹⁵ Unsurprisingly, the NSBA’s September 29 letter to President Biden never once mentioned “parents” or parents’ role in their children’s education—although its subsequent apology memorandum purported to value the “voices of parents.”¹⁶ Concerned parents are absolutely not domestic terrorists and, to the extent actual threats exist, local law enforcement—and not the FBI—are the appropriate authorities to address those situations. Parents cannot tolerate this collusion between the NSBA and the Biden Administration to construct a justification for invoking federal law enforcement to intimidate and silence parents using their Constitutional rights to advocate for their child’s future.

To assist our investigation, we request that you produce the following documents concerning the NSBA’s September 29 letter and its October 22 memorandum:

1. All documents and communications for the period January 20, 2021, to the present referring or relating to the NSBA’s September 29, 2021 letter to President Biden;
2. All documents and communications for the period January 20, 2021, to the present referring or related to the NSBA’s October 22, 2021 memorandum;
3. All documents and communications for the period January 20, 2021, to the present between or among Executive Office of the President employees or staff and any NSBA officer, Board member, delegate, or staff referring or relating to the September 29, 2021 letter or October 22, 2021 memorandum;
4. All documents and communications for the period January 20, 2021, to the present between or among Department of Justice officials or employees, including those at the FBI, and any of NSBA officer, Board members, delegate, or staff referring or relating to the September 29, 2021 letter or October 22, 2021 memorandum;
5. All documents and communications for the period January 20, 2021, to the present referring or relating to the Biden Administration’s selection of Dr. Viola Garcia to the National Assessment Governing Board; and

¹⁴ Memorandum from NSBA Board of Directors, Message to NSBA Members (Oct. 22, 2021).

¹⁵ *Troxel v. Granville*, 530 U.S. 57, 65 (2000) (citing *Meyer v. Nebraska*, 262 U.S. 390, 399 (1923)).

¹⁶ Compare Letter from Dr. Viola M. Garcia, *supra* note 2, with Memorandum from NSBA Board of Directors, *supra* note 14.

6. Any guidance issued by the NSBA regarding parental engagement at school board meetings.

In addition, please provide the following information:

7. Please explain whether the NSBA will urge Attorney General Garland to withdraw or rescind his October 4 memorandum.
8. Please detail all NSBA interactions with officials from the Justice Department or FBI following the Attorney General's October 4 memorandum. Please include the date(s), participant(s), and topic(s) of these interactions.
9. Please describe in detail the "formal review" that the NSBA will conduct of its internal processes and procedures. When does the NSBA expect to announce the results? Will the NSBA commit to being transparent about its review?

Please produce this material and schedule the briefing as soon as possible but no later than 5:00 p.m. on November 10, 2021. In addition, we ask that you arrange for a staff briefing on this matter.

If you have any questions about this request, please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-6906. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Jim Jordan
Ranking Member



Steve Chabot
Member of Congress



Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress



Darrell Issa
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual
Property, and the Internet



Ken Buck
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Antitrust, Commercial
and Administrative Law



Matt Gaetz
Member of Congress

Mike Johnson
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on the Constitution,
Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

Andy Biggs
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism
and Homeland Security

Tom McClintock
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Immigration
and Citizenship

W. Gregory Steube
Member of Congress

Tom Tiffany
Member of Congress

Thomas Massie
Member of Congress

Chip Roy
Member of Congress

Dan Bishop
Member of Congress

Michelle Fischbach
Member of Congress

Victoria Spartz
Member of Congress

Scott Fitzgerald
Member of Congress

Cliff Bentz
Member of Congress

Burgess Owens
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Jerrold L. Nadler
Chairman

EXHIBIT 69

EXHIBIT 69

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
2138 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6216
(202) 225-3951
judiciary.house.gov

November 12, 2021

Mr. Chip Slaven
Interim Executive Director & CEO
National School Boards Association
1680 Duke St., Floor 2
Alexandria, VA 22314-3493

Dear Mr. Slaven:

We are investigating the troubling attempts by the Department of Justice and the White House to use the heavy hand of federal law enforcement to target concerned parents at local school board meetings and chill their protected First Amendment activity.¹ Publicly available documents suggest that you, as the Interim Executive Director & CEO of the National School Boards Association (NSBA), have information that is relevant and necessary to our investigation. Accordingly, we ask that you make yourself available for a transcribed interview with Committee staff.

On September 29, 2021, on behalf of the NSBA, you and Dr. Viola Garcia sent a letter to President Joe Biden requesting help from the federal government with concerned parents voicing their opinions at school board meetings.² Your letter stated that “malice, violence, and threats” against school officials “could be the equivalent of a form of domestic terrorism or hate crimes.”³ Your letter also cited the Patriot Act as a potential federal statute that the Biden Administration could use to prosecute parents.⁴

In an email that same day, you shared your letter with the NSBA board of directors, explaining how the letter was the product of “several weeks” of discussions with the Biden White House. You wrote:

We co-signed the letter which lays out the current issues local school board members are facing and asks [*sic*] for federal cooperation with state and local law enforcement as well as public schools to address these serious issues. . . .

¹ Letter from Rep. Jim Jordan et al., Ranking Member, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, to Dr. Viola M. Garcia et al, President, Nat’l School Boards Assoc. (Oct. 27, 2021).

² Letter from Dr. Viola M. Garcia, President, Nat’l School Board Assoc. & Mr. Chip Slaven, Chief Exec. Officer, Nat’l School Board Assoc., to President Joseph R. Biden, White House (Sept. 29, 2021).

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*

Additionally, in talks over the last several weeks with White House staff, they requested additional information on some of these specific threats, so the letter also details many of the incidents that have been occurring.⁵

Five days after your letter to the President, Attorney General Merrick Garland directed the Federal Bureau of Investigation and U.S. Attorneys' Offices to address the "disturbing spike in harassment, intimidation, and threats of violence" at school board meetings.⁶ In a press release publicizing the memorandum, the Justice Department noted that the Department's National Security Division—the Department component responsible for prosecuting terrorism cases—would be part of a task force "to determine how federal enforcement tools can be used to prosecute these crimes."⁷ In testimony to our Committee, Attorney General Garland confirmed that your letter was the basis for his unusual directive to target parents.⁸

On October 22, 2021, following Attorney General Garland's testimony, the NSBA Board of Directors issued a new memorandum to its members apologizing for your letter, stating: "On behalf of NSBA, we regret and apologize for the letter."⁹ (emphasis in original). The Attorney General, however, has refused to withdraw his directive to target parents.

Parents have an undisputed right to direct the upbringing and education of their children, including expressing concerns about the inclusion of controversial curricula in their child's education.¹⁰ However, your letter to President Biden never once mentioned "parents" or parents' right with respect to their children's education, although the NSBA's subsequent apology purported to value the "voices of parents."¹¹ Concerned parents are absolutely not domestic terrorists and, to the extent actual threats exist, local law enforcement—and not the FBI—are the appropriate authorities to address those situations.

Parents cannot tolerate this collusion between the NSBA and the Biden Administration to construct a justification for invoking federal law enforcement to intimidate and silence parents using their Constitutional rights to advocate for their child's future. Therefore, to assist our investigation, we request that you make yourself available for a transcribed interview with the Committee as soon as possible.

⁵ Email from Chip Slaven (Sept. 29, 2021, 8:18 p.m.), *available at* https://defendinged.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Email-Correspondence_NSBA-Letter-to-President-Biden_Redacted.pdf.

⁶ Memorandum from Atty Gen. Merrick Garland, U.S. Dep't of Justice, Partnership Among Federal, State, Local, Tribal, And Territorial Law Enforcement to Address Threats Against School Administrators, Board Members, Teachers, and Staff (Oct. 4, 2021).

⁷ Press Release, U.S. Dep't of Justice, Justice Department Addresses Violent Threats Against School Officials and Teachers (Oct. 4, 2021).

⁸ *Oversight of the United States Department of Justice: Hearing Before the H. comm. on the Judiciary*, 117th Cong. at 68 (2021) (testimony from Hon. Merrick Garland, Atty Gen., U.S. Dep't of Justice).

⁹ Memorandum from NSBA Board of Directors, Message to NSBA Members (Oct. 22, 2021).

¹⁰ *Troxel v. Granville*, 530 U.S. 57, 65 (2000) (citing *Meyer v. Nebraska*, 262 U.S. 390, 399 (1923)).

¹¹ *Compare* Letter from Dr. Viola M. Garcia, *supra* note 2, with Memorandum from NSBA Board of Directors, *supra* note 9.

If you have any questions and to schedule the interview, please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-6906. If you are represented by counsel, please ask your attorney to contact Committee staff on your behalf.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Jim Jordan
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Jerrold L. Nadler
Chairman

EXHIBIT 70

EXHIBIT 70

RICHARD J. DURBIN, ILLINOIS, CHAIR

PATRICK J. LEAHY, VERMONT
DIANNE FEINSTEIN, CALIFORNIA
SHELDON WHITEHOUSE, RHODE ISLAND
AMY KLOBUCHAR, MINNESOTA
CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, DELAWARE
RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, CONNECTICUT
MAZ HIRONO, HAWAII
CORY A. BOOKER, NEW JERSEY
ALEX PADILLA, CALIFORNIA
JON OSSOFF, GEORGIA

CHARLES E. GRASSLEY, IOWA
LINDSEY O. GRAHAM, SOUTH CAROLINA
JOHN CORNYN, TEXAS
MICHAEL S. LEE, UTAH
TED CRUZ, TEXAS
BEN SASSE, NEBRASKA
JOSHUA D. HAWLEY, MISSOURI
TOM COTTON, ARKANSAS
JOHN KENNEDY, LOUISIANA
THOM TILLIS, NORTH CAROLINA
MARSHA BLACKBURN, TENNESSEE

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

January 18, 2022

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

The Honorable Merrick B. Garland
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Garland:

We recently learned that Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona may have requested that the National School Boards Association (NSBA) send its September 29, 2021 letter to President Biden. This is the letter that compared concerned parents to domestic terrorists. The letter was the proximate cause of your October 4, 2021 memorandum directing the FBI and the various U.S. Attorneys to focus on harassment, intimidation, and threats of violence directed at school officials. We first wrote to you about this issue on October 7, 2021 stating that you should make clear to the American people that it is not the role of the federal government to silence those who question local school boards, and then we followed up on that letter on December 6, 2021 to ask why, inexplicably, the FBI's Counterterrorism Division had gotten involved in monitoring local school-board meetings.

The attached email thread, which was recently released by the group Parents Defending Education, appears to show two NSBA officials discussing whether NSBA's emergency procedures for bypassing board approval of official correspondence were followed before sending its September 29 letter to President Biden. In denying that such procedures were followed, one of the officials wrote,

At the time, no, I didn't think the letter fell under an emergency situation, it wasn't characterized that way when Chip told the officers he was writing a letter to provide information to the White House, from a request by Secretary Cardona.¹

We now have reason to believe personnel at the NSBA coordinated its September 29 letter with, or acted at the behest of, the sitting Secretary of Education, as well as White House personnel—in a letter that asks for the PATRIOT Act to be used against American parents.

We are concerned about the prospect of the Secretary of Education requesting that a trade association write a letter to the President of the United States so that you, the Attorney General, might have the requisite cover to deploy federal law enforcement in such a questionable manner. We have the following questions for you regarding this development:

1. When did you first learn about Secretary Cardona's request that the NSBA write its September 29 letter to President Biden? What were the circumstances under which you first learned about Secretary Cardona's request that the NSBA write its September 29 letter to President Biden?

2. Before issuing your October 4 memorandum, did you or anyone else have any communication with Secretary Cardona or anyone else at the Department of Education about the matters at issue in the NSBA's September 29 letter? What was the nature and substance of such communication(s)?
3. Before issuing your October 4 memorandum, did you or anyone else at the Department of Justice have any communication with Secretary Cardona or anyone else at the Department of Education about the matters at issue in your October 4 memorandum? What was the nature and substance of such communication(s)?
4. After issuing your October 4 memorandum, did you or anyone else at the Department of Justice have any communication with Secretary Cardona or anyone at the Department of Education about the matters at issue in your October 4 memorandum? What was the nature and substance of such communication(s)?
5. At a January 11, 2022 hearing, National Security Division Assistant Attorney General Matthew G. Olsen indicated that there have been no known cases of domestic terrorism associated with local school-board meetings. If that is the case, why have you involved the National Security Division in administering the October 4 memorandum?
6. If there are no known cases of domestic terrorism associated with local school-board meetings, why is the Counterterrorism Division of the FBI administering a threat tag entitled EDUOFFICIALS? Who at the Department of Justice tasked the Counterterrorism Division to do so?
7. How many individuals are being tracked under the threat tag EDUOFFICIALS?
8. Please provide copies of all records and emails in your possession reflecting or relating to Secretary Cardona's request that the NSBA write its September 29 letter to President Biden.

Furthermore, we are in receipt of the Department of Justice's one-page response to our letters to you of October 7, 2021 and December 6, 2021, which both concerned the Department's involvement in local school matters. We think that response, dated December 22, 2021 and signed by Acting Assistant Attorney General Peter S. Hyun, is incomplete. It points to statements from your October 4 memorandum discussing how spirited debate is protected by the First Amendment and that it is the Department of Justice's job to ensure the safety of all Americans, but frankly those issues were not the focus of our two letters to you on this matter. Rather, we asked you to withdraw your October 4 memorandum because of the chilling effect it has on the speech of American parents. By involving the National Security Division and the Counterterrorism Division of the FBI in local matters, you have created widespread fear that the national security apparatus of the United States is keeping tabs on them.

Please respond no later than Monday, February 7, 2022. You may contact John Schoenecker on Ranking Member Grassley's staff at (202) 224-5225 with any questions you may have about this letter and its requests.

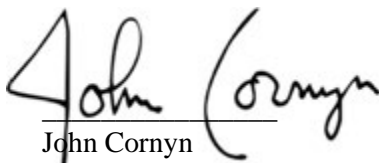
Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary



Lindsey O. Graham
United States Senator
Committee on the Judiciary



John Cornyn
United States Senator
Committee on the Judiciary



Michael S. Lee
United States Senator
Committee on the Judiciary



Ted Cruz
United States Senator
Committee on the Judiciary



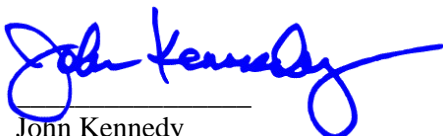
Ben Sasse
United States Senator
Committee on the Judiciary



Josh Hawley
United States Senator
Committee on the Judiciary



Tom Cotton
United States Senator
Committee on the Judiciary



John Kennedy
United States Senator
Committee on the Judiciary



Thom Tillis
United States Senator
Committee on the Judiciary



Marsha Blackburn
United States Senator
Committee on the Judiciary

Statement to President Biden

2 messages

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED].com>
To: "Swett, Kristi (UT)" <[REDACTED]>

Tue, Oct 5, 2021 at 8:06 PM

Hi Kristi,

I was wondering if the following Board policy was followed when the statement to President Biden was drafted or sent:

B-17 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: EMERGENCY POWERS

When it is not possible or feasible for the Board to meet, the Executive Committee shall have general authority to act for the Board on policy decisions or to make statements on public issues subject to the constraint that the decisions or statements are within the limits of and consistent with the NSBA Beliefs and Policies and Constitution and Bylaws and do not include any action reserved for the NSBA Board by the Illinois Not-for Profit Corporation Act. Such authority to act for the Board shall be taken only when the Executive Committee has declared an emergency and determined that it is not possible or feasible for the Board to meet as an assembled body, by telephone or by mail. To declare such an emergency requires the affirmative vote of all the elected officers and one of the other voting members of the Executive Committee. When the Executive Committee makes policy decisions or statements on public issues under such emergency conditions, action will be valid only when five members of the Executive Committee indicate agreement. The members of the Board shall be advised of any emergency action of the Executive Committee within 24 hours and shall confirm the Executive Committee action at the next regular meeting.

I am very concerned about the process by which the statement was made and the tone that essentially allowed the White House to direct the Attorney General to consider members of our community "domestic terrorists". I agree that we need to focus on civility, and we should be looking to our local law enforcement to protect board members and deal with threats of violence. I would have appreciated an opportunity to work with my fellow board members to give better direction on this very delicate topic.

Thanks,

Marnie

Kristi Swett <[REDACTED]>
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

Wed, Oct 6, 2021 at 8:02 AM

Hi Marnie

I would love to talk with you about the letter when we are all together this weekend.

At the time, no, I didn't think the letter fell under an emergency situation, it certainly was not characterized that way when Chip told the officers he was writing a letter to provide information to the White House, from a request by Secretary Cordona.

In hindsight, I do think our board needs to have a discussion about a screening process for communications which go out from NSBA, that is aligned with our mission, vision and purpose statement. If we (the board) can have a productive conversation to identify guardrails, it will begin to address the communication issues which plagues NSBA.

ISD_PDEPRR



I am glad we will be together, lets find time to strategize for the upcoming board meeting.

Thanks....

Kristi

From: [REDACTED] >

Sent: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 9:06 PM

To: Kristi Swett <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Statement to President Biden

[Quoted text hidden]

Scanned By Microsoft EOP

ISD_PDEPRR_000058

EXHIBIT 71

EXHIBIT 71

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

2138 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6216

(202) 225-3951
judiciary.house.gov

March 9, 2022

Dr. John Heim, Executive Director and CEO
Dr. Viola M. Garcia, President
National School Boards Association
1680 Duke St., Second Floor
Alexandria, VA 22314-3493

Dear Drs. Heim and Garcia:

It has been over four months since we first requested documents and information about the National School Boards Association's (NSBA) letter to President Biden in which the NSBA equated parents with domestic terrorists and urged federal intervention—including use of the Patriot Act—to silence parents at school board meetings.¹ We received absolutely no response, despite several follow-up emails and phone calls, until early February 2022. Despite new CEO John Heim's effort to rehabilitate the NSBA's image and "restore trust" in the association,² you have still failed to produce a single document responsive to our requests.

The NSBA's letter to President Biden initiated a rapid and stunning response from the Biden Administration that culminated in a directive from the Attorney General for federal law enforcement entities to monitor local school board matters.³ We know from a brave whistleblower that the Federal Bureau of Investigation operationalized the Attorney General's directive, with the head of the FBI's Counterterrorism Division directing FBI agents to use a new "threat tag"—EDUOFFICIAL—to track school board-related investigations.⁴ In other words, because of the NSBA's letter to President Biden, the FBI is using federal counterterrorism tools to track and categorize an unknown number of American parents simply for standing up at school board meetings to advocate for their children's future.

¹ Letter from Rep. Jim Jordan et al., Ranking Member, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, to Dr. Viola M. Garcia et al, President, Nat'l School Boards Assoc. (Oct. 27, 2021).

² Patrick Reilly, *NSBA head knew about AG's controversial school board memo, emails show*, N.Y. POST (Feb. 14, 2022); Laura Meckler, *National School Boards Association stumbles into politics and is blasted apart*, WASH. POST (Jan. 13, 2022).

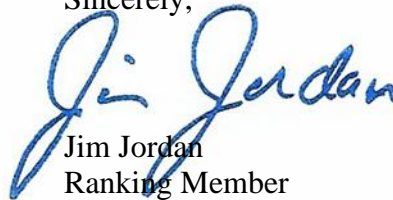
³ See generally Memorandum from Atty Gen. Merrick Garland, U.S. Dep't of Justice, Partnership Among Federal, State, Local, Tribal, And Territorial Law Enforcement to Address Threats Against School Administrators, Board Members, Teachers, and Staff (Oct. 4, 2021); *Oversight of the United States Department of Justice: Hearing Before the H. comm. on the Judiciary*, 117th Cong. at 68 (2021) (testimony from Hon. Merrick Garland, Atty Gen., U.S. Dep't of Justice).

⁴ Email from Carlton Peebles, Deputy Assistant Dir., Criminal Investigative Div., Fed. Bureau of Investigation, to FBI_SACS (Oct. 20, 2021).

The NSBA has expressed regret and apologized for its letter to President Biden,⁵ and has announced an internal review of the circumstances leading to the letter. However, former CEO Chip Slaven has defended the NSBA's letter, and another former senior NSBA officer, Charlie Wilson, has maintained that outrage about the letter was "distorted" and "cherry-picked."⁶ Mr. Wilson, a former NSBA President, was only forced to leave the board after his state withdrew from the association.⁷ In light of the stubborn defense of the letter by these former senior NSBA officials, as well as the NSBA's failure to date to produce any documents responsive to our investigation, we still have concerns about the NSBA's collusion with the Biden Administration to develop a pretext for invoking federal law enforcement to intimidate and silence parents.

Parents have an undisputed right to direct the upbringing and education of their children, including expressing concerns about the inclusion of controversial curricula in their child's education.⁸ We know from publicly available information that the NSBA has information that is relevant and necessary to our investigation. We are committed to fully examining the Biden Administration's use of counterterrorism resources in relation to school board meetings at the urging of the NSBA. We reiterate our outstanding document requests from our October 27 letter and request that you produce this material immediately.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Jordan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jim Jordan
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Jerrold L. Nadler
Chairman

⁵ Memorandum from NSBA Board of Directors, Message to NSBA Members (Oct. 22, 2021).

⁶ Meckler, *supra* note 2.

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *Troxel v. Granville*, 530 U.S. 57, 65 (2000) (citing *Meyer v. Nebraska*, 262 U.S. 390, 399 (1923)).

EXHIBIT 72

EXHIBIT 72

From: Chip Slaven
Sent: Thursday, September 9, 2021 1:17 PM
To: Deborah Rigsby; Jane Mellow
Subject: RE: Threats to school boards (also from Chip)
Attachments: BOE letter 9.8.21.pdf

Thanks Deborah. That is a good idea. I just brought up the issue on this White House call. I didn't mention our planned letter, but the issue brought a lot of discussion among the small group. Ronn Nozoe with NASSP in particular jumped in.

I attached a recent letter Charlie's board received just to give a sense of what is going on.

From: Deborah Rigsby <drigsby@nsba.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 9, 2021 1:35 PM
To: Jane Mellow <JMellow@nsba.org>
Cc: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Subject: RE: Threats to school boards (also from Chip)

Hi Chip and Jane,

Sure, will draft a letter. I suggest including the Secret Service as well, given this agency's authority regarding school violence incidents.

Deborah

From: Jane Mellow <JMellow@nsba.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 9, 2021 1:13 PM
To: Deborah Rigsby <drigsby@nsba.org>
Cc: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Subject: Threats to school boards (also from Chip)

Deborah, I just talked to Chip for the first time in a week and he wants us (specifically he asked for you) to draft a letter for either the Attorney General or the Director of the FBI, he is not sure yet.

Basically he wants to ask for a threat assessment of the risk to school board members and public schools in the wake of some of the confrontational tactics we are seeing across the country. Some written and spoken actions have been threatening and he wants us to be on record of noting it and alerting authorities and asking for assistance. He will be sending an example of a letter Charlie Wilson brought to his attention yesterday.

He wants the letter to detail out some of the examples and our concerns. He is hoping to have a draft by the end of next week. I'm going to ask Jinghong to see if she can pull together some of the instances of threatening meetings from the media.

I'm copying Chip on here in case I have missed something in conveying what he is looking for.

Jane



Jane Mellow

Interim Chief Advocacy Officer

National School Boards Association

jmellow@nsba.org | [REDACTED]

EXHIBIT 73

EXHIBIT 73

September 17, 2021

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Re: Federal Intervention to Stop Threats and Acts of Violence Against Public Schoolchildren, School Board Members, and Other Public School District Officials and Educators

Dear Mr. President:

We need your immediate intervention to protect our students, school board members, and educators who are susceptible to acts of violence affecting interstate commerce because of threats to their districts, families, and personal safety. As our school boards continue coronavirus recovery operations within their respective districts, they are also persevering against other challenges that could impede this progress in a number of communities. Coupled with attacks against school board members and educators for approving policies for masks to protect the health and safety of students and school employees, an increasing number of public school officials is facing physical threats because of propaganda purporting the inclusion of critical race theory within classroom instruction and curricula.

On behalf of our state associations and the more than 90,000 school board members who govern our country's 14,000 local public school districts, that educate more than 50 million schoolchildren, the National School Boards Association (NSBA) appreciates your leadership to end the proliferation of COVID-19 in our communities and our school districts. In addition, we applaud your actions to restore resources to school districts that have not yet received their education stabilization funding through the Project SAFE (Supporting America's Families and Educators) grant program for coronavirus recovery efforts, including the use of face masks and other precautions to help prevent COVID-19 infections among students and educators. **Now, we ask that the federal government intercept and prevent the current threats and acts of violence against our public school officials through existing statutes, executive authority, interagency and intergovernmental task forces, and other extraordinary measures to ensure the safety of our children and educators, to protect interstate commerce, and to preserve public school infrastructure and campuses.**

While local and state law enforcement agencies are working with public school officials in several communities to prevent further disruptions to educational services and school district operations, law enforcement officials in some jurisdictions are reticent to intervene. Reportedly, this apprehension is because a number of districts may have previously revised or ordered a hiatus of contracts and memoranda of understanding with law enforcement agencies for school resource officer support and other public safety services. As these threats and acts of violence have become more prevalent – during public school board meetings, via documented threats transmitted through the U.S. Postal Service, through social media and other online platforms, and around personal properties – NSBA respectfully solicits the expertise and resources of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Secret Service, and its National Threat Assessment

Center regarding the level of risk to public schoolchildren, educators, board members, and facilities/campuses. Further, we ask that the Army National Guard and its Military Police be deployed to certain school districts and related events where students and school personnel have been subjected to acts and threats of violence. We also request the assistance of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service to intervene against threatening letters and cyberbullying attacks that have been transmitted to students, school board members, district administrators, and other educators.

As these acts of malice, violence, and threats against public school officials have increased, the classification of these heinous actions could be the equivalent to a form of domestic terrorism and hate crimes. As such, NSBA requests a joint expedited review by the U.S. Departments of Justice, Education, and Homeland Security, along with the appropriate training, coordination, investigations, and enforcement mechanisms from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), including any technical assistance necessary from, and state and local coordination with, its National Security Branch and Counterterrorism Division, as well as any other federal agency with relevant jurisdictional authority and oversight. Additionally, NSBA requests that such review examine appropriate enforceable actions against these crimes and acts of violence under the Gun-Free School Zones Act, PATRIOT Act, Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, Violent Interference with Federally Protected Rights statute, Conspiracy Against Rights statute, an Executive Order to enforce all applicable federal laws for the protection of students and public school district personnel, and any related measure.

These acts of violence against our school districts are impacting the delivery of educational services to students and families, as many districts receive federal funds and subsidies for services to millions of students with disabilities, health screenings and supplemental supports for disadvantaged students, child nutrition, broadband connectivity, educator development, school safety activities, career and technical education, and more. School board meetings have been disrupted in California, Florida, Georgia, and other states because of local directives for mask coverings to protect students and educators from COVID-19. An individual was arrested in Illinois for aggravated battery and disorderly conduct during a school board meeting.

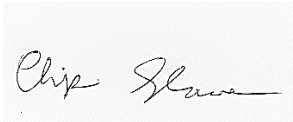
During two separate school board meetings in Michigan, an individual yelled a Nazi salute in protest to masking requirements and another individual prompted the board to call a recess because of opposition to critical race theory. In New Jersey, Ohio, and other states, anti-mask proponents are inciting chaos during board meetings. In Virginia, an individual was arrested, another man was ticketed for trespassing, and a third person was hurt during a school board meeting on CRT and equity issues. In other states including Washington, Texas, Wisconsin, Wyoming, and Tennessee, school boards have been confronted by angry mobs and forced to end meetings abruptly.

A resident in Alabama, who has self-proclaimed himself as a “vaccine police” has called school administrators while filming himself on Facebook Live. Other groups are posting watchlists against school boards and purporting misinformation that boards are adopting critical race theory curriculum and working to maintain online learning by haphazardly attributing it to COVID-19. In Ohio, an individual mailed a letter to a board member labeling the return address on the envelope from a local neighborhood association and then enclosing threatening hate mail from another entity. This correspondence states that, “We are coming after you and all the members

on the ... BoE [Board of Education].” This hate mail continues by stating, “You are forcing them to wear mask—for no reason in this world other than control. And for that you will pay dearly.” Among other incendiaries, this same threat also calls the school board member a “filthy traitor,” implies loss of pension funds, and labels the school board as Marxist. Earlier this month, a student in Tennessee was mocked during a board meeting for advocating masks in schools after testifying that his grandmother, who was an educator, died because of COVID-19.

With such acute threats and actions that are disruptive to our students’ well-being, to the safety of public school officials and personnel, and to interstate commerce, we urge the federal government’s intervention against plotters who are targeting our schools and educators. NSBA is committed to working with you to address this crisis affecting America’s public schools, and greatly appreciates your prompt attention to our requests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chip Slaven". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored, textured background.

Chip Slaven, Esq.
Interim Executive Director & CEO

CS:dr

EXHIBIT 74

EXHIBIT 74

September 17~~22~~, 2021

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Re: Federal Intervention to Stop Threats and Acts of Violence Against Public Schoolchildren, School Board Members, and Other Public School District Officials and Educators

Dear Mr. President:

We need your immediate intervention to protect our students, school board members, and educators who are susceptible to acts of violence affecting interstate commerce because of threats to their districts, families, and personal safety. As our school boards continue coronavirus recovery operations within their respective districts, they are also persevering against other challenges that could impede this progress in a number of communities. Coupled with attacks against school board members and educators for approving policies for masks to protect the health and safety of students and school employees, ~~an increasing number of many~~ public school officials ~~is-are~~ facing physical threats because of propoganda purporting the inclusion of critical race theory within classroom instruction and curricula.

Commented [DR1]: Removed the preposition for the plural word "are."

On behalf of our state associations and the more than 90,000 school board members who govern our country's 14,000 local public school districts, that educate more than 50 million schoolchildren, the National School Boards Association (NSBA) appreciates your leadership to end the proliferation of COVID-19 in our communities and our school districts. In addition, we applaud your actions to restore resources to school districts that have not yet received their education stabilization funding through the Project SAFE (Supporting America's Families and Educators) grant program for coronavirus recovery efforts, including the use of face masks and other precautions to help prevent COVID-19 infections among students and educators. Now, we ask that the federal government investigate, ~~intercept~~, and prevent the current threats and acts of violence against our public school officials through existing statutes, executive authority, interagency and intergovernmental task forces, and other extraordinary measures to ensure the safety of our children and educators, to protect interstate commerce, and to preserve public school infrastructure and campuses.

Commented [JM2]: Do we want to add "investigate" before intercept

While local and state law enforcement agencies are working with public school officials in several communities to prevent further disruptions to educational services and school district operations, law enforcement officials in some jurisdictions are reticent to intervene. ~~Reportedly, this~~

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Commented [JM3]: We should all talk about this

As these acts of malice, violence, and threats against public school officials have increased, the classification of these heinous actions could be the equivalent to a form of domestic terrorism and hate crimes. As such, NSBA requests a joint expedited review by the U.S. Departments of Justice, Education, and Homeland Security, along with the appropriate training, coordination, investigations, and enforcement mechanisms from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), including any technical assistance necessary from, and state and local coordination with, its National Security Branch and Counterterrorism Division, as well as any other federal agency with relevant jurisdictional authority and oversight. Additionally, NSBA requests that such review examine appropriate enforceable actions against these crimes and acts of violence under the Gun-Free School Zones Act, PATRIOT Act, Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, Violent Interference with Federally Protected Rights statute, Conspiracy Against Rights statute, an Executive Order to enforce all applicable federal laws for the protection of students and public school district personnel, and any related measure.

These acts of violence against our school districts are impacting the delivery of educational services to students and families, as many districts receive federal funds and subsidies for services to millions of students with disabilities, health screenings and supplemental supports for disadvantaged students, child nutrition, broadband connectivity, educator development, school safety activities, career and technical education, and more. School board meetings have been disrupted in California, Florida, Georgia, and other states because of local directives for mask coverings to protect students and educators from COVID-19. An individual was arrested in Illinois for aggravated battery and disorderly conduct during a school board meeting.

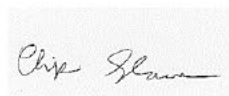
During two separate school board meetings in Michigan, an individual yelled a Nazi salute in protest to masking requirements and another individual prompted the board to call a recess because of opposition to critical race theory. In New Jersey, Ohio, and other states, anti-mask proponents are inciting chaos during board meetings. In Virginia, an individual was arrested, another man was ticketed for trespassing, and a third person was hurt during a school board meeting on [CRT-critical race theory](#) and equity issues. In other states including Washington,

Texas, Wisconsin, Wyoming, and Tennessee, school boards have been confronted by angry mobs and forced to end meetings abruptly.

A resident in Alabama, who has self-proclaimed himself as a “vaccine police” has called school administrators while filming himself on Facebook Live. Other groups are posting watchlists against school boards and purporting misinformation that boards are adopting critical race theory curriculum and working to maintain online learning by haphazardly attributing it to COVID-19. In Ohio, an individual mailed a letter to a board member labeling the return address on the envelope from a local neighborhood association and then enclosing threatening hate mail from another entity. This correspondence states that, “We are coming after you and all the members on the ... BoE [Board of Education].” This hate mail continues by stating, “You are forcing them to wear mask—for no reason in this world other than control. And for that you will pay dearly.” Among other incendiaries, this same threat also calls the school board member a “filthy traitor,” implies loss of pension funds, and labels the school board as Marxist. Earlier this month, a student in Tennessee was mocked during a board meeting for advocating masks in schools after testifying that his grandmother, who was an educator, died because of COVID-19. [These threats and acts of violence are affecting our nation’s democracy at the very foundational levels, causing school board members – including many who are not paid – to resign immediately and/or discontinue their service after their respective terms. Further, this increasing violence is a clear and present danger to civic participation, in which other citizens who have been contemplating service as either an elected or appointed school board member have reconsidered.](#)

With such acute threats and actions that are disruptive to our students’ well-being, to the safety of public school officials and personnel, and to interstate commerce, we urge the federal government’s intervention against plotters who are targeting our schools and educators. NSBA is committed to working with you to address this crisis affecting America’s public schools, and greatly appreciates your prompt attention to our requests.

[Sincerely/Respectfully,](#)



Chip Slaven, Esq.
Interim Executive Director & CEO

Commented [JM4]: I’m not sure where we should include this but I want to insert something along these lines:

These types of incidents are causing many school board members, most of whom are not paid, to decide to not run again. It also has the effect of causing good people who are interested in making a difference in their community choose not to engage.

Commented [DR5R4]: I added language that addresses this statement.

|

CS:dr

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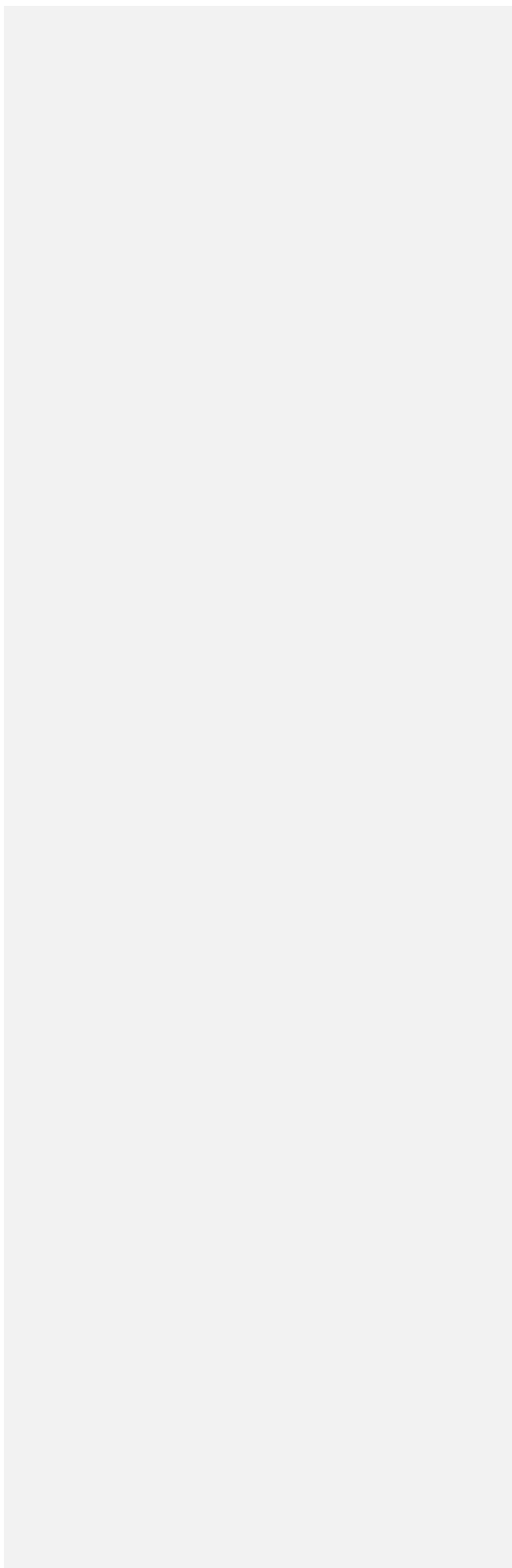


EXHIBIT 75

September ~~17~~²³, 2021

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Commented [CS1]: Should we address directly to President Biden?

Re: Federal Intervention to Stop Threats and Acts of Violence Against Public Schoolchildren, School Board Members, and Other Public School District Officials and Educators

Dear Mr. President:

America's public schools and its education leaders are under an immediate threat. The National School Boards Association (NSBA) respectfully asks for immediate federal law enforcement and other assistance to deal with the growing number of threats of violence and acts of intimidation occurring across the nation.

NSBA believes ~~We need your~~ immediate intervention is required to protect our students, school board members, and educators who are susceptible to acts of violence affecting interstate commerce because of threats to their districts, families, and personal safety. As our school boards continue coronavirus recovery operations within their respective districts, they are also persevering against other challenges that could impede this progress in a number of communities. Coupled with attacks against school board members and educators for approving policies for masks to protect the health and safety of students and school employees, ~~an increasing number of many~~ public school officials ~~is~~are also facing physical threats because of propaganda purporting the false inclusion of critical race theory within classroom instruction and curricula. This propaganda continues despite the fact that critical race theory is not taught in public schools and remains a complex law school and graduate school subject well beyond the scope of a K-12 class.

Commented [DR2]: Removed the preposition for the plural word "are."

On behalf of our state associations and the more than 90,000 school board members who govern our country's 14,000 local public school districts, that educate more than 50 million schoolchildren, the National School Boards Association (NSBA) appreciates your leadership to end the proliferation of COVID-19 in our communities and our school districts. We also appreciate recent discussions with White House and Department of Education staff on many critical issues facing public schools including threats school officials are receing. In addition, we applaud your actions to restore resources to school districts that have not yet received their education stabilization funding through the Project SAFE (Supporting America's Families and Educators) grant program for coronavirus recovery efforts, including the use of face masks and other precautions to help prevent COVID-19 infections among students and educators. Now, we

ask that the federal government investigate, intercept, and prevent the current threats and acts of violence against our public school officials through existing statutes, executive authority, interagency and intergovernmental task forces, and other extraordinary measures to ensure the safety of our children and educators, to protect interstate commerce, and to preserve public school infrastructure and campuses.

Commented [JM3]: Do we want to add "investigate" before intercept

While local and state law enforcement agencies are working with public school officials in several communities to prevent further disruptions to educational services and school district operations, law enforcement officials in some jurisdictions need assistance including help with monitoring the threat level ~~are reticent to intervene. Reportedly, this apprehension is because a number of districts may have previously revised or ordered a hiatus of contracts and memoranda of understanding with law enforcement agencies for school resource officer support and other public safety services.~~ As these threats and acts of violence have become more prevalent – during public school board meetings, via documented threats transmitted through the U.S. Postal Service, through social media and other online platforms, and around personal properties – NSBA respectfully asks that a joint collaboration among federal law enforcement agencies, state and local law enforcement, and with public school officials be undertaken to focus on these threats. NSBA specifically solicits the expertise and resources of the U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Secret Service, and its National Threat Assessment Center regarding the level of risk to public schoolchildren, educators, board members, and facilities/campuses. Further, we ask that the Army National Guard and its Military Police be deployed to certain school districts and related events where students and school personnel have been subjected to acts and threats of violence. We also request the assistance of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service to intervene against threatening letters and cyberbullying attacks that have been transmitted to students, school board members, district administrators, and other educators.

Commented [JM4]: We should all talk about this

Commented [CS5]: I went back and forth on this one. I think we should leave it out for now. I am concerned it could be seen as us asking for too much of a federal intervention. However, if things start to get bad, we can revisit.

As these acts of malice, violence, and threats against public school officials have increased, the classification of these heinous actions could be the equivalent to a form of domestic terrorism and hate crimes. As such, NSBA requests a joint expedited review by the U.S. Departments of Justice, Education, and Homeland Security, along with the appropriate training, coordination, investigations, and enforcement mechanisms from the ~~Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI),~~ including any technical assistance necessary from, and state and local coordination with, its National Security Branch and Counterterrorism Division, as well as any other federal agency with relevant jurisdictional authority and oversight. Additionally, NSBA requests that such review examine appropriate enforceable actions against these crimes and acts of violence under the Gun-Free School Zones Act, the PATRIOT Act in regards to domestic terrorism, Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, Violent Interference with Federally Protected Rights statute, Conspiracy Against Rights statute, an Executive Order to enforce all applicable federal laws for the protection of students and public school district personnel, and any related measure. As the threats grow and news of extremist hate organizations showing up at school board meetings are being reported, this is a critical time for a proactive approach to deal with this difficult issue.

These acts of violence against our school districts are impacting the delivery of educational services to students and families, as many districts receive federal funds and subsidies for services to millions of students with disabilities, health screenings and supplemental supports for disadvantaged students, child nutrition, broadband connectivity, educator development, school safety activities, career and technical education, and more. School board meetings have been disrupted in California, Florida, Georgia, and other states because of local directives for mask coverings to protect students and educators from COVID-19. An individual was arrested in Illinois for aggravated battery and disorderly conduct during a school board meeting.

During two separate school board meetings in Michigan, an individual yelled a Nazi salute in protest to masking requirements and another individual prompted the board to call a recess because of opposition to critical race theory. In New Jersey, Ohio, and other states, anti-mask proponents are inciting chaos during board meetings. In Virginia, an individual was arrested, another man was ticketed for trespassing, and a third person was hurt during a school board meeting discussing CRT, critical race theory and equity issues. In other states including Washington, Texas, Wisconsin, Wyoming, and Tennessee, school boards have been confronted by angry mobs and forced to end meetings abruptly.

A resident in Alabama, who has self-proclaimed himself as a “vaccine police” has called school administrators while filming himself on Facebook Live. Other groups are posting watchlists against school boards and purporting misinformation that boards are adopting critical race theory curriculum and working to maintain online learning by haphazardly attributing it to COVID-19. In Ohio, an individual mailed a letter to a board member labeling the return address on the envelope from a local neighborhood association and then enclosing threatening hate mail from another entity. This correspondence states that, “We are coming after you and all the members on the ... BoE [Board of Education].” This hate mail continues by stating, “You are forcing them to wear mask—for no reason in this world other than control. And for that you will pay dearly.” Among other incendiaries, this same threat also calls the school board member a “filthy traitor,” implies loss of pension funds, and labels the school board as Marxist. Earlier this month, a student in Tennessee was mocked during a board meeting for advocating masks in schools after testifying that his grandmother, who was an educator, died because of COVID-19. These threats and acts of violence are affecting our nation’s democracy at the very foundational levels, causing school board members – including many who are not paid – to resign immediately and/or discontinue their service after their respective terms. Further, this increasing violence is a clear and present danger to civic participation, in which other citizens who have been contemplating service as either an elected or appointed school board member have reconsidered.

NSBA believes public discussions and transparency by local school board members are important for the safe and effective operations of schools. It is vital that public discourses be encouraged in a safe and open environment in which varying viewpoints can be offered in a peaceful manner. Our children are watching the examples of the current debates and we must encourage a positive debate even with different opinions. However, with such acute threats and actions that are disruptive to our students’ well-being, to the safety of public school officials and personnel, and to interstate commerce, we urge the federal government’s intervention against individuals or hate groups, letters

Commented [CS6]: I need to check with Charlie and see if we can reference the letter. I am not sure if they wanted it released publicly but I am glad you included. It sends the message of how bad things are right now.

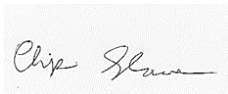
Commented [JM7]: I’m not sure where we should include this but I want to insert something along these lines:

These types of incidents are causing many school board members, most of whom are not paid, to decide to not run again. It also has the effect of causing good people who are interested in making a difference in their community choose not to engage.

Commented [DR8R7]: I added language that addresses this statement.

who are targeting our schools and educators. NSBA is committed to working with you [and your administration as a partner](#) to address this crisis affecting America's public schools, and greatly appreciates your prompt attention to our requests. [We stand ready to work with you.](#)

~~Sincerely~~ Respectfully,



Chip Slaven, Esq.
Interim Executive Director & CEO

CS:dr

EXHIBIT 76

EXHIBIT 76

September 23, 2021

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Re: *Federal Intervention to Stop Threats and Acts of Violence Against Public Schoolchildren, Public School Board Members, and Other Public School District Officials and Educators*

Dear Mr. President:

America’s public schools and its education leaders are under an immediate threat. The National School Boards Association (NSBA) respectfully asks for immediate federal law enforcement and other assistance to deal with the growing number of threats of violence and acts of intimidation occurring across the nation.

NSBA believes immediate intervention is required to protect our students, school board members, and educators who are susceptible to acts of violence affecting interstate commerce because of threats to their districts, families, and personal safety. As our school boards continue coronavirus recovery operations within their respective districts, they are also persevering against other challenges that could impede this progress in a number of communities. Coupled with attacks against school board members and educators for approving policies for masks to protect the health and safety of students and school employees, many public school officials are also facing physical threats because of propaganda purporting the false inclusion of critical race theory within classroom instruction and curricula.¹ This propaganda continues despite the fact that critical race theory is not taught in public schools and remains a complex law school and graduate school subject well beyond the scope of a K-12 class.

On behalf of our state associations and the more than 90,000 school board members who govern our country’s 14,000 local public school districts, that educate more than 50 million schoolchildren, NSBA appreciates your leadership to end the proliferation of COVID-19 in our communities and our school districts. We also appreciate recent discussions with White House and U.S. Department of Education staff on many critical issues facing public schools including threats school officials are receiving. In addition, we applaud your actions to restore resources to school districts that have not yet received their education stabilization funding through the Project

¹ The Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED), “Fact Sheet: Demonstrations over Critical Race Theory in the United States,” July 14, 2021, https://acleddata.com/acleddatanew/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/ACLED_Fact-Sheet_CRT-Demos_2021.pdf.

Commented [CS1]: Should we address directly to President Biden?

Commented [DR2R1]: I believe re: formal correspondence the correct protocol is to state “The President.”

Commented [DR3]: Removed the preposition for the plural word “are.”

SAFE (Supporting America's Families and Educators) grant program for coronavirus recovery efforts, including the use of face masks and other precautions to help prevent COVID-19 infections among students and educators. Now, we ask that the federal government investigate, intercept, and prevent the current threats and acts of violence against our public school officials through existing statutes, executive authority, interagency and intergovernmental task forces, and other extraordinary measures to ensure the safety of our children and educators, to protect interstate commerce, and to preserve public school infrastructure and campuses.

Commented [JM4]: Do we want to add "investigate" before intercept

While local and state law enforcement agencies are working with public school officials in several communities to prevent further disruptions to educational services and school district operations, law enforcement officials in some jurisdictions need assistance including help with monitoring the threat levels. As these threats and acts of violence have become more prevalent – during public school board meetings, via documented threats transmitted through the U.S. Postal Service, through social media and other online platforms, and around personal properties – NSBA respectfully asks that a joint collaboration among federal law enforcement agencies, state and local law enforcement, and with public school officials be undertaken to focus on these threats.² NSBA specifically solicits the expertise and resources of the U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Secret Service, and its National Threat Assessment Center³ regarding the level of risk to public schoolchildren, educators, board members, and facilities/campuses. Further, in egregious circumstances and via coordination with local and state authorities, we ask that the Army National Guard and its Military Police be deployed to certain school districts and related events where students and school personnel have been subjected to acts and threats of violence. We also request the assistance of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service to intervene against threatening letters and cyberbullying attacks that have been transmitted to students, school board members, district administrators, and other educators.

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Commented [CS5]: I went back and forth on this one. I think we should leave it out for now. I am concerned it could be seen as us asking for too much of a federal intervention. However, if things start to get bad, we can revisit.

Commented [DR6R5]: If a district and its officials have received imminent threats and have canceled contracts with local police/sheriff departments – and is experiencing threats, protests, and related disruptions and also any changes in community standard(s) – perhaps the National Guard is needed ... especially if a governor will not intervene with state law enforcement. We are already seeing punitive actions from governors over masks, thereby jeopardizing lives.

As these acts of malice, violence, and threats against public school officials have increased, the classification of these heinous actions could be the equivalent to a form of domestic terrorism and hate crimes. As such, NSBA requests a joint expedited review by the U.S. Departments of Justice, Education, and Homeland Security, along with the appropriate training, coordination, investigations, and enforcement mechanisms from the FBI, including any technical assistance necessary from, and state and local coordination with, its National Security Branch and Counterterrorism Division, as well as any other federal agency with relevant jurisdictional authority and oversight. Additionally, NSBA requests that such review examine appropriate enforceable actions against these crimes and acts of violence under the Gun-Free School Zones Act, the PATRIOT Act, in regards to domestic terrorism, the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, the Violent Interference with Federally Protected Rights statute, the Conspiracy Against Rights statute, an Executive Order to enforce all applicable federal laws for the

Commented [DR7]: This phrase may be redundant as the PATRIOT Act was enacted to protect the US domestically. Overseas surveillance, if needed, would be linked to accounts or electronic correspondence, for example, transmitted domestically.

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² The Herald Editorial Board, *HeraldNet*, "Editorial: Mob's actions at school board meeting unacceptable," September 1, 2021, <https://www.heraldnet.com/opinion/editorial-mobs-actions-at-school-board-meeting-unacceptable/>.

³ U.S. Secret Service, National Threat Assessment Center, "Averting Targeted School Violence," March 2021, <https://www.secretservice.gov/sites/default/files/reports/2021-03/USSS%20Averting%20Targeted%20School%20Violence%202021.03.pdf>.

protection of students and public school district personnel, and any related measure. As the threats grow and news of extremist hate organizations showing up at school board meetings is being reported, this is a critical time for a proactive approach to deal with this difficult issue.

These acts of violence against our school districts are impacting the delivery of educational services to students and families, as many districts receive federal funds and subsidies for services to millions of students with disabilities, health screenings and supplemental supports for disadvantaged students, child nutrition, broadband connectivity, educator development, school safety activities, career and technical education, and more. School board meetings have been disrupted in California⁴, Florida⁵, Georgia⁶, and other states⁷ because of local directives for mask coverings to protect students and educators from COVID-19. An individual was arrested in Illinois for aggravated battery and disorderly conduct during a school board meeting.⁸

During two separate school board meetings in Michigan⁹, an individual yelled a Nazi salute in protest to masking requirements and another individual prompted the board to call a recess

⁴ Elizabeth Marie Himchak, *Poway News Chieftain/Rancho Bernardo News Journal*, "Protesters disrupt Poway Unified board meeting, cause its adjournment," September 9, 2021, <https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/pomeroado-news/news/schools/story/2021-09-09/protesters-disrupt-poway-unified-board-meeting-force-its-ag>.

⁵ Ryan McKinnon, *Sarasota Herald-Tribune*, "Sarasota school board may limit public input after some meetings get disorderly," September 20, 2021, <https://www.heraldtribune.com/story/news/education/2021/09/20/sarasota-school-board-may-limit-public-input-after-meetings-gone-wild/8417784002/>.

⁶ Alia Malik, *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, "Anti-mask crowd disrupts Gwinnett school board meeting," May 21, 2021, <https://www.ajc.com/news/anti-mask-crowd-disrupts-gwinnett-school-board-meeting/IYO7R6GHJ5DTLEFCQHER7V3GBA/>

⁷ Julie Wootton-Greener, *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, "School board meeting turns contentious over COVID-19 policies," August 12, 2021, <https://www.reviewjournal.com/local/education/school-board-meeting-turns-contentious-over-covid-19-policies-2418652/>.

WAVY.com, "Norfolk school officials, police monitoring threats made toward Norview schools," September 21, 2021, <https://www.wavy.com/news/local-news/norfolk/norfolk-school-officials-police-monitoring-threats-made-toward-norview-schools/>.

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⁹ Steve Neavling, *Detroit Metro Times*, "Nazi salute, insults hurled at chaotic Birmingham schools meeting over mask mandate," August 19, 2021, <https://www.metrotimes.com/news-hits/archives/2021/08/19/nazi-salute-insults-hurled-at-ruckus-birmingham-schools-meeting-over-mask-mandate>.

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because of opposition to critical race theory. In New Jersey¹⁰, Ohio¹¹, and other states¹², anti-mask proponents are inciting chaos during board meetings. In Virginia¹³, an individual was arrested, another man was ticketed for trespassing, and a third person was hurt during a school board meeting **discourse distinguishing current curricula from critical race theory and regarding equity** issues. In other states including Washington¹⁴, Texas¹⁵, Wisconsin¹⁶, Wyoming¹⁷, and Tennessee¹⁸, school boards have been confronted by angry mobs and forced to end meetings abruptly.

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NSBA believes public discussions and transparency by local school board members are important for the safe and effective operations of schools.²⁴ It is vital that public discourses be encouraged in a safe and open environment, in which varying viewpoints can be offered in a peaceful manner. Our children are watching the examples of the current debates; and, we must encourage a positive dialogue even with different opinions. However, with such acute threats and actions that are disruptive to our students’ well-being, to the safety of public school officials and personnel, and to interstate commerce, we urge the federal government’s intervention against individuals or hate groups/plotters who are targeting our schools and educators. NSBA is committed to working with you and your Administration as a partner to address this crisis affecting America’s public schools, and greatly appreciates your prompt attention to our requests. We stand ready to work with you.

²⁰ Nick Surgery, *Documented*, “TPUSA launches project targeting school board members,” August 20, 2021, <https://substack.documented.net/p/tpusa-school-board-watchlist>

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²² Kim Bellware, *The Washington Post*, “Student mocked at school board meeting after sharing that his grandmother died of covid-19,” September 10, 2021, https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2021/09/10/grady-knox-tennessee/?utm_campaign=wp_main&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook&fbclid=IwAR29rIKzIY0tz4p0yB5VJdk_n_dj5AJPp6oiEvzJC1oRAYsMMMMOPb8EvjY.

²³ Andy Humbles, *The Nashville Tennessean*, “Jon White resigns as Wilson County School Board member,” September 8, 2021, <https://www.tennessean.com/story/news/local/wilson/2021/09/08/jon-white-resigns-wilson-county-school-board-member/5750949001/>.

Terri Pederson, *The Daily Citizen*, “Beaver Dam school board member resigns citing safety concerns for family,” September 20, 2021, Updated September 21, 2021, https://www.wiscnews.com/bdc/news/local/education/beaver-dam-school-board-member-resigns-citing-safety-concerns-for-family/article_066fc86c-4356-5a00-9940-187e02eb7340.html.

²⁴ National School Boards Association and AASA, The School Superintendents Association, “NSBA, AASA Issue Joint Statement Calling for End to Threats and Violence Around Safe School Opening Decisions,” September 22, 2021, <https://www.nsb.org/News/2021/end-threats-violence-joint-statement>.

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Commented [CS8]: I need to check with Charlie and see if we can reference the letter. I am not sure if they wanted it released publicly but I am glad you included. It sends the message of how bad things are right now.

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Commented [JM9]: I’m not sure where we should include this but I want to insert something along these lines:

These types of incidents are causing many school board members, most of whom are not paid, to decide to not run again. It also has the effect of causing good people who are interested in making a difference in their community choose not to engage.

Commented [DR10R9]: I added language that addresses this statement.

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Commented [DR11]: “Plotters” is an actual term used by the U.S. Secret Service, including in its investigations into incidents of school violence.

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Respectfully,

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chip Slaven".

Chip Slaven, Esq.
Interim Executive Director & CEO

|

CS:dr

|

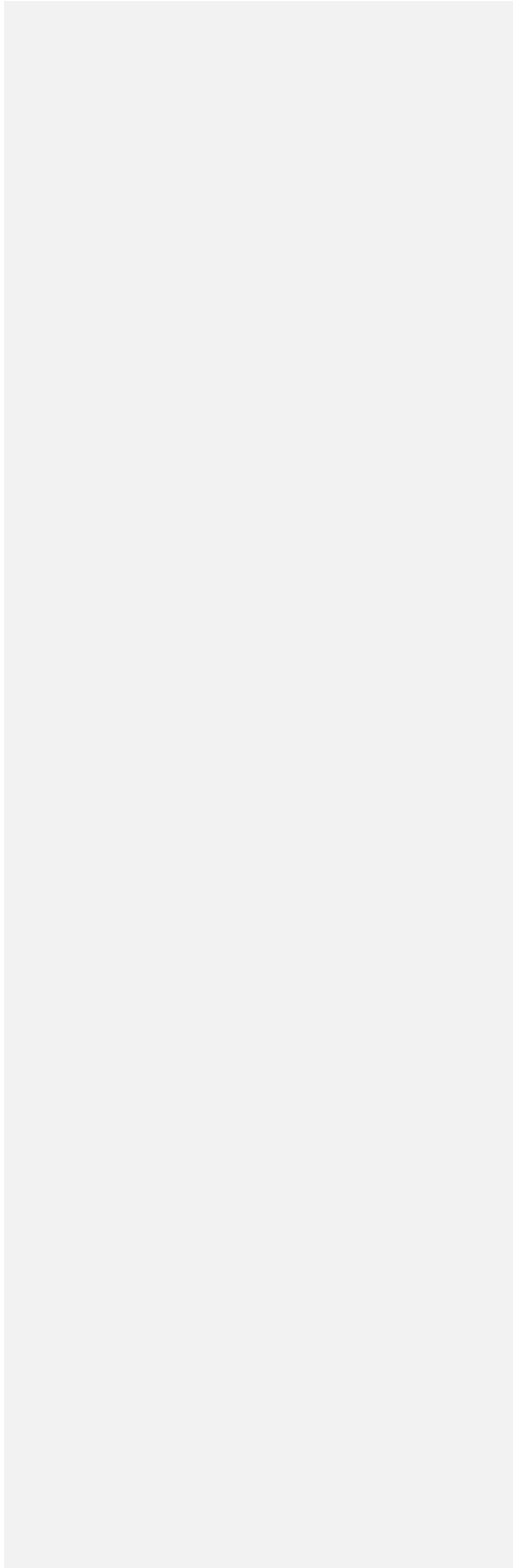


EXHIBIT 77

September 23, 2021

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Re: *Federal Intervention to Stop Threats and Acts of Violence Against Public Schoolchildren, Public School Board Members, and Other Public School District Officials and Educators*

Dear Mr. President:

America's public schools and its education leaders are under an immediate threat. The National School Boards Association (NSBA) respectfully asks for immediate federal law enforcement and other assistance to deal with the growing number of threats of violence and acts of intimidation occurring across the nation. Local school board members want to hear from their communities on important issues and that must be at the forefront of good school board governance and promotion of free speech. However, there also must be safeguards in place to protect public schools and dedicated education leaders as they do their jobs.

NSBA believes immediate intervention is required to protect our students, school board members, and educators who are susceptible to acts of violence affecting interstate commerce because of threats to their districts, families, and personal safety. As our school boards continue coronavirus recovery operations within their respective districts, they are also persevering against other challenges that could impede this progress in a number of communities. Coupled with attacks against school board members and educators for approving policies for masks to protect the health and safety of students and school employees, many public school officials are also facing physical threats because of propaganda such as purporting the false inclusion of critical race theory within classroom instruction and curricula.¹ This propaganda continues despite the fact that critical race theory is not taught in public schools and remains a complex law school and graduate school subject well beyond the scope of a K-12 class.

On behalf of our state associations and the more than 90,000 school board members who govern our country's 14,000 local public school districts, that educate more than 50 million schoolchildren, NSBA appreciates your leadership to end the proliferation of COVID-19 in our communities and our school districts. We also appreciate recent discussions with White House

¹ The Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED), "Fact Sheet: Demonstrations over Critical Race Theory in the United States," July 14, 2021, https://acleddata.com/acleddatanew/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/ACLED_Fact-Sheet_CRT-Demos_2021.pdf.

Commented [CS1]: Should we address directly to President Biden?

Commented [DR2R1]: I believe re: formal correspondence the correct protocol is to state "The President."

Commented [CS3]: I added this line just to reinforce the notion we still want public discourse, just not chaos.

Commented [DR4]: Removed the preposition for the plural word "are."

and U.S. Department of Education staff on many critical issues facing public schools including threats school officials are receiving. In addition, we applaud your actions to restore resources to school districts that have not yet received their education stabilization funding through the Project SAFE (Supporting America's Families and Educators) grant program for coronavirus recovery efforts, including the use of face masks and other precautions to help prevent COVID-19 infections among students and educators. Now, we ask that the federal government investigate, intercept, and prevent the current threats and acts of violence against our public school officials through existing statutes, executive authority, interagency and intergovernmental task forces, and other extraordinary measures to ensure the safety of our children and educators, to protect interstate commerce, and to preserve public school infrastructure and campuses.

Commented [JM5]: Do we want to add "investigate" before intercept

While local and state law enforcement agencies are working with public school officials in several communities to prevent further disruptions to educational services and school district operations, law enforcement officials in some jurisdictions need assistance including help with monitoring the threat levels. As these threats and acts of violence have become more prevalent – during public school board meetings, via documented threats transmitted through the U.S. Postal Service, through social media and other online platforms, and around personal properties – NSBA respectfully asks that a joint collaboration among federal law enforcement agencies, state and local law enforcement, and with public school officials be undertaken to focus on these threats.² NSBA specifically solicits the expertise and resources of the U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Secret Service, and its National Threat Assessment Center³ regarding the level of risk to public schoolchildren, educators, board members, and facilities/campuses. Further, in egregious circumstances and via coordination with local and state authorities, we ask that the Army National Guard and its Military Police be deployed to certain school districts and related events where students and school personnel have been subjected to acts and threats of violence. We also request the assistance of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service to intervene against threatening letters and cyberbullying attacks that have been transmitted to students, school board members, district administrators, and other educators.

Commented [CS6]: I've reviewed this section again and think it will be seen as a federal intervention into local and state issues. School districts that have this issue should be reaching out to their Governor first who can deploy State Police. I also think this is not a widespread problem. If we leave this in it will garner a lot of attention away from the broader context. I think we leave it out and can revisit it if things turn out to be more widespread.

As these acts of malice, violence, and threats against public school officials have increased, the classification of these heinous actions could be the equivalent to a form of domestic terrorism and hate crimes. As such, NSBA requests a joint expedited review by the U.S. Departments of Justice, Education, and Homeland Security, along with the appropriate training, coordination, investigations, and enforcement mechanisms from the FBI, including any technical assistance necessary from, and state and local coordination with, its National Security Branch and Counterterrorism Division, as well as any other federal agency with relevant jurisdictional authority and oversight. Additionally, NSBA requests that such review examine appropriate

Commented [CS7]: I went back and forth on this one. I think we should leave it out for now. I am concerned it could be seen as us asking for too much of a federal intervention. However, if things start to get bad, we can revisit.

² The Herald Editorial Board, *HeraldNet*, "Editorial: Mob's actions at school board meeting unacceptable," September 1, 2021, <https://www.heraldnet.com/opinion/editorial-mobs-actions-at-school-board-meeting-unacceptable/>.

³ U.S. Secret Service, National Threat Assessment Center, "Averting Targeted School Violence," March 2021, <https://www.secretservice.gov/sites/default/files/reports/2021-03/USSS%20Averting%20Targeted%20School%20Violence%202021.03.pdf>.

Commented [DR8R7]: If a district and its officials have received imminent threats and have canceled contracts with local police/sheriff departments – and is experiencing threats, protests, and related disruptions and also any changes in community standard(s) – perhaps the National Guard is needed ... especially if a governor will not intervene with state law enforcement. We are already seeing punitive actions from governors over masks, thereby jeopardizing lives.

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enforceable actions against these crimes and acts of violence under the Gun-Free School Zones Act, the PATRIOT Act **in regards to domestic terrorism**, the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, the Violent Interference with Federally Protected Rights statute, the Conspiracy Against Rights statute, an Executive Order to enforce all applicable federal laws for the protection of students and public school district personnel, and any related measure. As the threats grow and news of extremist hate organizations showing up at school board meetings is being reported, this is a critical time for a proactive approach to deal with this difficult issue.

These **threats, acts or actual acts** of violence against our school districts are impacting the delivery of educational services to students and families, as many districts receive federal funds and subsidies for services to millions of students with disabilities, health screenings and supplemental supports for disadvantaged students, child nutrition, broadband connectivity, educator development, school safety activities, career and technical education, and more. School board meetings have been disrupted in California⁴, Florida⁵, Georgia⁶, and other states⁷ because of local directives for mask coverings to protect students and educators from COVID-19. An individual was arrested in Illinois for aggravated battery and disorderly conduct during a school board meeting.⁸

During two separate school board meetings in Michigan⁹, an individual yelled a Nazi salute in protest to masking requirements and another individual prompted the board to call a recess

⁴ Elizabeth Marie Himchak, *Poway News Chieftain/Rancho Bernardo News Journal*, "Protesters disrupt Poway Unified board meeting cause its adjournment" September 9 2021. <https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/pomeroado-news/news/schools/story/2021-09-09/protesters-disrupt-poway-unified-board-meeting-force-its-ag>.

⁵ Ryan McKinnon, *Sarasota Herald-Tribune*, "Sarasota school board may limit public input after some meetings get disorderly" September 20 2021. <https://www.heraldtribune.com/story/news/education/2021/09/20/sarasota-school-board-may-limit-public-input-after-meetings-gone-wild/8417784002/>.

⁶ Alia Malik, *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, "Anti-mask crowd disrupts Gwinnett school board meeting" May 21 2021. <https://www.ajc.com/news/anti-mask-crowd-disrupts-gwinnett-school-board-meeting/IYO7R6GHJ5DTLEFCQHER7V3GBA/>.

⁷ Julie Wootton-Greener, *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, "School board meeting turns contentious over COVID-19 policies" August 12 2021. <https://www.reviewjournal.com/local/education/school-board-meeting-turns-contentious-over-covid-19-policies-2418652/>.

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Commented [DR9]: This phrase may be redundant as the PATRIOT Act was enacted to protect the US domestically. Overseas surveillance, if needed, would be linked to accounts or electronic correspondence, for example, transmitted domestically.

Commented [CS10]: You are right Deborah but I recommend keeping it in because there is often confusion on the PATRIOT Act from the public so I thought calling it was important so there is not confusion.

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²⁰Nick Surgery Documented "TPUSA launches project targeting school board members" August 20 2021 <https://substack.documented.net/p/tpusa-school-board-watchlist>

²¹Lindsey Mills WBNS "Disturbing: Worthington school board member receives threats for masks in schools" September 21 2021 <https://www.10tv.com/article/news/local/worthington-school-board-member-receives-threats-for-masks-in-schools/530-f3c04240-76b4-456b-aad9-8555397b5427>

²²Kim Bellware The Washington Post "Student mocked at school board meeting after sharing that his grandmother died of covid 19" September 10 2021 https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2021/09/10/grady-linn-tennessee/?utm_campaign=wp-main&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook&fbclid=IwAR29rIKzIY0tz4p0v85VjDk_n_dh5AJRp6eiEvsJCl0RAYcMMMPb8EviY

²³Andy Humbles The Nashville Tennessean "Jon White resigns as Wilson County School Board member" September 8 2021 <https://www.tennessean.com/story/news/local/wilson/2021/09/08/jon-white-resigns-wilson-county-school-board-member/5750949001/>

²⁴Terri Pederson The Daily Citizen "Beaver Dam school board member resigns citing safety concerns for family" September 20 2021 Updated September 21 2021 <https://www.wiscnews.com/bdc/news/local/education/beaver-dam-school-board-member-resigns-citing-safety-concerns-for-family/article-066fc86c-4356-5a00-9940-187e02eb7340.html>

²⁴ National School Boards Association and AASA The School Superintendents Association "NSBA AASA Issue Joint Statement Calling for End to Threats and Violence Around Safe School Opening Decisions" September 22 2021 <https://www.nsba.org/News/2021/end-threats-violence-joint-statement>

Commented [CS11]: I need to check with Charlie and see if we can reference the letter. I am not sure if they wanted it released publicly but I am glad you included. It sends the message of how bad things are right now.

Commented [CS12]: I'm going to go ahead and take this out. I am not sure they are actively talking around this publicly and I don't want to put them in a bad situation.

Commented [JM13]: I'm not sure where we should include this but I want to insert something along these lines:

These types of incidents are causing many school board members, most of whom are not paid, to decide to not run again. It also has the effect of causing good people who are interested in making a difference in their community choose not to engage.

Commented [DR14R13]: I added language that addresses this statement.

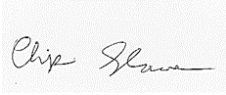
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Commented [DR15]: "Plotters" is an actual term used by the U.S. Secret Service, including in its investigations into incidents of school violence.

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Respectfully,

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chip Slaven".

Chip Slaven, Esq.
Interim Executive Director & CEO

|

CS:dr

|

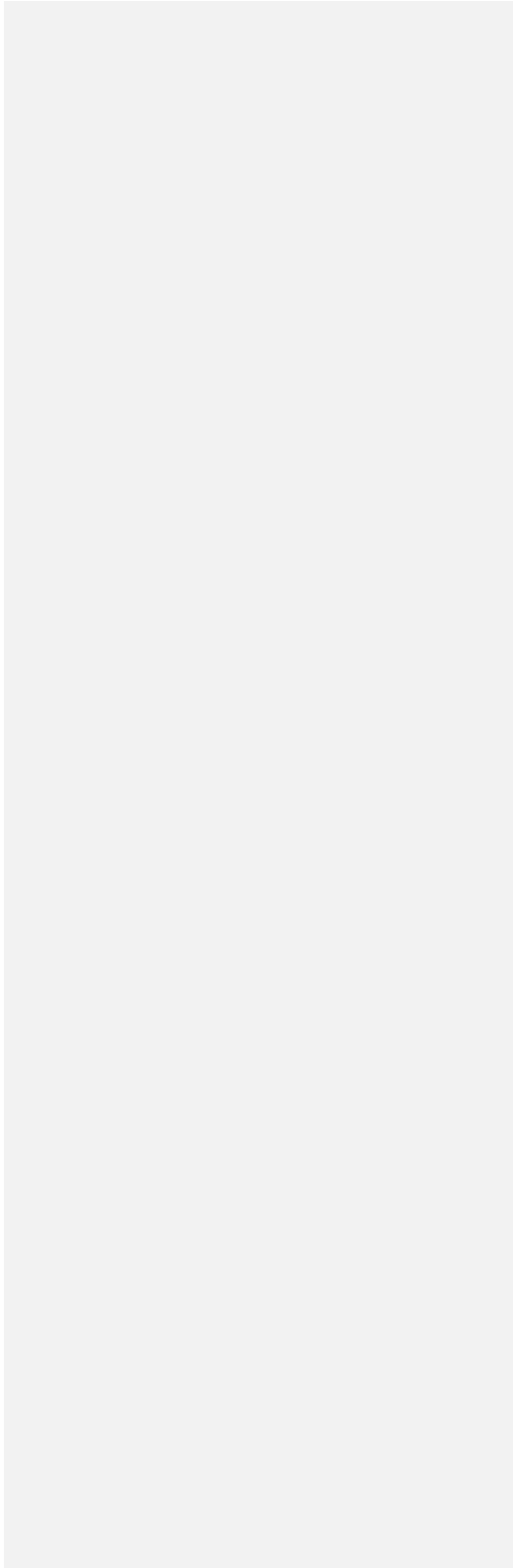


EXHIBIT 78

From: Jason Amos
Sent: Friday, September 24, 2021 2:40 PM
To: Deborah Rigsby
Subject: RE: For Your Review -- EMBARGOED COPY -- NSBA Letter-Federal Intervention 9-2021

Hi Deborah,

Great job writing this letter! It makes a tremendously compelling case for intervention while also striking the right tone around the support the administration has already provided to students.

I did notice that there is a typo in this sentence on page 2 as “enforcement” is missing the “c”: “As these threats and acts of violence have become more prevalent – during public school board meetings, via documented threats transmitted through the U.S. Postal Service, through social media and other online platforms, and around personal properties – NSBA respectfully asks that a joint collaboration among federal law enforcement agencies, state and local law enforcement, and with public school officials be undertaken to focus on these threats.”

Again, great job with the letter!

Jason

From: Deborah Rigsby <drigsby@nsba.org>
Sent: Friday, September 24, 2021 3:44 PM
To: Francisco Negron <fnegron@nsba.org>; Renee Joe <RJoe@nsba.org>; Jason Amos <JAmos@nsba.org>; Elena Kukanova – Carpenter <ECarpenter@nsba.org>
Cc: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>; Jane Mellow <JMellow@nsba.org>; Lenora Johnson <ljohnson@nsba.org>; Kimberly Muse <KMuse@nsba.org>; Alesha Stuart <AStuart@nsba.org>
Subject: For Your Review -- EMBARGOED COPY -- NSBA Letter-Federal Intervention 9-2021

Good afternoon Everyone,

Jane and I are forwarding the attached letter for your review that Chip has approved, regarding a formal request to the President for federal intervention to prevent further threats and acts of violence against students, school boards, and educators. Please let us know if further information is needed for this letter.

Chip is planning to forward this to the Board over the weekend.

Thanks for reviewing!

Jane and Deborah

EXHIBIT 79

EXHIBIT 79

From: Wilson, Charlie [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 26, 2021 7:47 PM
To: Chip Slaven; Garcia, Viola; Henderson , Frank - KS; Swett, Kristi (UT)
Subject: Re: Draft Letter to the President

The letter looks fine to me with just one typo that I saw. However is misspelled early in the letter. I do, however, have one question: Should the letter be signed by both the CEO and our President? --charlie

From: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 26, 2021 9:29 PM
To: Garcia, Viola [REDACTED]; Henderson , Frank - KS [REDACTED]; Swett, Kristi (UT)
[REDACTED]; Wilson, Charlie [REDACTED]
Subject: Draft Letter to the President

Good evening Viola, Frank, Kristi, and Charlie:

I wanted to share with you the letter we plan on sending the President regarding threats to school board members and public schools. Deborah Rigsby worked on it and did a great job. It is very bold and calls for threat assessments to be conducted by various federal law enforcement agencies. It also calls out several of the problems that have been publicly reported. We will be doing some more editing in the morning, but I wanted to make sure I shared it with you prior to it going out. Jason believes this will get some attention. Please let me know if you have any questions or see any necessary edits.

Thanks,
Chip

EXHIBIT 80

EXHIBIT 80

September 27, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Re: Federal Intervention to Stop Threats and Acts of Violence Against Public Schoolchildren, Public School Board Members, and Other Public School District Officials and Educators

Dear Mr. President:

America's public schools and its education leaders are under an immediate threat. The National School Boards Association (NSBA) respectfully asks for immediate federal law enforcement and other assistance to deal with the growing number of threats of violence and acts of intimidation occurring across the nation. Local school board members want to hear from their communities on important issues and that must be at the forefront of good school board governance and promotion of free speech. However, there also must be safeguards in place to protect public schools and dedicated education leaders as they do their jobs.

NSBA believes immediate intervention is required to protect our students, school board members, and educators who are susceptible to acts of violence affecting interstate commerce because of threats to their districts, families, and personal safety. As our school boards continue coronavirus recovery operations within their respective districts, they are also persevering against other challenges that could impede this progress in a number of communities. Coupled with attacks against school board members and educators for approving policies for masks to protect the health and safety of students and school employees, many public school officials are also facing physical threats because of propaganda such as purporting the false inclusion of critical race theory within classroom instruction and curricula.¹ This propaganda continues despite the fact that critical race theory is not taught in public schools and remains a complex law school and graduate school subject well beyond the scope of a K-12 class.

On behalf of our state associations and the more than 90,000 school board members who govern our country's 14,000 local public school districts, that educate more than 50 million schoolchildren, NSBA appreciates your leadership to end the proliferation of COVID-19 in our communities and our school districts. We also appreciate recent discussions with White House and U.S. Department of Education staff on many critical issues facing public schools including threats school officials are receiving.

¹ The Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED), "Fact Sheet: Demonstrations over Critical Race Theory in the United States," July 14, 2021, https://acleddata.com/acleddatanew/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/ACLED_Fact-Sheet_CRT-Demos_2021.pdf.

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In addition, we applaud your actions to restore resources to school districts that have not yet received their education stabilization funding through the Project SAFE (Supporting America's Families and Educators) grant program for coronavirus recovery efforts, including the use of face masks and other precautions to help prevent COVID-19 infections among students and educators. Now, we ask that the federal government investigate, intercept, and prevent the current threats and acts of violence against our public school officials through existing statutes, executive authority, interagency and intergovernmental task forces, and other extraordinary measures to ensure the safety of our children and educators, to protect interstate commerce, and to preserve public school infrastructure and campuses.

While local and state law enforcement agencies are working with public school officials in several communities to prevent further disruptions to educational services and school district operations, law enforcement officials in some jurisdictions need assistance including help with monitoring the threat levels. As these threats and acts of violence have become more prevalent – during public school board meetings, via documented threats transmitted through the U.S. Postal Service, through social media and other online platforms, and around personal properties – NSBA respectfully asks that a joint collaboration among federal law enforcement agencies, state and local law enforcement, and with public school officials be undertaken to focus on these threats.² NSBA specifically solicits the expertise and resources of the U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Secret Service, and its National Threat Assessment Center³ regarding the level of risk to public schoolchildren, educators, board members, and facilities/campuses. We also request the assistance of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service to intervene against threatening letters and cyberbullying attacks that have been transmitted to students, school board members, district administrators, and other educators.

As these acts of malice, violence, and threats against public school officials have increased, the classification of these heinous actions could be the equivalent to a form of domestic terrorism and hate crimes. As such, NSBA requests a joint expedited review by the U.S. Departments of Justice, Education, and Homeland Security, along with the appropriate training, coordination, investigations, and enforcement mechanisms from the FBI, including any technical assistance necessary from, and state and local coordination with, its National Security Branch and Counterterrorism Division, as well as any other federal agency with relevant jurisdictional authority and oversight. Additionally, NSBA requests that such review examine appropriate enforceable actions against these crimes and acts of violence under the Gun-Free School Zones Act, the PATRIOT Act in regards to domestic terrorism, the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, the Violent Interference with Federally Protected Rights statute, the Conspiracy Against Rights statute, an Executive Order to enforce all applicable federal laws for the

² The Herald Editorial Board, *HeraldNet*, “Editorial: Mob’s actions at school board meeting unacceptable,” September 1, 2021, <https://www.heraldnet.com/opinion/editorial-mobs-actions-at-school-board-meeting-unacceptable/>.

³ U.S. Secret Service, National Threat Assessment Center, “Averting Targeted School Violence,” March 2021, <https://www.secretservice.gov/sites/default/files/reports/2021-03/USSS%20Averting%20Targeted%20School%20Violence.2021.03.pdf>.

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protection of students and public school district personnel, and any related measure. As the threats grow and news of extremist hate organizations showing up at school board meetings is being reported, this is a critical time for a proactive approach to deal with this difficult issue.

These threats or actual acts of violence against our school districts are impacting the delivery of educational services to students and families, as many districts receive federal funds and subsidies for services to millions of students with disabilities, health screenings and supplemental supports for disadvantaged students, child nutrition, broadband connectivity, educator development, school safety activities, career and technical education, and more. School board meetings have been disrupted in California⁴, Florida⁵, Georgia⁶, and other states⁷ because of local directives for mask coverings to protect students and educators from COVID-19.

An individual was arrested in Illinois for aggravated battery and disorderly conduct during a school board meeting.⁸ During two separate school board meetings in Michigan⁹, an individual yelled a Nazi salute in protest to masking requirements, and another individual prompted the board to call a recess because of opposition to critical race theory.

⁴ Elizabeth Marie Himchak, *Poway News Chieftain/ Rancho Bernardo News Journal*, "Protesters disrupt Poway Unified board meeting, cause its adjournment," September 9, 2021, <https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/pomeroado-news/news/schools/story/2021-09-09/protesters-disrupt-poway-unified-board-meeting-force-its-ag>.

⁵ Ryan McKinnon, *Sarasota Herald-Tribune*, "Sarasota school board may limit public input after some meetings get disorderly," September 20, 2021, <https://www.heraldtribune.com/story/news/education/2021/09/20/sarasota-school-board-may-limit-public-input-after-meetings-gone-wild/8417784002/>.

⁶ Alia Malik, *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, "Anti-mask crowd disrupts Gwinnett school board meeting," May 21, 2021, <https://www.ajc.com/news/anti-mask-crowd-disrupts-gwinnett-school-board-meeting/IYO7R6GHJ5DTLEFCQHER7V3GBA/>

⁷ Julie Wootton-Greener, *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, "School board meeting turns contentious over COVID-19 policies," August 12, 2021, <https://www.reviewjournal.com/local/education/school-board-meeting-turns-contentious-over-covid-19-policies-2418652/>.

WAVY.com, "Norfolk school officials, police monitoring threats made toward Norview schools," September 21, 2021, <https://www.wavy.com/news/local-news/norfolk/norfolk-school-officials-police-monitoring-threats-made-toward-norview-schools/>.

WBTV-Charlotte, "Gov. Roy Cooper addresses 'threats, bullying, intimidation' at school board meetings over mask requirements," September 21, 2021, <https://www.wbvtv.com/2021/09/21/gov-roy-cooper-address-fight-against-covid-19-north-carolina/>.

⁸ WGEM, "Mendon man arrested following disruption at Unity School board meeting," September 2, 2021, <https://wgem.com/2021/09/02/mendon-man-arrested-following-disruption-at-unity-school-board-meeting/>.

⁹ Steve Neavling, *Detroit Metro Times*, "Nazi salute, insults hurled at chaotic Birmingham schools meeting over mask mandate," August 19, 2021, <https://www.metrotimes.com/news-hits/archives/2021/08/19/nazi-salute-insults-hurled-at-ruckus-birmingham-schools-meeting-over-mask-mandate>.

Kalie Marantette, *WLNS.com*, "Grand Ledge school board goes into recess due to public 'disruption,'" June 16, 2021, <https://www.wlns.com/news/grand-ledge-school-board-goes-into-recess-due-to-public-disruption/>.

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In New Jersey¹⁰, Ohio¹¹, and other states¹², anti-mask proponents are inciting chaos during board meetings. In Virginia¹³, an individual was arrested, another man was ticketed for trespassing, and a third person was hurt during a school board meeting discussion distinguishing current curricula from critical race theory and regarding equity issues. In other states including Washington¹⁴, Texas¹⁵, Wisconsin¹⁶, Wyoming¹⁷, and Tennessee¹⁸, school boards have been confronted by angry mobs and forced to end meetings abruptly. A resident in Alabama, who has self-proclaimed himself as a “vaccine police” has called school administrators while filming himself on Facebook Live.¹⁹

¹⁰ Joe Strupp, *Asbury Park Press*, “NJ mask mandate for students sparks school board disruption, suspends meeting,” August 26, 2021, <https://www.app.com/story/news/education/in-our-schools/2021/08/26/nj-school-mask-mandate-sparks-disruption-boe/5585283001/>.

¹¹ Maia Belay, Fox8, “Sheriff deputies called to tense Nordonia Hills school board meeting due to mask policy,” August 31, 2021, <https://fox8.com/news/sheriff-deputies-called-to-tense-nordonia-hills-school-board-meeting-due-to-mask-policy/>.

¹² Pete Bannon, *The Delaware County Daily Times*, “Mask protest brings police to Garnet Valley School Board meeting,” August 25, 2021, Updated August 26, 2021, <https://www.delcotimes.com/2021/08/25/mask-protest-brings-cops-to-garnet-valley-school-board-meeting/>.

Brenley Goertzen, Salon.com, “Anti-mask mob swarms school board meeting,” August 12, 2021, <https://www.salon.com/2021/08/12/anti-mask-mob-swarm-school-board-meeting/>.

¹³ Drew Wilder, Jackie Bensen, Andrea Swalec and NBC4 Washington Staff, NBCWashington.com, “‘The Meeting Has Degenerated’: 1 Arrest, 1 Injury at Loudoun Schools Meeting on Equity,” June 22, 2021, Updated June 23, 2021, <https://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/northern-virginia/loudoun-school-board-transgender-student-policy-race-equity/2708185/>.

Adele Uphaus, *The Free Lance-Star*, “Unruly crowd causes Spotsylvania School Board meeting to adjourn after 13 minutes,” August 24, 2021, https://fredericksburg.com/news/local/unruly-crowd-causes-spotsylvania-school-board-meeting-to-adjourn-after-13-minutes/article_1d39b83c-fa43-5626-acca-4e2768a811de.html.

¹⁴ Emily Gilbert, *Whidbey News Times*, “Oak Harbor school board clears the room after audience shouts disrupt meeting,” August 13, 2021, <https://www.whidbeynewstimes.com/news/oak-harbor-school-board-clears-the-room-after-audience-shouts-disrupt-meeting/>.

¹⁵ Talia Richman and Brayden Garcia, *The Dallas Morning News*, “‘Critical race theory’ roils Fort Worth school board meeting as Texas braces for continued fight,” June 22, 2021, <https://www.dallasnews.com/news/education/2021/06/22/critical-race-theory-roils-fort-worth-school-board-meeting-as-texas-braces-for-continued-fight/>.

¹⁶ WBAY news staff and Jason Zimmerman, WBAY.com, “Oshkosh School Board meeting postponed after protesters disrupt it, argument breaks out,” August 25, 2021, Updated August 26, 2021, <https://www.wbay.com/2021/08/25/oshkosh-school-board-meeting-called-off-after-protesters-enter-board-members-walk-out/>.

¹⁷ Margaret Austin, Wyoming Tribune Eagle via Wyoming News Exchange, *Pinedale Roundup*, “School board meeting over COVID stopped after disruption,” August 4, 2021, <https://pinedaleroundup.com/article/school-board-meeting-over-covid-stopped-after-disruption>.

¹⁸ Jackie Delpilar, WZTV Nashville, “Anti-mask protesters show lack of empathy at recent Middle Tennessee school meetings,” September 12, 2021, <https://fox17.com/news/local/anti-mask-protesters-show-lack-of-empathy-at-recent-middle-tennessee-school-meetings>.

¹⁹ Aubrey Bailey, WHNT.com, “‘If you give one more shot, you yourself will be executed’ Alabama man tells Missouri pharmacists,” August 24, 2021, <https://whnt.com/news/alabama-news/if-you-give-one-more-shot-you-yourself-will-be-executed-alabama-man-tells-missouri-pharmacists/>.

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Other groups are posting watchlists against school boards and purporting misinformation that boards are adopting critical race theory curriculum and working to maintain online learning by haphazardly attributing it to COVID-19.²⁰

In Ohio, an individual mailed a letter to a school board member labeling the return address on the envelope from a local neighborhood association and then enclosing threatening hate mail from another entity.²¹ This correspondence states that, “We are coming after you and all the members on the ... BoE [Board of Education].” This hate mail continues by stating, “You are forcing them to wear mask—for no reason in this world other than control. And for that you will pay dearly.” Among other incendiaries, this same threat also calls the school board member a “filthy traitor,” implies loss of pension funds, and labels the school board as Marxist. Earlier this month, a student in Tennessee was mocked during a board meeting for advocating masks in schools after testifying that his grandmother, who was an educator, died because of COVID-19.²² These threats and acts of violence are affecting our nation’s democracy at the very foundational levels, causing school board members – including many who are not paid – to resign immediately and/or discontinue their service after their respective terms.²³ Further, this increasing violence is a clear and present danger to civic participation, in which other citizens who have been contemplating service as either an elected or appointed school board member have reconsidered their decision.

NSBA believes public discussions and transparency by local school board members are important for the safe and effective operations of schools.²⁴ It is vital that public discourses be encouraged in a safe and open environment, in which varying viewpoints can be offered in a peaceful manner. Our children are watching the examples of the current debates; and, we must encourage a positive dialogue even with different opinions. However, with such acute threats and actions that are disruptive to our students’ well-being, to the safety of public school officials and personnel, and to interstate commerce, we urge the federal government’s intervention against individuals or hate groups who are targeting our schools and educators.

²⁰ Nick Surgery, *Documented*, “TPUSA launches project targeting school board members,” August 20, 2021, <https://substack.documented.net/p/tpusa-school-board-watchlist>

²¹ Lindsey Mills, WBNS, “‘Disturbing’: Worthington school board member receives threats for masks in schools,” September 21, 2021, <https://www.10tv.com/article/news/local/worthington-school-board-member-receives-threats-for-masks-in-schools/530-f3c04240-76b4-456b-aad9-8555397b5427>.

²² Kim Bellware, *The Washington Post*, “Student mocked at school board meeting after sharing that his grandmother died of covid-19,” September 10, 2021, https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2021/09/10/grady-knox-tennessee/?utm_campaign=wp_main&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook&fbclid=IwAR29rIKzLY0tz4p0yB5VJDk_n_oIj5AJp6oiEvzJC1oRAYsMMMOPb8EvjY.

²³ Andy Humbles, *The Nashville Tennessean*, “Jon White resigns as Wilson County School Board member,” September 8, 2021, <https://www.tennessean.com/story/news/local/wilson/2021/09/08/jon-white-resigns-wilson-county-school-board-member/5750949001/>.

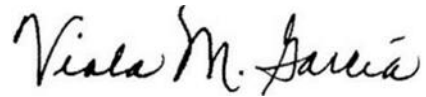
Terri Pederson, *The Daily Citizen*, “Beaver Dam school board member resigns citing safety concerns for family,” September 20, 2021, Updated September 21, 2021, https://www.wiscnews.com/bdc/news/local/education/beaver-dam-school-board-member-resigns-citing-safety-concerns-for-family/article_066fc86c-4356-5a00-9940-187e02eb7340.html.

²⁴ National School Boards Association and AASA, The School Superintendents Association, “NSBA, AASA Issue Joint Statement Calling for End to Threats and Violence Around Safe School Opening Decisions,” September 22, 2021, <https://www.nsba.org/News/2021/end-threats-violence-joint-statement>.

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NSBA is committed to working with you and your Administration as a partner to address this crisis affecting America's public schools, and greatly appreciates your prompt attention to our requests. We stand ready to work with you.

Respectfully,



Viola M. Garcia, EdD
President



Chip Slaven, Esq.
Executive Director & CEO

CS:dr

EXHIBIT 81

EXHIBIT 81

From: Jane Mellow
Sent: Tuesday, September 28, 2021 1:49 PM
To: Jason Amos; Deborah Rigsby
Subject: Couple edits

Just talked to Chip and he has a couple edits to the letter and release:

I think in the first graph we say “immediately” two times in a row. Ditch one of them.

Change “intervention” to “assistance” in the headline and first graph of the release and in the letter.
He was concerned that “intervention” would draw an immediate negative reaction among some and I think he’s right.

Can you both make those edits and send to :
Chip, Jane, Deborah, Jason, Francisco



Jane Mellow
Interim Chief Advocacy Officer
National School Boards Association
jmellow@nsba.org | [REDACTED]

EXHIBIT 82

EXHIBIT 82

September 29, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Re: Federal Assistance to Stop Threats and Acts of Violence Against Public Schoolchildren, Public School Board Members, and Other Public School District Officials and Educators

Dear Mr. President:

America's public schools and its education leaders are under an immediate threat. The National School Boards Association (NSBA) respectfully asks for federal law enforcement and other assistance to deal with the growing number of threats of violence and acts of intimidation occurring across the nation. Local school board members want to hear from their communities on important issues and that must be at the forefront of good school board governance and promotion of free speech. However, there also must be safeguards in place to protect public schools and dedicated education leaders as they do their jobs.

NSBA believes immediate assistance is required to protect our students, school board members, and educators who are susceptible to acts of violence affecting interstate commerce because of threats to their districts, families, and personal safety. As our school boards continue coronavirus recovery operations within their respective districts, they are also persevering against other challenges that could impede this progress in a number of communities. Coupled with attacks against school board members and educators for approving policies for masks to protect the health and safety of students and school employees, many public school officials are also facing physical threats because of propaganda purporting the false inclusion of critical race theory within classroom instruction and curricula.¹ This propaganda continues despite the fact that critical race theory is not taught in public schools and remains a complex law school and graduate school subject well beyond the scope of a K-12 class.

On behalf of our state associations and the more than 90,000 school board members who govern our country's 14,000 local public school districts educating more than 50 million schoolchildren, NSBA appreciates your leadership to end the proliferation of COVID-19 in our communities and our school districts. We also appreciate recent discussions with White House and U.S. Department of Education staff on many critical issues facing public schools, including threats school officials are receiving.

¹ The Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED), "Fact Sheet: Demonstrations over Critical Race Theory in the United States," July 14, 2021, https://acleddata.com/acleddatanew/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/ACLED_Fact-Sheet_CRT-Demos_2021.pdf.

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In addition, we applaud your actions to restore resources to school districts that have not yet received their education stabilization funding through the Project SAFE (Supporting America's Families and Educators) grant program for coronavirus recovery efforts, including the use of face masks and other precautions to help prevent COVID-19 infections among students and educators. Now, we ask that the federal government investigate, intercept, and prevent the current threats and acts of violence against our public school officials through existing statutes, executive authority, interagency and intergovernmental task forces, and other extraordinary measures to ensure the safety of our children and educators, to protect interstate commerce, and to preserve public school infrastructure and campuses.

While local and state law enforcement agencies are working with public school officials in several communities to prevent further disruptions to educational services and school district operations, law enforcement officials in some jurisdictions need assistance – including help with monitoring the threat levels. As these threats and acts of violence have become more prevalent – during public school board meetings, via documented threats transmitted through the U.S. Postal Service, through social media and other online platforms, and around personal properties – NSBA respectfully asks that a joint collaboration among federal law enforcement agencies, state and local law enforcement, and with public school officials be undertaken to focus on these threats.² NSBA specifically solicits the expertise and resources of the U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Secret Service, and its National Threat Assessment Center³ regarding the level of risk to public schoolchildren, educators, board members, and facilities/campuses. We also request the assistance of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service to intervene against threatening letters and cyberbullying attacks that have been transmitted to students, school board members, district administrators, and other educators.

As these acts of malice, violence, and threats against public school officials have increased, the classification of these heinous actions could be the equivalent to a form of domestic terrorism and hate crimes. As such, NSBA requests a joint expedited review by the U.S. Departments of Justice, Education, and Homeland Security, along with the appropriate training, coordination, investigations, and enforcement mechanisms from the FBI, including any technical assistance necessary from, and state and local coordination with, its National Security Branch and Counterterrorism Division, as well as any other federal agency with relevant jurisdictional authority and oversight. Additionally, NSBA requests that such review examine appropriate enforceable actions against these crimes and acts of violence under the Gun-Free School Zones Act, the PATRIOT Act in regards to domestic terrorism, the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, the Violent Interference with Federally Protected Rights statute, the Conspiracy Against Rights statute, an Executive Order to enforce all applicable federal laws for the

² The Herald Editorial Board, *HeraldNet*, “Editorial: Mob’s actions at school board meeting unacceptable,” September 1, 2021, <https://www.heraldnet.com/opinion/editorial-mobs-actions-at-school-board-meeting-unacceptable/>.

³ U.S. Secret Service, National Threat Assessment Center, “Averting Targeted School Violence,” March 2021, <https://www.secretservice.gov/sites/default/files/reports/2021-03/USSS%20Averting%20Targeted%20School%20Violence.2021.03.pdf>.

protection of students and public school district personnel, and any related measure. As the threats grow and news of extremist hate organizations showing up at school board meetings is being reported, this is a critical time for a proactive approach to deal with this difficult issue.

These threats or actual acts of violence against our school districts are impacting the delivery of educational services to students and families, as many districts receive federal funds and subsidies for services to millions of students with disabilities, health screenings and supplemental supports for disadvantaged students, child nutrition, broadband connectivity, educator development, school safety activities, career and technical education, and more. School board meetings have been disrupted in California⁴, Florida⁵, Georgia⁶, and other states⁷ because of local directives for mask coverings to protect students and educators from COVID-19.

An individual was arrested in Illinois for aggravated battery and disorderly conduct during a school board meeting.⁸ During two separate school board meetings in Michigan⁹, an individual yelled a Nazi salute in protest to masking requirements, and another individual prompted the board to call a recess because of opposition to critical race theory.

⁴ Elizabeth Marie Himchak, *Poway News Chieftain/ Rancho Bernardo News Journal*, "Protesters disrupt Poway Unified board meeting, cause its adjournment," September 9, 2021, <https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/pomerado-news/news/schools/story/2021-09-09/protesters-disrupt-poway-unified-board-meeting-force-its-ag>.

⁵ Ryan McKinnon, *Sarasota Herald-Tribune*, "Sarasota school board may limit public input after some meetings get disorderly," September 20, 2021, <https://www.heraldtribune.com/story/news/education/2021/09/20/sarasota-school-board-may-limit-public-input-after-meetings-gone-wild/8417784002/>.

⁶ Alia Malik, *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, "Anti-mask crowd disrupts Gwinnett school board meeting," May 21, 2021, <https://www.ajc.com/news/anti-mask-crowd-disrupts-gwinnett-school-board-meeting/IYO7R6GHJ5DTLEFCQHER7V3GBA/>

⁷ Julie Wootton-Greener, *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, "School board meeting turns contentious over COVID-19 policies," August 12, 2021, <https://www.reviewjournal.com/local/education/school-board-meeting-turns-contentious-over-covid-19-policies-2418652/>.

WAVY.com, "Norfolk school officials, police monitoring threats made toward Norview schools," September 21, 2021, <https://www.wavy.com/news/local-news/norfolk/norfolk-school-officials-police-monitoring-threats-made-toward-norview-schools/>.

WBTV-Charlotte, "Gov. Roy Cooper addresses 'threats, bullying, intimidation' at school board meetings over mask requirements," September 21, 2021, <https://www.wbvtv.com/2021/09/21/gov-roy-cooper-address-fight-against-covid-19-north-carolina/>.

⁸ WGEM, "Mendon man arrested following disruption at Unity School board meeting," September 2, 2021, <https://wgem.com/2021/09/02/mendon-man-arrested-following-disruption-at-unity-school-board-meeting/>.

⁹ Steve Neavling, *Detroit Metro Times*, "Nazi salute, insults hurled at chaotic Birmingham schools meeting over mask mandate," August 19, 2021, <https://www.metrotimes.com/news-hits/archives/2021/08/19/nazi-salute-insults-hurled-at-ruckus-birmingham-schools-meeting-over-mask-mandate>.

Kalie Marantette, *WLNS.com*, "Grand Ledge school board goes into recess due to public 'disruption,'" June 16, 2021, <https://www.wlns.com/news/grand-ledge-school-board-goes-into-recess-due-to-public-disruption/>.

In New Jersey¹⁰, Ohio¹¹, and other states¹², anti-mask proponents are inciting chaos during board meetings. In Virginia¹³, an individual was arrested, another man was ticketed for trespassing, and a third person was hurt during a school board meeting discussion distinguishing current curricula from critical race theory and regarding equity issues. In other states including Washington¹⁴, Texas¹⁵, Wisconsin¹⁶, Wyoming¹⁷, and Tennessee¹⁸, school boards have been confronted by angry mobs and forced to end meetings abruptly. A resident in Alabama, who proclaimed himself as “vaccine police,” has called school administrators while filming himself on Facebook Live.¹⁹

¹⁰ Joe Strupp, *Asbury Park Press*, “NJ mask mandate for students sparks school board disruption, suspends meeting,” August 26, 2021, <https://www.app.com/story/news/education/in-our-schools/2021/08/26/nj-school-mask-mandate-sparks-disruption-boe/5585283001/>.

¹¹ Maia Belay, *Fox8*, “Sheriff deputies called to tense Nordonia Hills school board meeting due to mask policy,” August 31, 2021, <https://fox8.com/news/sheriff-deputies-called-to-tense-nordonia-hills-school-board-meeting-due-to-mask-policy/>.

¹² Pete Bannon, *The Delaware County Daily Times*, “Mask protest brings police to Garnet Valley School Board meeting,” August 25, 2021, Updated August 26, 2021, <https://www.delcotimes.com/2021/08/25/mask-protest-brings-cops-to-garnet-valley-school-board-meeting/>.

Brenley Goertzen, *Salon.com*, “Anti-mask mob swarms school board meeting,” August 12, 2021, <https://www.salon.com/2021/08/12/anti-mask-mob-swarm-school-board-meeting/>.

¹³ Drew Wilder, Jackie Bensen, Andrea Swalec and NBC4 Washington Staff, *NBCWashington.com*, “‘The Meeting Has Degenerated’: 1 Arrest, 1 Injury at Loudoun Schools Meeting on Equity,” June 22, 2021, Updated June 23, 2021, <https://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/northern-virginia/loudoun-school-board-transgender-student-policy-race-equity/2708185/>.

Adele Uphaus, *The Free Lance-Star*, “Unruly crowd causes Spotsylvania School Board meeting to adjourn after 13 minutes,” August 24, 2021, https://fredericksburg.com/news/local/unruly-crowd-causes-spotsylvania-school-board-meeting-to-adjourn-after-13-minutes/article_1d39b83c-fa43-5626-acca-4e2768a811de.html.

¹⁴ Emily Gilbert, *Whidbey News Times*, “Oak Harbor school board clears the room after audience shouts disrupt meeting,” August 13, 2021, <https://www.whidbeynewstimes.com/news/oak-harbor-school-board-clears-the-room-after-audience-shouts-disrupt-meeting/>.

¹⁵ Talia Richman and Brayden Garcia, *The Dallas Morning News*, “‘Critical race theory’ roils Fort Worth school board meeting as Texas braces for continued fight,” June 22, 2021, <https://www.dallasnews.com/news/education/2021/06/22/critical-race-theory-roils-fort-worth-school-board-meeting-as-texas-braces-for-continued-fight/>.

¹⁶ WBAY news staff and Jason Zimmerman, *WBAY.com*, “Oshkosh School Board meeting postponed after protesters disrupt it, argument breaks out,” August 25, 2021, Updated August 26, 2021, <https://www.wbay.com/2021/08/25/oshkosh-school-board-meeting-called-off-after-protesters-enter-board-members-walk-out/>.

¹⁷ Margaret Austin, *Wyoming Tribune Eagle* via Wyoming News Exchange, *Pinedale Roundup*, “School board meeting over COVID stopped after disruption,” August 4, 2021, <https://pinedaleroundup.com/article/school-board-meeting-over-covid-stopped-after-disruption>.

¹⁸ Jackie Delpilar, *WZTV Nashville*, “Anti-mask protesters show lack of empathy at recent Middle Tennessee school meetings,” September 12, 2021, <https://fox17.com/news/local/anti-mask-protesters-show-lack-of-empathy-at-recent-middle-tennessee-school-meetings>.

¹⁹ Aubrey Bailey, *WHNT.com*, “‘If you give one more shot, you yourself will be executed’ Alabama man tells Missouri pharmacists,” August 24, 2021, <https://whnt.com/news/alabama-news/if-you-give-one-more-shot-you-yourself-will-be-executed-alabama-man-tells-missouri-pharmacists/>.

Preclusion of Further Threats and Violence Against Students and Educators

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Other groups are posting watchlists against school boards and spreading misinformation that boards are adopting critical race theory curriculum and working to maintain online learning by haphazardly attributing it to COVID-19.²⁰

In Ohio, an individual mailed a letter to a school board member labeling the return address on the envelope from a local neighborhood association and then enclosing threatening hate mail from another entity.²¹ This correspondence states that, “We are coming after you and all the members on the ... BoE [Board of Education].” This hate mail continues by stating, “You are forcing them to wear mask—for no reason in this world other than control. And for that you will pay dearly.” Among other incendiaries, this same threat also calls the school board member a “filthy traitor,” implies loss of pension funds, and labels the school board as Marxist. Earlier this month, a student in Tennessee was mocked during a board meeting for advocating masks in schools after testifying that his grandmother, who was an educator, died because of COVID-19.²² These threats and acts of violence are affecting our nation’s democracy at the very foundational levels, causing school board members – many who are not paid – to resign immediately and/or discontinue their service after their respective terms.²³ Further, this increasing violence is a clear and present danger to civic participation, in which other citizens who have been contemplating service as either an elected or appointed school board member have reconsidered their decision.

NSBA believes public discussions and transparency by local school board members are important for the safe and effective operations of schools.²⁴ It is vital that public discourses be encouraged in a safe and open environment, in which varying viewpoints can be offered in a peaceful manner. Our children are watching the examples of the current debates and we must encourage a positive dialogue even with different opinions. However, with such acute threats and actions that are disruptive to our students’ well-being, to the safety of public school officials and personnel, and to interstate commerce, we urge the federal government’s intervention against individuals or hate groups who are targeting our schools and educators.

²⁰ Nick Surgery, *Documented*, “TPUSA launches project targeting school board members,” August 20, 2021, <https://substack.documented.net/p/tpusa-school-board-watchlist>

²¹ Lindsey Mills, WBNS, “‘Disturbing’: Worthington school board member receives threats for masks in schools,” September 21, 2021, <https://www.10tv.com/article/news/local/worthington-school-board-member-receives-threats-for-masks-in-schools/530-f3c04240-76b4-456b-aad9-8555397b5427>.

²² Kim Bellware, *The Washington Post*, “Student mocked at school board meeting after sharing that his grandmother died of covid-19,” September 10, 2021, https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2021/09/10/grady-knox-tennessee/?utm_campaign=wp_main&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook&fbclid=IwAR29rIKzLY0tz4p0yB5VJDk_n_oIj5AJp6oiEvzJC1oRAYsMMMOPb8EvjY.

²³ Andy Humbles, *The Nashville Tennessean*, “Jon White resigns as Wilson County School Board member,” September 8, 2021, <https://www.tennessean.com/story/news/local/wilson/2021/09/08/jon-white-resigns-wilson-county-school-board-member/5750949001/>.

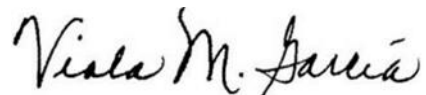
Terri Pederson, *The Daily Citizen*, “Beaver Dam school board member resigns citing safety concerns for family,” September 20, 2021, Updated September 21, 2021, https://www.wiscnews.com/bdc/news/local/education/beaver-dam-school-board-member-resigns-citing-safety-concerns-for-family/article_066fc86c-4356-5a00-9940-187e02eb7340.html.

²⁴ National School Boards Association and AASA, The School Superintendents Association, “NSBA, AASA Issue Joint Statement Calling for End to Threats and Violence Around Safe School Opening Decisions,” September 22, 2021, <https://www.nsba.org/News/2021/end-threats-violence-joint-statement>.

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NSBA is committed to working with you and your Administration as a partner to address this crisis affecting America's public schools, and greatly appreciates your prompt attention to our requests. We stand ready to work with you.

Respectfully,



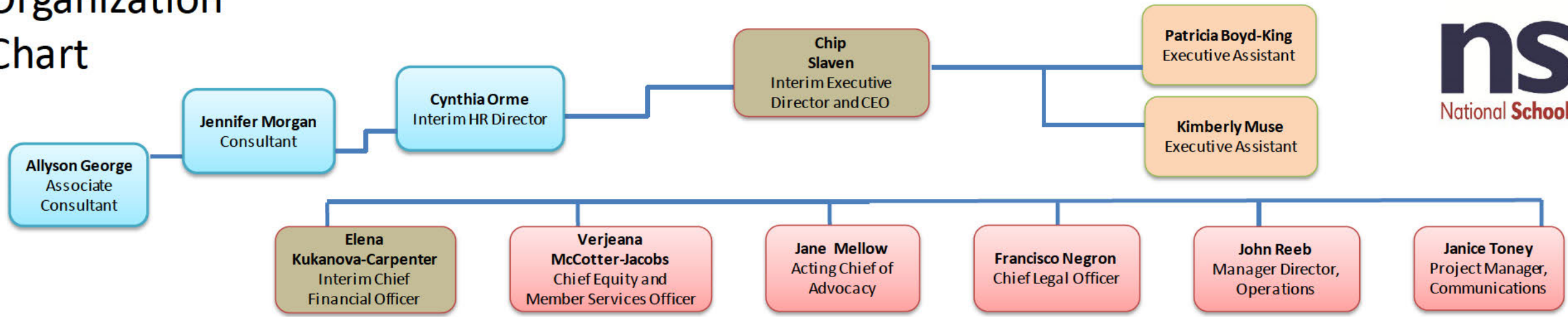
Viola M. Garcia, EdD
President



Chip Slaven, Esq.
Interim Executive Director & CEO

EXHIBIT 83

Organization Chart



VACANT POSITIONS

Designates Full Time Staff

Designates PT Staff

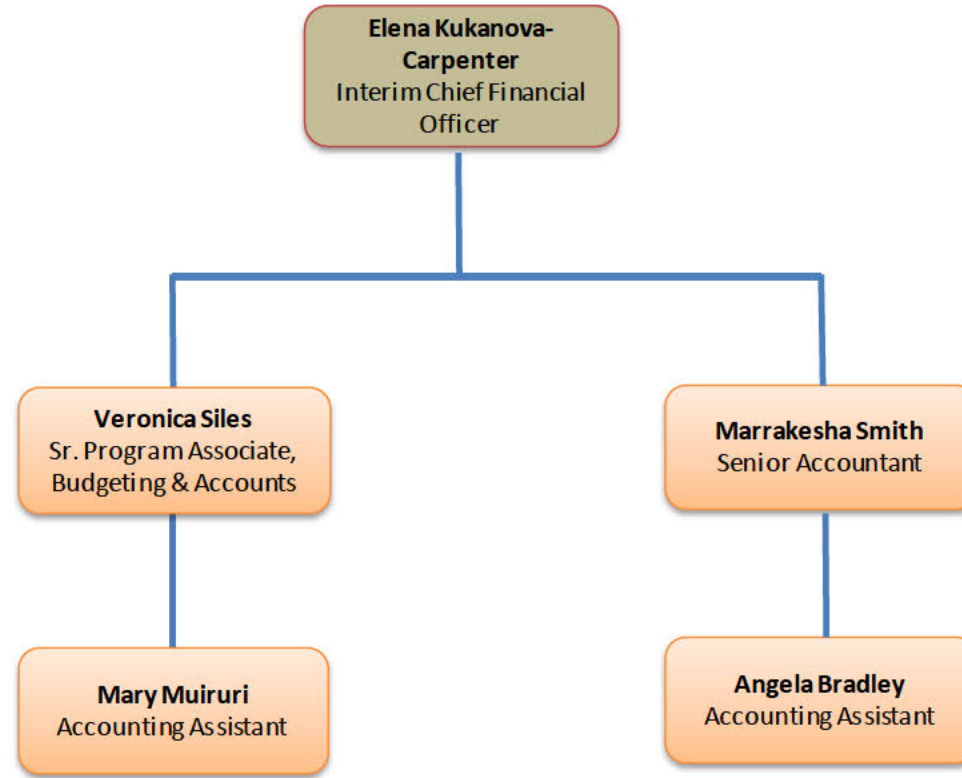
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*Executive Team Members

Designates PT Consultant

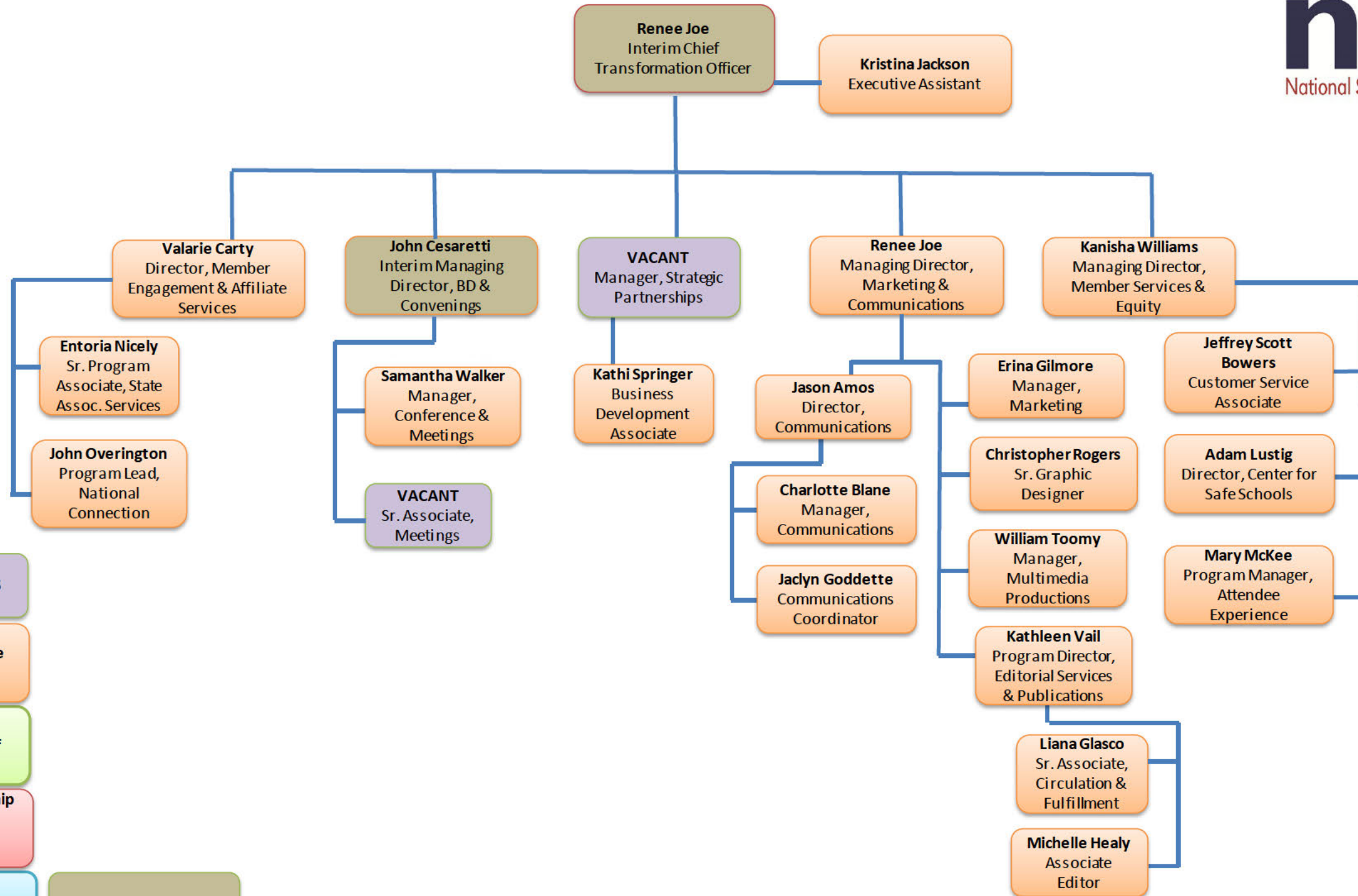
INTERIM POSITIONS

Appendix Exhibits

Organization Chart



Organization Chart



VACANT POSITIONS

Designates Full Time Staff

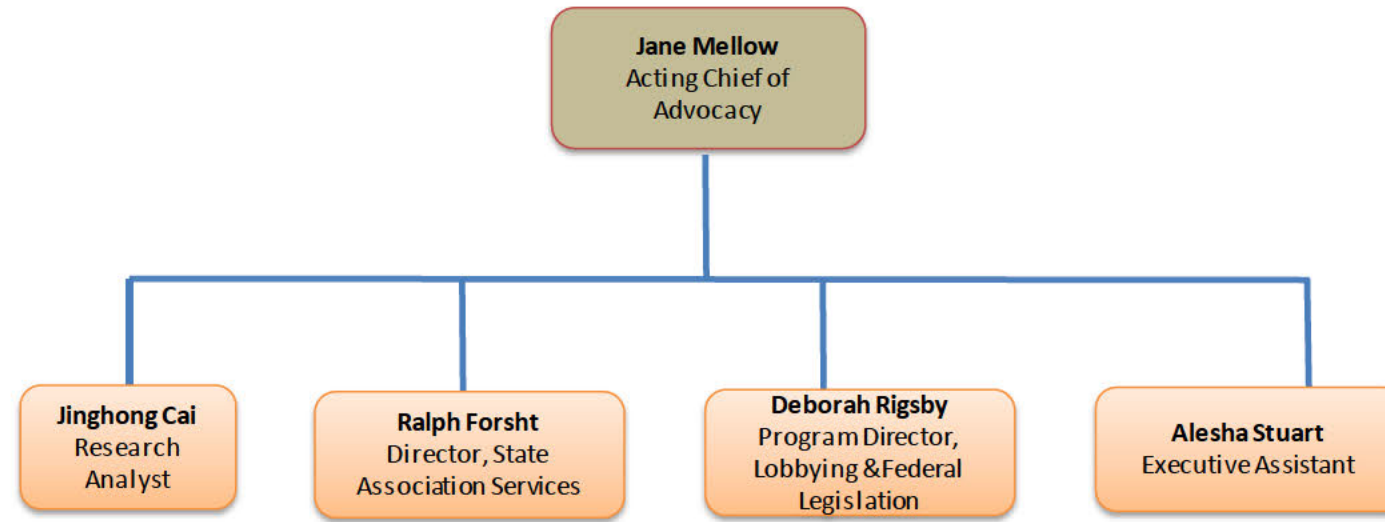
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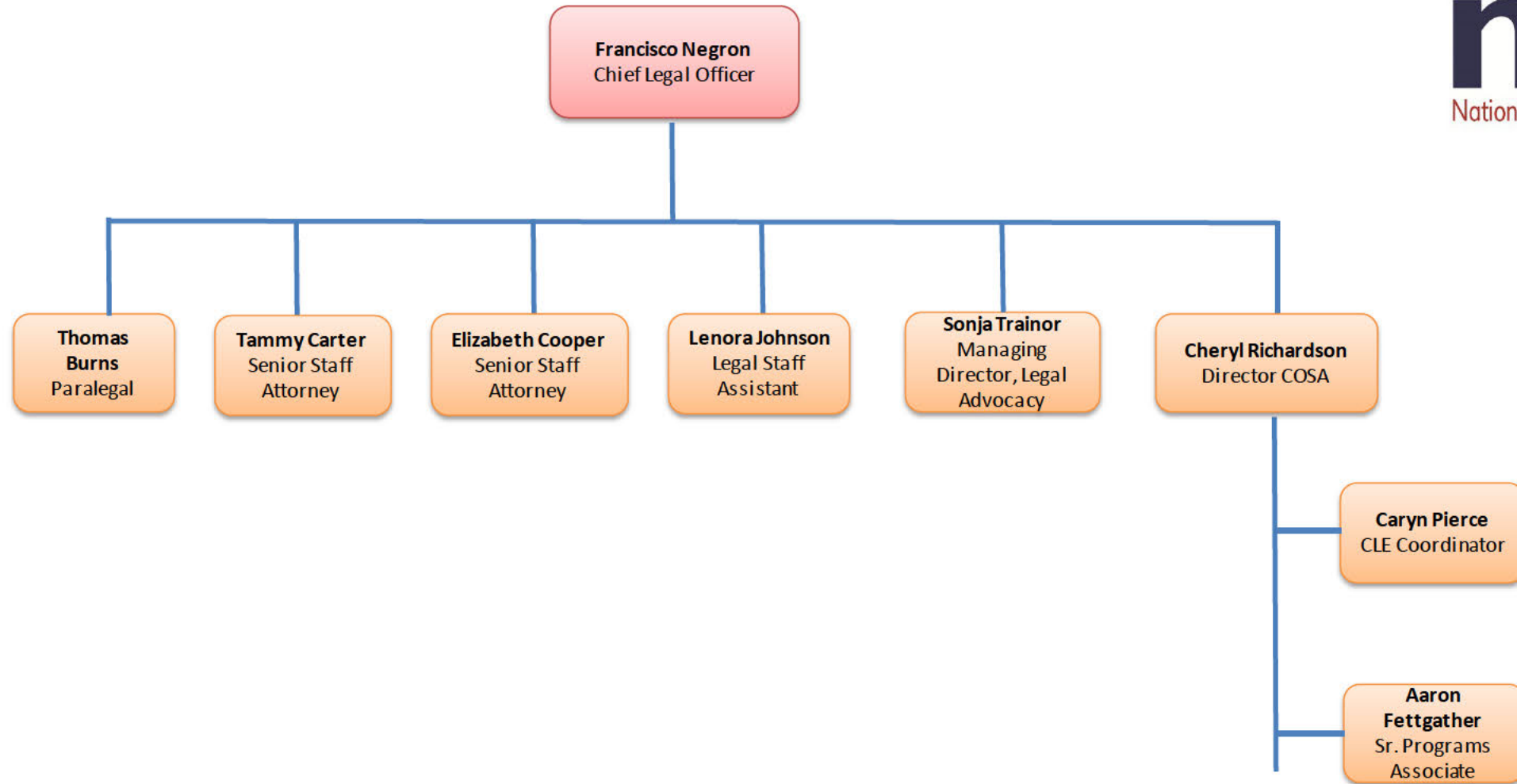
Designates PT Consultant

INTERIM POSITIONS

Organization Chart



Organization Chart



VACANT POSITIONS

Designates Full Time Staff

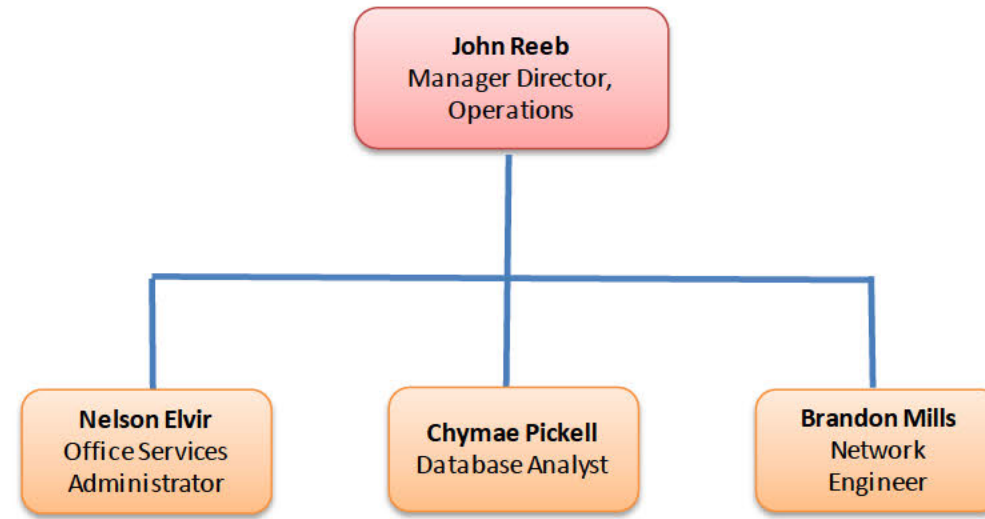
Designates PT Staff

Designates Leadership Team
*Executive Team Members

Designates PT Consultant

Appendix Exhibits

Organization Chart



VACANT POSITIONS

Designates Full Time Staff

Designates PT Staff

Designates Leadership Team
*Executive Team Members

Appendix Exhibits
Designates PT Consultant

EXHIBIT 84

THE FIFTY

Critical race theory turning school boards into GOP proving grounds

Republicans sees a rich opportunity to build a pipeline of new political candidates by pushing the culture war issue.



Many conservative candidates stand against critical race theory, but also concede that the graduate-level legal framework isn't being taught in K-12 schools. | Nam Y. Huh/AP Photo

By DANIEL PAYNE

09/08/2021 04:30 AM EDT



Frustrations over how kids are taught about systemic racism have turned once-

sleepy school board elections into hyperlocal skirmishes with the power to polarize how a new generation learns about U.S. history — and grow the ranks of Republican politicians.

These conflicts aren't just playing out in states where Republican-controlled legislatures passed laws restricting how race and racism are discussed in schools. Angry parents have filled school board meetings in Virginia, Minnesota and New Hampshire with protests that sometimes end in arrests, and shadowy groups successfully backed candidates running against “critical race theory” in New York in May.

AD

Tapping into the trickle-up anger over racism education is now a unifying force in campaigns for Congress, governor and among Republicans with presidential ambitions. But it's the local races — outside the spotlight, in elections that attract just a few hundred voters — that may define what students learn in the classroom for years to come.

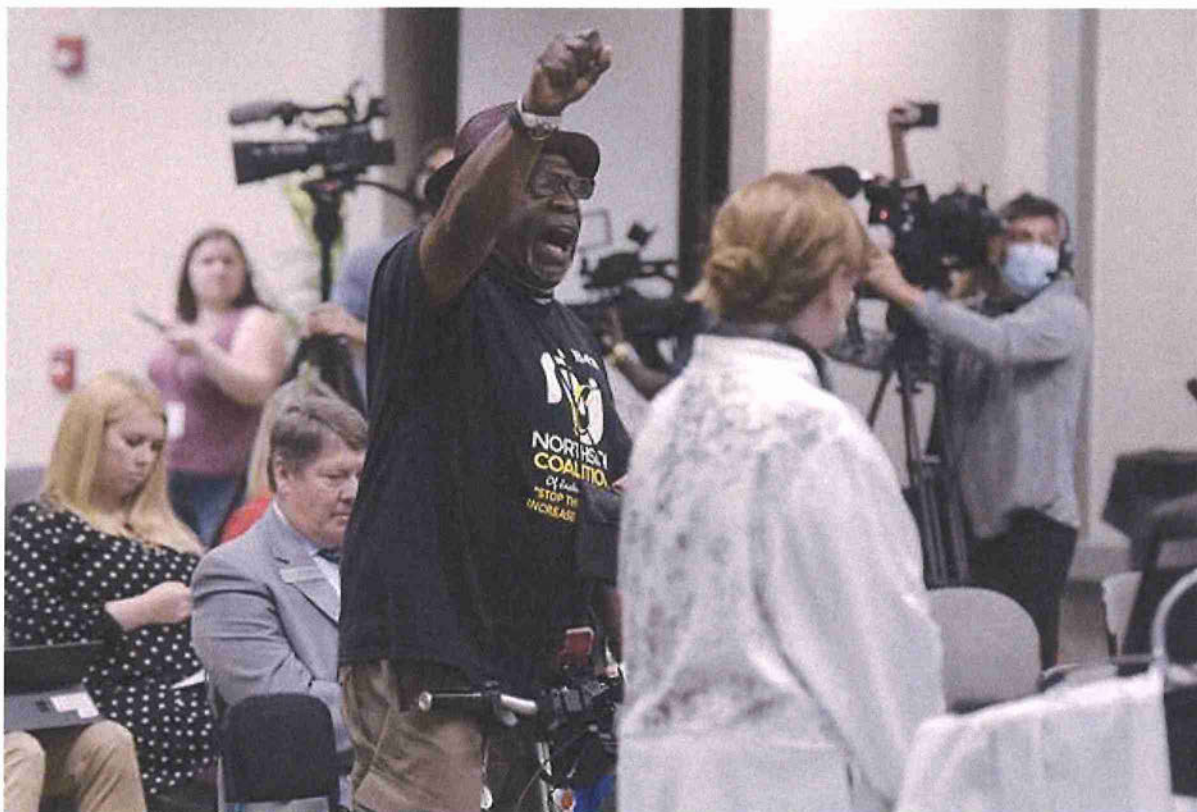
The movement has the potential to build a stronger GOP as once-uninvolved conservative candidates flood local government and party races, seeking a platform to fight critical race theory, student mask requirements and other culture war issues centered on kids. While such elections are often nonpartisan, the Republican Party sees a rich opportunity to build a pipeline of new political candidates.

“The interest, the enthusiasm, is extraordinary,” said Pam Kirby, who runs “school board boot camps” for the Arizona GOP.

Even though most Arizona school board races are not for at least a year, she’s already started offering a new round of her classes because of demand. More than 200 people have completed the program, and 80 more are on the waitlist. Conservatives from Oregon, Texas, New York, Indiana and other states have asked her to run similar programs for them, she said.

About 25 percent of people from the classes actually go on to run, while others will instead join their local GOP operations, often as precinct committee members. Kirby estimates more than 1,500 committee members have been appointed in Maricopa County since February.

“It’s unheard of,” Kirby said. “It’s off the charts.”



FILE - In this June 10, 2021, file photo, Ben Frazier, the founder of the Northside Coalition of Jacksonville chants “Allow teachers to teach the truth” at the end of his public comments opposing the state of Florida’s plans to ban the teaching of critical race theory in public schools during the Department of Education in Jacksonville, Fla. Developed in the 1970s and ’80s, critical race theory is a way of thinking about America’s history through the lens of racism. It centers on the idea that racism is systemic in the nation’s institutions

and that they function to maintain the dominance of whites. (Bob Self/The Florida Times-Union via AP, File)
| Bob Self/The Florida Times-Union via AP

Critical race theory is a framework for analysis developed by legal scholars in the 1980s that examines how race and racism have been ingrained in American law and institutions since slavery and Jim Crow. The study is essentially nonexistent in K-12 schools, but this year, the term has been used to describe diversity trainings and a cadre of classroom lessons on slavery, sexism and other acts of discrimination.

AD

Many conservative candidates stand against critical race theory but also concede that the graduate-level legal framework isn't being taught in K-12 schools. Still, the concern that similar philosophies are influencing public schools is widespread, and candidates use opposition to critical race theory to signal their animus to curriculum that further focuses on racism or oppression.

In Ohio, where most school board seats are up in November, conservative parents are organizing candidates to run in school district races across the state. In Texas, several newly elected school board members ran on platforms advocating for less talk about racism and oppression, both historic and recent. Virginia, Arizona, Indiana, Georgia, Oregon, Texas, Florida, California and Wisconsin are starting to see campaign organizing among conservative parents.

“We have had a very big upswing of individuals calling us, saying, ‘How do I run?’” said Terry Dittrich, the GOP chairman in Waukesha County, Wis., who has worked in state politics for more than 20 years. “These are really truly organic organizations that have popped up from moms and dads.”

Dittrich and his colleagues have watched these races to scout potential candidates for local and state office, and the conservative zeitgeist around critical race theory has triggered a boom time.

“I don’t know that I’ve ever seen anything like this,” he said in an interview.

Parents in many places have organized Facebook groups calling for schools to expunge specific diversity-oriented curricula or any elected official backing it. Some of those groups have spawned new candidates — sometimes long before a race. In Arizona’s Chandler Unified School District, for example, at least 12 people have already shown interest in entering races still 15 months away.

Others have organized on social media to coordinate protests or raised huge sums of money to launch recall elections against school board incumbents. All of them are looking for the same result: a cleaner version of U.S. history that puts racism firmly in the past.



In this May 25, 2021, photo, a man holds up a sign against Critical Race Theory during a protest in Reno, Nev. | Andy Barron/Reno Gazette-Journal via AP

The notion that critical race theory is being taught in schools is almost always false, said Chip Slaven, the National School Boards Association's interim executive director & CEO. Even in districts where education officials have made clear the theory isn't part of the curriculum, conservative parents and politicians have continued to protest or campaign against it.

AD

"It goes back to: What can we make stick on the wall? Ah. it must be critical

race theory,” Slaven said.

While some school board members have been energized by the challenges of the pandemic and battles over curriculum, many are burned out and some are leaving their positions, Slaven said. These moves could open up opportunities for those running primarily to stop race-related curricula to win seats.

Historically, school boards have been largely nonpartisan. But as interest in the races spiked this year, some candidates began to sound more like Fox News commentators than school board members of the past.

Some candidates are already seeing energized support when railing against critical race theory, even when officials deny its existence in local schools. Slaven worries that some candidates may have little experience in education and few ideas on how to successfully lead a school system, instead taking a single-minded approach focusing on Covid-19 restrictions and how the history of racism is taught.

“If you’re only running on one issue, you’re doing a disservice,” he said.

Blurring issues

At the start of a new school year already polarized over mask-wearing, school leaders are sparring with parents over race- and ethnicity-focused lessons, with activists threatening to take their jobs. The pandemic and the debate about race are blurring together. Some conservative parents already frustrated by mask mandates have joined the fight against how systemic racism is taught because of the lessons they heard during remote learning. The issues are increasingly intertwined, creating a furor that’s turned mundane school board meetings into volatile affairs.

In many districts, members of Facebook groups that formed to advocate for opening schools are now advocating for changes in curriculum — and a change in leadership to accomplish both.

School board members are now on the front lines of two culture wars.

The Proud Boys, a far-right extremist group known for encouraging political violence, [showed up twice](#) to school board meetings in Nashua, N.H. to object to how racism is discussed in schools. The Nashua School Board — like others across the country — now has police attending meetings as threats of violence intensify.

In Williamson County, Tenn., where the fight over critical race theory [had been brewing for months](#), anti-masked protesters [followed masked attendees](#) of a school board meeting last week to their cars, shouting “we will find you.”

“I certainly anticipated heated disagreement on issues coming before me as a board member, I did not anticipate getting Facebook messages telling me to kill myself,” Kimberly Cavill, a school board member in Illinois, [wrote in a letter to the editor](#) of a local newspaper. “I did not anticipate emails littered with curse words and hateful slurs. I did not anticipate people posting satellite images of my home on social media alongside dangerous, evidence-free accusations too disgusting to summarize.”

The Fifty



In the unfolding pandemic, economic crisis and reckoning on race, governors and mayors are shaping our shared future. Who are the power players, and how are they driving politics and influencing Washington?

Full coverage »

Some school board members are ending their terms early, citing the threats of violence and newfound difficulty of approving curriculum and implementing health and safety policies.

Others see it as a reason to continue fighting for a seat.

“I had intended to not run for reelection, but darn it, if it means keeping a three-vote majority of people on that board with any sanity, I might run again,” said Eileen Robinson, a school board member in California’s Chico Unified School District who will soon turn 75.

AD

Robinson is one of four people on her school board facing recall efforts from conservative parents. She said in an interview the issues activists rally around over the past year — whether masks, remote learning or curriculum about racism in America — have shifted in recent months and weeks, but the chaos that has come with it has not.

“I have never, never seen what we’ve been through in the last 18 months — politically, not the pandemic,” she said. “The depth of the misinformation that people have consumed and believed is frightening.”

A Republican culture war

The patchwork nature of local government also gives Republicans opportunities to test drive their rhetoric on the issue before fully deploying it in their efforts to retake the House in next year's midterm elections.

Most Americans [have no opinion about critical race theory](#), according to a POLITICO/Morning Consult poll — but most Republicans do, and 42 percent see it very unfavorably. A quarter of independents felt the same way, while only 5 percent of Democrats shared that viewpoint. Some Republicans hope denouncing race-focused curricula and promoting Donald Trump's vision for a "patriotic" education will remain key wedge issues that foster new interest in the GOP.

Democrats have mostly avoided addressing critical race theory in a significant way, aside from a Senate vote opposing the efforts to ban the teachings. One effort to do so backfired when Biden's Education Department [walked back](#) a plan to incentivize teaching about systemic racism, bowing to Republican pressure.



EDUCATION

Cardona pulls back on grant aimed at addressing discrimination, bowing to GOP pressure

BY BIANCA QUILANTAN AND JUAN PEREZ JR.

Education Secretary Miguel Cardona has repeatedly emphasized local control over curriculum, sometimes making general assertions that students should learn parts of American history "we're not proud of" alongside the progress that has been made. And many Democrats in the states — [fearful of dividing their suburban coalitions](#) — have taken the approach of Terry McAuliffe, the former Virginia governor who's running for another term: [dismiss furor against critical race theory](#) as "another right-wing conspiracy" and pivot to talk about school infrastructure and teacher pay.

“Democrats are, rightfully, focused on real things that have an actual impact on people’s lives — like lowering the cost of living or raising wages,” said Jesse Ferguson, a Democratic strategist. “Republicans seem to think they’ve found a new wedge issue to divide us, but, in reality, the GOP is on dangerous ground when voters see they’re trying to censor what’s taught in schools and putting politicians in charge of classrooms.”

Still, the conservative push against critical race theory is upending local politics in town after town. Between race-based study and pandemic policies, 2021 has seen more recalls of school board members than any year on record, [according to tracking from Ballotpedia](#). More than twice as many officials have been the target of those efforts so far this year compared to all of last year.

Some parents see the fight against critical race theory as the most important political issue at the moment. They say they will keep running for office, collecting signatures for recalls and raising money for campaigns until they win.

In some places, running against critical race theory is already paying off. In one Houston-area school board race, every candidate who [opposed critical race theory in schools](#) won a seat in May. Two such candidates [won with over 70 percent of the vote](#) in another Texas race.

In Arizona’s Maricopa County, parents are rallying to recall two school board members in the Peoria Unified School District. The concern started with mask and quarantine policies in the district, but critical race theory and other

curricula issues — like sex education and social emotional learning — have become even bigger points of debate, said Wendy Van Wie, who applied for the recall petitions.

Two people are ready to run to fill the vacancies in Maricopa County, should the recall there succeed. Van Wie, who is not interested in running, said she voted in the past but was otherwise relatively inactive in politics before pushing for a recall. The more she looked, though, the less she trusted the education system and government as a whole, she said.

“I can’t just sit back and be a keyboard warrior,” she said.



FILE - In this May 18, 2021, file photo, a teacher, center, and her third grade students wear face masks and are seated at proper social distancing spacing during as she conducts her class in Rye, N.Y. In response to a push for culturally responsive teaching that gained steam following last year’s police killing of George Floyd, Republican lawmakers and governors have championed legislation to limit the teaching of material that explores how race and racism influence American politics, culture and law. The measures have become law in Tennessee, Idaho and Oklahoma and bills have been introduced in over a dozen other states. (AP Photo/Mary Altaffer, File) | (Mary Altaffer, File/AP Photo)

In other districts, local party organizations are getting involved in the fight. The Tustin Democratic Club in Tustin, Calif., called on members to promote

“inclusive curriculum” at a board meeting in May after a Facebook group of conservative parents planned to oppose it. Parents obtained emails from school administrators in which a board member suggested the elective ethnic studies curriculum is aligned with critical race theory and the superintendent supported a “White Savior Assignment” for the course. The emails and opposition to critical race theory led to an outcry for new leadership.

AD

Then there’s Ohio. This spring, the conservative education group EmpowerU Ohio created a website — StopCriticalRaceTheory.com — and launched a petition opposing critical race theory. The group collected more than 2,000 signatures and pledges of support with the help of 34 other conservative groups, from the Ohio Republican PAC to Bikers for Trump.

Then EmpowerU held an event on critical race theory in May, attracting 350 attendees — a record in the organization’s 11-year history, said Dan Regenold, the group’s leader.

And this summer, it hosted a political training session offering detailed instructions about filing, fundraising and campaigning for school boards in Ohio. Speakers presented a “Contract With The District,” an homage to Newt Gingrich’s “Contract with America,” in the form of a 10-point document candidates running in nonpartisan local school board races can use to signal their opposition to critical race theory.

National Republican candidates and politicians in Ohio are noticing voters' energy behind the issue, too. Candidates running to be senators, representatives and governors are also calling for a change in curriculum.

“Many [school board candidates] are first-time candidates and [critical race theory] is the number one issue that has pulled them into the fray,” said Jonah Schulz, a Republican who is running for Congress in Ohio.

And for voters, Schulz said, “when it comes to their kids, that’s when people really feel the urge and the need to get involved.”

Sending a message

The grassroots power that comes from invoking children in the debate over race and other issues has been obvious — from record-breaking involvement in local elections and party organizations to rage-filled school board meetings and even threats of violence. It doesn’t look like that’s going to end soon.

Loudoun County in Virginia saw [furious protests](#) lead to new organizations calling for the replacement of sitting board members. The organization, Fight For Schools, says it is nonpartisan and is not aimed at changing any single policy, though critical race theory and Covid-19 have been at the center of the conversations about recalling six of the nine board members. The organization has raised over \$130,000, hosts events with the likes of Ben Carson and [sells its own line of merchandise](#), which at one point included t-shirts with the faces of board members up for recall.



RACE IN AMERICA

Could a School-Board Fight Over Critical Race Theory Help Turn Virginia Red?

BY MAYA KING

Not all of the local movements get so much traction. In Oregon, four conservative parents ran together for their school board, trying to win the majority in an effort to end critical race theory teachings — which the district

said is not in its curriculum — and Covid-19 precautions. They lost the election, but some parents have said winning isn't the only goal. It's really about flexing a newfound political muscle.

“I 100 percent believe this has sent a message,” said Van Wie, a leader in Maricopa County’s uphill recall effort. “At the end of the day, when you mess with a momma bear and her kid, we are a force to be reckoned with.”

Bianca Quilantan contributed to this report.

FILED UNDER: K-12, GOP, RACISM, MIGUEL CARDONA, CRITICAL RACE THEORY, THE FIFTY

Digital Future Daily

How the next wave of technology is upending the global economy and its power structures

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From: Chip Slaven
Sent: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 5:47 PM
To: Wilson, Charlie [REDACTED]; Garcia, Viola [REDACTED]; Henderson, Frank - KS [REDACTED]; Swett, Kristi (UT) [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Letter in the Mail

Hi Charlie and officers,

I have been very concerned over these issues for several weeks. This rhetoric is troubling and reminds me of similar language during the 1990's after Waco and Ruby Ridge. I have been exploring several options to try and address these issues including contacting the Department of Justice and/or Department of Homeland Security and asking for a threat assessment for school boards and public schools. We are also looking at some best practices to help them manage meetings, but I want to make sure we vet those practices with some experts first.

As for this individual incident, I would recommend contacting law enforcement in Ohio. I do not believe this letter goes far enough to constitute a criminal threat of violence, but it is very close and is skirting the issue. He should be reported so they can conduct a threat assessment of him. When I worked in state government this would have been reported to the State Police.

It is too bad we are going down this very rabbit hole.

Best,
Chip

From: Wilson, Charlie [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 4:06 PM
To: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>; Garcia, Viola [REDACTED]; Henderson, Frank - KS [REDACTED]; Swett, Kristi (UT) [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Letter in the Mail

Sorry to bug you again, but I wanted to make you aware of a threatening letter sent to our board president. Is there anything NSBA can do in this area such as a report on best practices to keep school board meetings safe and to keep school board members safe? I don't have anything in mind, but we have some great minds at NSBA who might have some good ideas. —charlie

From: Bowers, Trent [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 3:30 PM
To: Jennifer Best [REDACTED]; Amy Lloyd [REDACTED]; Nikki Hudson [REDACTED]; Sam Shim [REDACTED]; Wilson, Charlie [REDACTED]
Cc: Angela Adrean [REDACTED]; Randy Banks [REDACTED]; Vicki Gnezda [REDACTED]; TJ Cusick [REDACTED]
Subject: Letter in the Mail

Good Afternoon,

We received the attached mail this afternoon. It is addressed to me on the envelope. Addressed to Ms. Hudson inside the letter. My understanding is that Dublin received the same letter addressed to the Superintendent on the envelope and Ms. Hudson on the same letter. You may want to make a report to law enforcement.

Trent

--

Dr. Trent Bowers
Superintendent



Worthington Schools
200 E. Wilson Bridge Road
Worthington, Ohio 43085
t: [REDACTED]
e: tbowers@wscloud.org

www.worthington.k12.oh.us



***This message and any response to it may constitute public record and thus may be publicly available to anyone who requests it.

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From: [Jane Mellow](#)
To: [Deborah Rigsby](#)
Cc: [Chip Slaven](#)
Subject: Threats to school boards (also from Chip)
Date: Thursday, September 9, 2021 1:13:19 PM

Deborah, I just talked to Chip for the first time in a week and he wants us (specifically he asked for you) to draft a letter for either the Attorney General or the Director of the FBI, he is not sure yet.

Basically he wants to ask for a threat assessment of the risk to school board members and public schools in the wake of some of the confrontational tactics we are seeing across the country. Some written and spoken actions have been threatening and he wants us to be on record of noting it and alerting authorities and asking for assistance. He will be sending an example of a letter Charlie Wilson brought to his attention yesterday.

He wants the letter to detail out some of the examples and our concerns. He is hoping to have a draft by the end of next week. I'm going to ask Jinghong to see if she can pull together some of the instances of threatening meetings from the media.

I'm copying Chip on here in case I have missed something in conveying what he is looking for.

Jane

Jane Mellow
Interim Chief Advocacy Officer
National School Boards Association
jmellow@nsba.org | [REDACTED]

From: [Chip Slaven](#)
To: [Wall, Mary C. EOP/WHO](#)
Cc: [Kimberly Muse](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] National School Boards Association Statement on Biden Plan to Stop the Delta Variant and Boost COVID-19 Vaccinations
Date: Sunday, September 12, 2021 9:34:04 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Good evening Mary,

Thanks for getting back to me. This Tuesday at 10:00 am is a good time for a call. You can call me on my cell at [REDACTED] or if you prefer I can call you. Just let me know what works best for you. I am copying Kimberly Muse who can help with any logistics. I look forward to our conversation.

Take care,
Chip

From: Wall, Mary C. EOP/WHO <Mary.C.Wall@who.eop.gov>
Sent: Saturday, September 11, 2021 5:35 PM
To: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] National School Boards Association Statement on Biden Plan to Stop the Delta Variant and Boost COVID-19 Vaccinations

Chip:

Thanks. I'd love to chat.

I have time Mon 3-430 and Tues 10-12 (ET). Do you have any time in there?

Looking forward!

MW

From: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 11, 2021 11:00 AM
To: Wall, Mary C. EOP/WHO <Mary.C.Wall@who.eop.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] National School Boards Association Statement on Biden Plan to Stop the Delta Variant and Boost COVID-19 Vaccinations

Hi Mary,

Thank you very much for email and the opportunity to participate in the briefing on Thursday. I appreciate your concern for local school board members. In addition to my concern over public schools and the health of students and staff in general right now, I worry over the many threats school board members are receiving. Anything that you can do to help us better prepare them with

information and resources will certainly help. We appreciate what the President and Administration are doing to deal with these tough challenges.

I would love to have a conversation with you to discuss these issues in further detail. If you have some time in the next few weeks please let me know.

Take care,
Chip

Chip Slaven

Interim Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer

National School Boards Association

>www.nsba.org<

703.838.6742 (office)

[REDACTED] (cell)

1680 Duke Street, FL 2 Alexandria, VA



From: Wall, Mary C. EOP/WHO <Mary.C.Wall@who.eop.gov>

Sent: Thursday, September 9, 2021 9:56 PM

To: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] National School Boards Association Statement on Biden Plan to Stop the Delta Variant and Boost COVID-19 Vaccinations

Chip –

Thanks for joining the call today, and thanks also for this positive statement. I'm really grateful for your partnership.

We should catch up in greater depth at some point. I think often about the tough position that school boards are in at a time like now. We'd love to do anything we can to support members making tough calls on behalf of kids.

Thanks,
MW

Mary C. Wall
Senior Policy Advisor
White House COVID-19 Response Team

[REDACTED]
Mary.C.Wall@who.eop.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 9, 2021

Media Contact:

Jason Amos

jamos@nsba.org

703-838-6719

National School Boards Association Statement on Biden Plan to Stop the Delta Variant and Boost COVID-19 Vaccinations

Alexandria, VA—This afternoon, President Joe Biden outlined new policies on vaccination and testing to keep schools and the economy open during a speech on his COVID-19 Action Plan and the Delta variant. In response, Chip Slaven, interim Executive Director and CEO of the National School Boards Association (NSBA), issued the following statement:

President Biden's plan to curb the spread of the Delta variant comes at an extremely critical time during this pandemic.

Most schoolchildren are now back in school buildings. That's great for students because nearly all students learn best with in-person instruction. It's also great for parents who can return to work or begin new jobs.

But now is not the time to let down our guard or we risk losing the progress we've made. No one wants to close school buildings and pivot back to remote learning.

School board members around the country are doing everything they can to keep our students in classrooms and protect them while they are there. They are consulting with health experts, studying state and local caseloads and vaccination rates, and talking to parent and community members about the safest way to have students back in school.

For their hard work, school board members, superintendents, principals, teachers, and others who work in service to our students are being subjected to online and in-person threats, abuse, and harassment. This must stop.

School board members are our neighbors. They attend our churches. They shop in our grocery stores. They are people who have children in the public education system and share the same concerns as the communities they represent. Doing what's best for each child in their school district is at the heart of every decision a school board member makes. That's why they volunteer their time.

President Biden's plan to provide support—financial and otherwise—will allow school board members to make the necessary decisions to keep students and school staff safe.

This Saturday is the twentieth anniversary of the September 11 attacks.

After the attacks, our country came together, setting aside partisan differences in pursuit of a common goal. Today, we need the same approach. President Biden's plan provides a path for us to do so.

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This email was sent to katherine.r.pantangco@who.eop.gov
National School Boards Association, 1680 Duke Street, 2nd Floor, Alexandria,
Virginia 22314-3493, U.S.A.

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From: [Chip Slaven](#)
To: [Wall, Mary C. EOP/WHO](#)
Cc: [Kimberly Muse](#)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] National School Boards Association Statement on Biden Plan to Stop the Delta Variant and Boost COVID-19 Vaccinations
Date: Monday, September 13, 2021 10:29:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

That will work fine Mary. I look forward to talking with you at 10:15 am.

Thanks!
Chip

From: Wall, Mary C. EOP/WHO <Mary.C.Wall@who.eop.gov>
Sent: Monday, September 13, 2021 7:01 PM
To: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Cc: Kimberly Muse <KMuse@nsba.org>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] National School Boards Association Statement on Biden Plan to Stop the Delta Variant and Boost COVID-19 Vaccinations

Chip – ok if we start around 1015am ET instead? I won't keep you long. Thanks!

From: Wall, Mary C. EOP/WHO
Sent: Sunday, September 12, 2021 9:39 PM
To: 'Chip Slaven' <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Cc: Kimberly Muse <KMuse@nsba.org>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] National School Boards Association Statement on Biden Plan to Stop the Delta Variant and Boost COVID-19 Vaccinations

I will call you at 10am ET Chip, or just thereafter. Thanks!

From: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 12, 2021 9:34 PM
To: Wall, Mary C. EOP/WHO <Mary.C.Wall@who.eop.gov>
Cc: Kimberly Muse <KMuse@nsba.org>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] National School Boards Association Statement on Biden Plan to Stop the Delta Variant and Boost COVID-19 Vaccinations

Good evening Mary,

Thanks for getting back to me. This Tuesday at 10:00 am is a good time for a call. You can call me on my cell at [REDACTED] or if you prefer I can call you. Just let me know what works best for you. I am copying Kimberly Muse who can help with any logistics. I look forward to our conversation.

Take care,

Chip

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To: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] National School Boards Association Statement on Biden Plan to Stop the Delta Variant and Boost COVID-19 Vaccinations

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I would love to have a conversation with you to discuss these issues in further detail. If you have some time in the next few weeks please let me know.

Take care,
Chip

Chip Slaven

Interim Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer

National School Boards Association

>>www.nsba.org<<

703.838.6742 (office)

██████████ (cell)

1680 Duke Street, FL 2 Alexandria, VA



From: Wall, Mary C. EOP/WHO <Mary.C.Wall@who.eop.gov>

Sent: Thursday, September 9, 2021 9:56 PM

To: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] National School Boards Association Statement on Biden Plan to Stop the Delta Variant and Boost COVID-19 Vaccinations

Chip –

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We should catch up in greater depth at some point. I think often about the tough position that school boards are in at a time like now. We'd love to do anything we can to support members making tough calls on behalf of kids.

Thanks,
MW

Mary C. Wall
Senior Policy Advisor
White House COVID-19 Response Team

Mary.C.Wall@who.eop.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 9, 2021

Media Contact:
Jason Amos
jamos@nsba.org
703-838-6719

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Stop the Delta Variant and Boost COVID-19 Vaccinations**

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vaccination and testing to keep schools and the economy open during a speech on his COVID-19 Action Plan and the Delta variant. In response, Chip Slaven, interim Executive Director and CEO of the National School Boards Association (NSBA), issued the following statement:

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For their hard work, school board members, superintendents, principals, teachers, and others who work in service to our students are being subjected to online and in-person threats, abuse, and harassment. This must stop.

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This email was sent to katherine.r.pantangco@who.eop.gov
National School Boards Association, 1680 Duke Street, 2nd Floor, Alexandria,
Virginia 22314-3493, U.S.A.

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News Releases

September 16, 2021

NASSP CALLS ON FEDERAL OFFICIALS TO PROTECT SCHOOL LEADERS FROM THREATS AND VIOLENCE

Reston, VA—The National Association for Secondary School Principals (NASSP) is calling on federal officials to provide support for school leaders being threatened and undermined by those who disagree with school guidelines on COVID-19 best practices.

While the pandemic has impacted every one—school leaders are bearing the brunt of conflicts over masks, quarantines, vaccines, and other highly charged issues. They have been faced with hostile community members, threats to their own safety or safety of the school, and with non-compliance with rules that are meant to keep us all safe.

Dr. Teresa M. Hill, Principal at Walden Grove High School in Arizona and NASSP member, tells of her experience with threats at her school: “One month ago, seven people refused to leave our campus demanding a quarantined student attend class. After a lockdown of the front office for three hours, we were forced to arrest three of them. This has resulted in multiple threatening and intimidating voice messages, emails, and social media comments directly targeting me. Calling me a Nazi, a fascist, using profanity, and being told to ‘eat the end of a shotgun’ is beyond disturbing. Two weeks later, three men threatened and intimidated an elementary principal in my area by demanding a citizen’s arrest while holding zip ties in their hands.”

“While we appreciate the guidance and words of support from the Biden Administration, the Department of Education and the Centers for Disease Control, more concrete action is needed fast to protect our school leaders and schools,” **said NASSP CEO Ronn Nozoe.** “We need the full authority of the federal government to help us remove or ban threatening individuals from our schools who are determined to do nothing more than disrupt learning or potentially harm us or our staff. At the very least, we need the U.S. Department of Education to issue specific guidance on the authority school leaders have to protect themselves and our ability to remove or ban hostile parents and individuals from school grounds who threaten our safety.”

School leaders are facing threats because they are simply trying to follow the health and scientific safety guidance that the CDC, state, and local health departments are issuing. NASSP is calling on federal officials to protect school leaders from rampant hostility and violence that disrupts our schools and threatens the safety of our educators and students. Learn more [here](#).

###


About NASSP

[The National Association of Secondary School Principals](#) (NASSP) is the leading organization of middle level and high school principals and other school leaders across the United States. NASSP seeks to transform education through school leadership, recognizing that the fulfillment of each student’s potential relies on great leaders in every school committed to the success of each student. Reflecting its long-standing commitment to student leadership development, NASSP administers the [National Honor Society](#), [National Junior Honor Society](#), [National Elementary Honor Society](#), and [National Student Council](#).

Contact

 Regina Grossman, NASSP

 media@nassp.org

 [305-807-8085](tel:305-807-8085)

National Association of Secondary School Principals

1901 Association Drive, Reston, VA 20191-1537
703.862-0200

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From: Deborah Rigsby <drigsby@nsba.org>
Sent: Friday, September 17, 2021 8:42:28 AM
To: Jane Mellow <JMellow@nsba.org>; Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Subject: NSBA Letter for Federal Intervention - 9-2021

Good morning Chip and Jane,

Sending the attached draft of the letter you requested re: federal actions to protect school board members. I have included references about how the acts of violence/ threats against school board members and educators are impacting interstate commerce throughout the letter in an effort to urge immediate federal intervention. The examples from Jinghong, the letter to the Ohio board member, and related reports are mentioned to convey the severity of these acts. (Will add the references and page numbers once I have your edits, as the template has not been cooperating.)

Thanks.
Deborah

From: [Chip Slaven](#)
To: [Wall, Mary C. EOP/WHO](#)
Subject: RE: examples
Date: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 11:26:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[Internal NSBA Summary on School Board Disruption.docx](#)

Hi Mary,

Thanks for letting me know about your meeting tomorrow. I am glad to hear of the interest level. We want to prepare you with as much information as possible.

Attached please find an internal NSBA document detailing some of the publicly available information concerning threats to school board members and disruptions of meetings. We used this document as a reference point to help draft the letter we plan to send. It is about two weeks old and there have been numerous new issues since then, but this should give you an idea of what school boards are facing. In addition to this summary, I have also been personally informed about several incidents that are very concerning that I will share with you. In West Virginia, an individual showed up at a school board meeting and displayed pictures of a board members young children taken at a camp in which they were not wearing masks. The individual had gone on to the school board members personal Facebook page and captured the images of his children. In Ohio, one school board has been facing large crowds attempting to block entry into meetings, screaming and sometimes spitting at the members, and keying their cars. That same board has also received a letter sent with a fake address claiming they would be coming after the board and will make them pay dearly. The threat was nonspecific, but you get the idea of what is happening. There are also reports of Proud Boys showing up at various school board meetings and teaming up with anti-maskers, Qanon followers now considering running for school board elections and becoming more interested in school boards, and general levels of hostility around mask wearing and political issues such as debate over critical race theory—which is not actually taught in any public school. Misinformation and social media fueled by national groups and extremists are driving much of the debate as well as partisan politics. School board elections are generally nonpartisan and locally driven. This seems like a test drive for issues during the upcoming national campaigns. I would not be surprised if there are intentional social media campaigns from foreign powers or other bad operators also popping up like what happened during the 2016 election.

I want to help you with your meeting tomorrow so I am providing some bullets below that I hope will be useful to you. Please bear in mind the letter is not final yet and we are still vetting through our legal team as well as our officers. But I can tell you that the areas for consideration I am interested in terms of federal requests and/or recommendations are below. I think our goals are the same so we want to offer as much information to you as we can in advance. Please just don't consider them formal until our official letter comes. There could be changes or modifications tomorrow, but our interest is in the following areas:

- NSBA would like to see a joint collaboration among federal law enforcement agencies, state and local law enforcement, and public school officials to focus on the threats to public schools and how to deal with them.
- NSBA is interested in getting the assistance and resources of the U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Secret Service, and its National Threat Assessment Center regarding the level of

risk to public schoolchildren, educators, board members, and facilities/campuses. We would also like to see the assistance of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service to intervene against threatening letters and cyberbullying attacks that have been transmitted to students, school board members, district administrators, and other educators.

- NSBA is considering requesting a joint expedited review by the U.S. Departments of Justice, Education, and Homeland Security, along with the appropriate training, coordination, investigations, and enforcement mechanisms from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), including any technical assistance necessary from, and state and local coordination with, its National Security Branch and Counterterrorism Division, as well as any other federal agency with relevant jurisdictional authority and oversight.
- Additionally, NSBA is interested in a review of appropriate enforceable actions against these crimes and acts of violence under the Gun-Free School Zones Act, the PATRIOT Act in regards to domestic terrorism, Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, Violent Interference with Federally Protected Rights statute, Conspiracy Against Rights statute, an Executive Order to enforce all applicable federal laws for the protection of students and public school district personnel, and any related measure.

The letter will go into greater detail and will also contain additional clarity and examples of incidents school board members are facing. Many of the examples that will be cited are from the attached internal document. Please let me know if you have any questions and/or comments. Our members need a strong stance and leadership from NSBA so that is what I am hoping to do with the letter. My hope is this just the beginning of additional collaboration. We very much want to be part of the solution going forward and work with you.

Thanks again for your leadership,
Chip

From: Wall, Mary C. EOP/WHO <Mary.C.Wall@who.eop.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 10:10 PM
To: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Subject: RE: examples

Chip:

Thanks for the heads up. Is there any way we can take a look at the letter in advance of release? In specific, I'm meeting w colleagues from other WH offices and DOJ tomorrow morning to see if there might be any options we can pursue here, so if you have concrete recommendations in your letter (e.g., the threat assessment you mentioned), would be good to know so I can include in discussions.

Thanks,
MW

From: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 9:34 PM
To: Wall, Mary C. EOP/WHO <Mary.C.Wall@who.eop.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: examples

Good evening Mary,

Thanks very much for the email and the conversation last week. I will work with our team and send you some of the most egregious examples of the conduct tomorrow.

Just so you know, we plan to release a joint statement tomorrow with AASA concerning the current situation. As I indicated last week, NSBA is also planning to send the President a letter requesting federal assistance to help school board members and public schools manage these threats. We hope to have that letter ready to go by Thursday. I will be sure you receive a copy of it.

We really appreciate the responsiveness of the Administration and wish we could simply focus on helping students get back in school, but the new reality is at times very ugly. I will get the examples to you tomorrow as soon as I can.

Have a good night and thanks,
Chip

Chip Slaven

Interim Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer

National School Boards Association

www.nsba.org

703.838.6742 (office)

[REDACTED] (cell)

1680 Duke Street, FL 2 Alexandria, VA



From: Wall, Mary C. EOP/WHO <Mary.C.Wall@who.eop.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 9:37 AM

To: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>

Subject: examples

Hi Chip! Hope you're well.

When we spoke last week I think you said you could send through to me some of the more egregious examples of your members who have faced safety issues and/or reached out to law enforcement without adequate response.

Do you have any examples on hand? Would be helpful as we brainstorm solutions.

Thanks!

MW

From: National School Boards Association <Mail@ConnectedCommunity.org>

Sent: Friday, September 17, 2021 12:51 PM

To: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>

Subject: RE: Executive Directors : NASSP Letter to President Asking for Help Protecting Principals--What About School Board Members?

Executive Directors

Post New Message

Re: NASSP Letter to President Asking for Help Protecting Principals--What About School Board Members?

Reply to Group

Reply to Sender



Sep 17, 2021 12:51 PM

Chip Slaven

Hi Tom,

Thanks for the question. It is a very important one. Threats to school board members and public schools has risen to the top of a lot of concerns for me right now. I mentioned this as an important issue for me and all of us on the OSAED earlier this week and referenced some of what I will outline for you below in that conversation.

NSBA is taking a number of actions regarding calling for protection and resources to assist school board members with these threats including a call for the President and federal government for more assistance.

On Tuesday of this week, I had a one on one phone call with a White House staff member on behalf of NSBA and our state association members discussing these concerns. I requested the meeting specifically to talk about these concerns. I walked through several examples of threats we had learned about recently and what is happening to trigger some of these incidents and threats. Additionally, we discussed a number of options to help school board members and I was promised the White House would explore how to help us and we would speak again to follow up how best to proceed. I also informed them in that call we are formally asking the federal government for assistance.

On Monday of next week, we will be releasing a joint statement with AASA calling for action and expressing the concerns of both school board members and superintendents who are also receiving high levels of threats. Further, NSBA has drafted its own individual letter that has been in the planning for several days that will also go out next week. This is a very detailed letter calling attention to the problem and laying out some very specific requests for action. That letter will be shared out with all of you next week when it is sent out so you can share it with your members and also your Congressional Delegations. I also anticipate taking several other actions on this issue.

These actions are in addition to other recent interactions with the U.S. Department of Education concerning these concerns. I firmly believe this is a significant problem that requires a high level of attention at the national level. I think any action by the state associations on this issue would also be beneficial and we would be glad to assist you in those efforts.

Thanks again for the question Tom, I am glad I can provide this information. Please let me know if you have other questions.

Take care,
Chip

Chip Slaven
Chief Advocacy Officer
National School Boards Association
Alexandria, VA

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Original Message:
Sent: 09-17-2021 10:28:19 AM
From: Thomas Bertrand
Subject: NASSP Letter to President Asking for Help Protecting Principals--What About School Board Members?


Good morning,

NASSP released this document...wondering if there may be an opportunity to show support and empathy for our school board members across the country with something similar from NSBA? I am considering something similar for our Illinois Congressional Delegation, but a national approach may have more impact.

Stay well,

Tom

Thomas Bertrand
Executive Director
Illinois Association of School Boards
Springfield, IL



You are subscribed to "Executive Directors" as cslaven@nsba.org. To change your subscriptions, go to [My Subscriptions](#). To unsubscribe from this community discussion, go to [Unsubscribe](#).

Shawn >

iMessage
Fri, Oct 1, 1:00 PM

the OSSBA Board of Directors to denounce the attached letter from the National School Boards Association to President Joe Biden.

The goal of the NSBA is to silence all opposition to any action taken by a local school board. On behalf of their member organizations, including the OSSBA, they call on the federal government to stop all free speech by labeling any words or opinions they don't like as abusive or threatening. The NSBA knows parents are fed up – so they must be made to shut up.



The NSBA's declaration that Critical Race Theory is not being taught anywhere in America's public schools is beyond laughable. The NSBA intends this ludicrous statement be used as evidence to silence those who oppose this poisonous, divisive, destructive curriculum.

Surely, the views of the NSBA are not those of the OSSBA and its member school districts. Oklahoma parents and taxpayers

When we talked this morning I hadn't read your letter. Evidently my senators had

From: [Andrea Messina](#)
To: [Beverly Slough](#)
Subject: Re: Draft Communication to EDs and State Officers
Date: Monday, October 11, 2021 9:12:26 PM

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I did go back and find the email with the agenda and there was nothing referencing this on the agenda.

Chip very well may have informed us that he had spoken with the White House that morning. Regretfully, he said that every time I get on a call with him so I don't pay attention. Anna said the same thing. I never believed either one of them.

I do not recall his asking them for help at all and, like you, believe that even if I had missed it one of my colleagues would've picked up on it.

Will continue to look for my notes tomorrow.

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From: Beverly Slough <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2021 6:36 PM
To: Andrea Messina
Subject: Re: Draft Communication to EDs and State Officers

As expected. I just cannot believe this part at all. Inconceivable that none of you would have referenced such a communication in all the back and forth.

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From: Andrea Messina <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2021 6:35:03 PM
To: Beverly Slough <[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: Draft Communication to EDs and State Officers

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I can't access my notes right now. I will check tonight.

I take copious notes during these meetings.

A

From: Beverly Slough <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2021 6:18 PM
To: Andrea Messina <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Fwd: Draft Communication to EDs and State Officers

Did the items Pam has in red happen? If they did, execs should have known the letter was going.
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From: Pam Doyle <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2021 6:08 PM
To: viola garcia
Cc: Frank; Kristi Swett; Charlie - OH Wilson; Janine Bay Teske; Chapman Steven; Becky Fles; Kathy Gebhardt; Kathryn Green; John W. Halkias; Peter Hoepfner; Ronald "Ronnie" K. Hopkins; Donald R. Hubler; Marnie J. Maraldo; Devin Sheehan; Floyd Simon; Beverly Slough; Lydia - CT Tedone; Steve III Gallon; Devin Del Palacio; Ruben Archuleta; Michael Jr. Swain; Kirk Schneidawind; Joy Surratt Baskin; Chip Slaven
Subject: Re: Draft Communication to EDs and State Officers

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. **Do not** click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. Please report suspicious or potentially dangerous emails using the "Phish Alert Button".

Viola,

I appreciate the rather lengthy recap of past months, but think the current business at hand that you outlined in the last email to the board should be the beginning of the email, otherwise, the current plans will be lost in this letter.

We have members looking at dropping out of NSBA because of the letter to the President. I feel that should first be addressed with truth and specific answers to their questions in the next communication piece that goes out.

The recap of the months past is good, but they want to know what we are doing right now and that does not need to be buried in the pages of explanations prior to a few paragraphs addressing their questions.

On that note, I was especially interested in a few paragraphs on PAGE 7:

In the September 14, 2021 meeting of the OSAED liaison group, they were informed there had been a meeting with White House staff that morning and that NSBA was preparing to send a letter to the President. Subsequently, on September 17, 2021, the interim Executive Director emailed notice to the state association executive directors that indicated a letter requesting federal assistance would be sent.

"NSBA is taking a number of actions regarding calling for protection and resources to assist school board members with these threats including a call for the President and federal government for more assistance."

That notice later stated:

"Further, NSBA has drafted its own individual letter that has been in the planning for several days that will also go out next week. This is a very detailed letter calling attention to the problem and laying out some very specific requests for action. That letter will be shared out with all of you next week when it is sent out so you can share it with your members and also your Congressional Delegations. "

The members questioned why they were not consulted on the contents of the letter as well as the board's involvement, or lack thereof.

If I read the above paragraphs correctly, the origin of the letter began September 14th with a meeting with the White House staff, but fails to specify who met with the White House staff. It goes further to say "NSBA" was preparing a letter to send to the President, failing once again to state the person that was preparing the letter, only an entity - NSBA.

The members asked specifically who wrote the letter, by what authority the letter was written, and who or how many states asked for federal intervention.

This letter fails to adequately answer the specific questions about the lack of input from the members and Board in the letter to the President.

The next question was the board's approved timeline and commitment in accomplishing the goals set forth in all the meetings dating back to GRC.

Given the professionalism of all the state execs, and their busy schedules, I would make sure the current issues are addressed at the beginning of your letter in a precise and straightforward way.

Thank you,

Pam

On Mon, Oct 11, 2021 at 4:16 PM viola garcia [REDACTED] > wrote:

Hello Directors,

This email includes an attached communication draft that has been expected by our members on collaborative progress made to date on various NSBA initiatives they requested and/or that we initiated. Please review the memo and provide feedback as soon as possible so that we can send it to the EDs and state officers tomorrow before the end of the work day.

Regards,
Viola

Letter to Governor Newsom

Dear Governor Newsom,

Throughout the pandemic, your actions in support of education have shown an understanding of the critical function that public schools perform in our society. As you know, school boards serve on the front lines of democracy, offering more access and greater responsiveness to the public than any other class of elected official. Not everyone gets an opportunity to interact with a governor, a senator, a congressperson, or a state legislator. Yet, every citizen can expect to communicate directly with their trustees at local school board meetings, typically twice a month and frequently more often than that.

As a result, school board members are accustomed to dealing with sensitive issues and are no strangers to criticism or controversy. Yet, nothing in recent memory could have prepared trustees for the onslaught they face today as citizens lash out on a variety of topics, most notably opposition to state mandates and local COVID-19 mitigation measures. I've watched in horror as school board members have been accosted, verbally abused, physically assaulted, and subjected to death threats against themselves and their family members. The list of dangerous and outrageous conduct committed against school trustees during their board meetings is far too long to list here, but I will try to provide a representative sample.

In just the past month alone, we have seen a Sacramento-area school board forced to abandon its board room through the back door when the meeting was rendered unsafe because of the actions of protestors. In San Diego County, protestors forced their way into a board room during a meeting where physical distancing measures were in place and refused to leave. Law enforcement did not remove any of the protestors and instead recommended that the board terminate the meeting, which it eventually did. Protestors stayed behind and later posted on social media that they had elected themselves as the "new school board." In San Bernardino and Madera counties and elsewhere, boards were forced to prematurely adjourn meetings in the face of raucous disruptions. In fact, it is doubtful there is a county in this state that has not experienced a similar incident.

A simple scan of the news or conversations with school board trustees from any part of California will confirm that what we are seeing goes far beyond the normal, legal expression of First Amendment rights, which is to be encouraged and embraced. We are increasingly witnessing active attempts to undermine the democratic process through intimidation, threats, and violence.

This is unacceptable not only because of the danger it poses to school trustees, school employees, and members of the public at school board meetings, but also because it prevents these elected officials from performing the public's business at a time when it has never been more critical. And when the governance process is derailed, the group that suffers most is California's students.

Yet, too often, when school districts contact local law enforcement authorities to restore order to these meetings or to enforce mask mandates and other safety measures, law enforcement declines. In numerous cases, law enforcement officers — in brazen defiance of the law and their professional oath — have explicitly stated they will not enforce safety mandates or restrain those whose actions willfully disrupt a meeting and prevent it from proceeding. It bears noting that law enforcement has not always exhibited this level of reticence when dealing with protestors who exercise their constitutional right to peaceably assemble and protest.

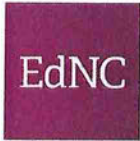
The hostile climate at local board meetings and the reluctance of select law enforcement agencies to fulfill their duties have placed school trustees in unprecedented danger. Therefore, I respectfully ask that you, as California's chief executive, collaborate with California Attorney General Rob Bonta to convince, command, or otherwise urge local law enforcement to uphold public health and safety orders, help maintain order at local school board meetings when requested, and enforce the law as they are sworn to do.

I am happy to meet with you to discuss this issue, but I trust the state will not wait to act until a trustee or member of the public sustains a serious injury or worse at a school board meeting. We can avoid the sorrow and the platitudes that would inevitably follow if we take a strong stance now against violence, intimidation, and efforts to willfully disrupt the democratic process as practiced by California's local school boards.

Sincerely,



Vernon M. Billy, CEO & Executive Director
California School Boards Association



N.C. School Boards Association asks state leaders for help with contentious meetings



Alex Granados (<https://www.ednc.org/author/agranados/>)
September 27, 2021



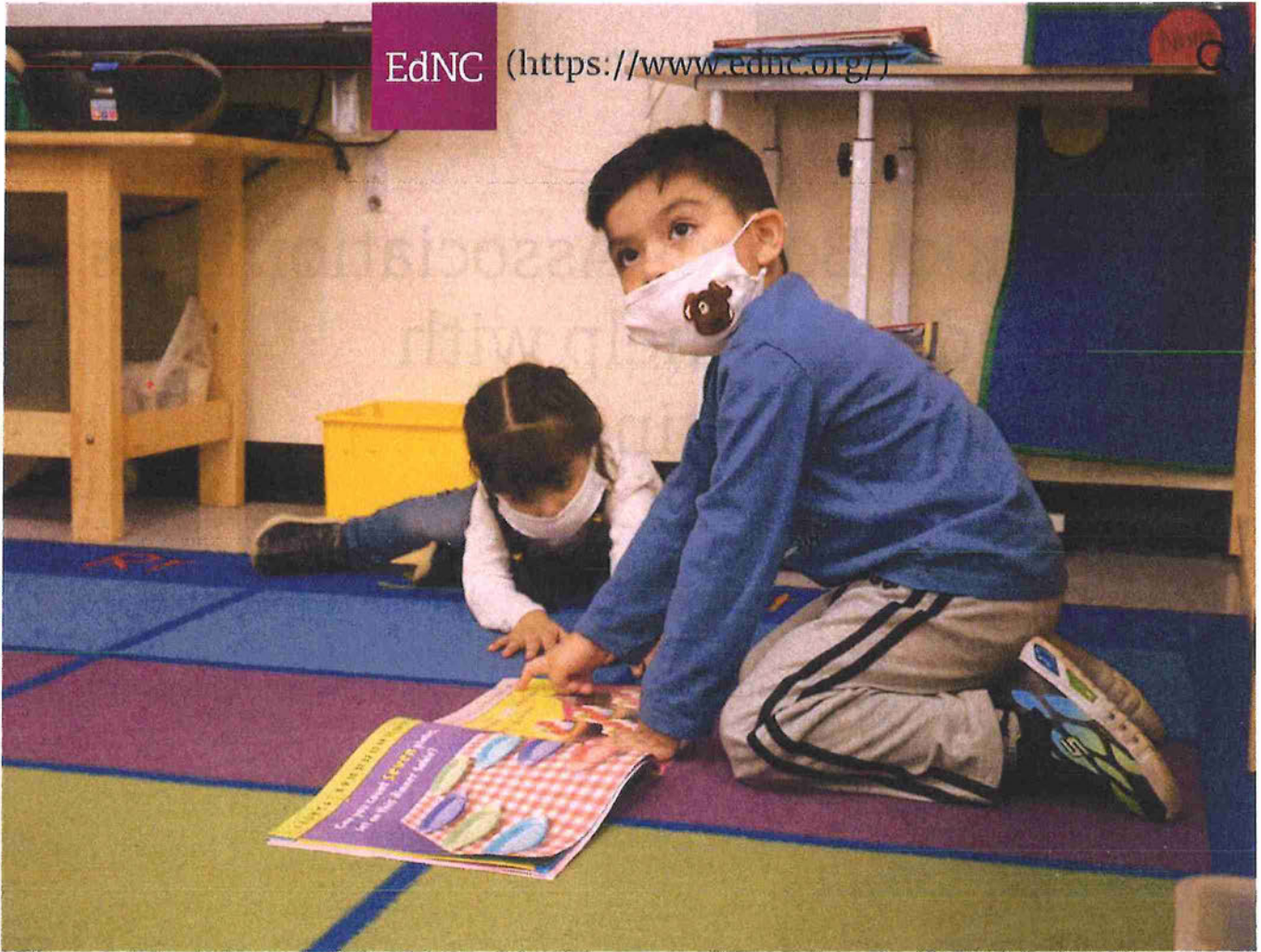
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K-12 (<https://www.ednc.org/category/k-12/>)



Matthew Osorio-Najera and Isabella Rodriguez, pre-K students in Greene County Public Schools, read during a class transition. Liz Bell/EducationNC

Updated 1:44 p.m. Sept. 28 with statement from State Superintendent and State Board of Education leaders about safety concerns at local school board meetings. Scroll to bottom for statement.

Leaders with the North Carolina School Boards Association (<https://www.ncsba.org>) (NCSBA) reached out to Gov. Roy Cooper and lawmakers in recent weeks, asking for help with the tension at local school board meetings over COVID-19 school mask policies.

This year, Cooper allowed **EdNC** (https://www.ednc.org/) district school boards, rather than ordering a statewide policy through executive order as he did last year. Meanwhile, the General Assembly passed, and Cooper signed, a law (https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookup/2021/S654) that requires those boards to vote on whether masks are required or optional once a month for this entire school year.

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In an email to legislators sent last Tuesday, Bruce Mildwurf, director of governmental relations for the NCSBA, laid out the problems this has created.

“A disturbing trend is occurring across the State over COVID-19 mitigation measures. There are increasing numbers of disruptions and cases of verbal abuse by protestors. Boards chairs have been forced to recess or adjourn meetings. There were accusations of one attendee bringing a weapon to a school board meeting. Property has been damaged. School board members and staff have received threats. Security has been significantly increased at board meetings. Rallies and protests are organized by people who don’t even live in the district. Board members and staff fear it’s just a matter of time before it escalates to serious violence,” he wrote.

Mary Ann Wolf, executive director and president of the **Public School Forum of NC** (https://www.ncforum.org) and a member of the board of Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools, wrote a **piece last week** (https://www.ednc.org/perspective-nc-school-board-members-and-school-

district-leaders-are-being-threatened-as-they-work-to-keep-our-children-and-educators-safe-this-has-to-stop/ in which she talked about the climate education leaders are currently facing at the local level.

EdNC

(<https://www.ednc.org/>)



“In my school district, we no longer have in-person school board meetings without a police officer present,” she wrote. “And, we are not alone. I regularly talk with colleagues — school board members and superintendents — across the state who are fearful for or receive threats to their safety.”



Dr. Sheila Davies, the director of health and human services and the director of public health in Dare County, addresses the Dare County Board of Education on COVID-19. Screenshot of Dare County Board of Education meeting

In his letter to legislators, Mildwurf went on to ask lawmakers to change a portion of the law they passed requiring monthly votes on masks: “A provision in SB 654 (SL 2021-130), K-12 COVID-19 Provisions, which passed both chambers on the third day of school should be modified to help alleviate the tension. The bill has many positive and important provisions for

LEAs. However, Section 115c-33.1, which requires all local boards of education to vote at least once a month on any policy that will continue to exacerbate the issues above.”

EdNC

(<https://www.ednc.org/>)



The letter explains what modifications the NCSBA is seeking.

“We question the requirement to vote on the policy every month if nothing has significantly changed since the last vote,” Mildwurf wrote. “Therefore, we respectfully request that the General Assembly modify the current law to require either local school boards or the State to establish metrics that would trigger a re-examination of the policy.”

In a statement emailed to EdNC last week, Lauren Horsch, communications advisor to **Senate President Pro Tempore Phil Berger**, (<https://ncleg.gov/Members/Biography/S/64>) R-Rockingham, said, “That some people are protesting decisions of their elected leaders is not legitimate grounds to change a law.”

The statement also included: “Allowing constituents to have their voices heard by an elected body is a good thing for democracy, and the General Assembly is not going to restrict that.”

Here is the email to legislators from the NCSBA:



On behalf of school boards across North Carolina, the NC School Boards Association (NCSBA) respectfully requests assistance from the General Assembly to reduce the recent development of incivility and disorder taking place at school board meetings.

A disturbing trend is occurring across the State over COVID-19 mitigation measures. There are increasing numbers of disruptions and cases of verbal abuse by protestors. Boards chairs have been forced to recess or adjourn meetings. There were accusations of one attendee bringing a weapon to a school board meeting. Property has been damaged. School board members and staff have received threats. Security has been significantly increased at board meetings. Rallies and protests are organized by people who don't even live in the district. Board members and staff fear it's just a matter of time before it escalates to serious violence.

A provision in SB 654 (SL 2021-130), K-12 COVID-19 Provisions, which passed both chambers on the third day of school should be modified to help alleviate the tension. The bill has many positive and important provisions for LEAs. However, Section 10, which requires all local boards of education to vote at least once a month on its mask policy will continue to exacerbate the issues above. It's been said by legislative leadership that this provision will create transparency. Unfortunately, it has instead created more division within communities, ignited emotions and additional stress to what was already a highly flammable topic.

A top priority statewide this school year was to have students safely return to in-person instruction. Districts successfully flipped the script from this time last year when most students began the year remotely.

NCSBA supports providing the public with the latest numbers each month. However, we

SBA letter to NCGA (<https://www.slideshare.net/educationnc/sba-letter-to-ncga-250278943>) from EducationNC (<https://www.slideshare.net/educationnc>)

In a Sept. 17 letter, Amy Churchill

(https://www.buncombeschools.org/departments/communications/news_feeds_and_stories/social_snapshots/amy_churchill_elected_nc_s_b_a_president), president of NCSBA, and Leanne Winner

(<https://www.ncsba.org/2020/11/leanne-e-winner-selected-as-executive-director-for-the-north-carolina-school-boards-association/#:~:text=website%20builder%20The%20Board%20of,woman%20to%20hold%20the%20position.>), the association's executive director, told

the governor they want to work with him "to design measures that will help alleviate some of the tension locally so that school boards and administrators can effectively do the necessary work to educate our students."

Similar to the letter to [redacted]s, Churchill and Winner explained the problem to the governor and also EdNC (https://www.ednc.org/) about how overwhelming the strife has become for local school board members.

“While local board members recognize that the issues raised by the pandemic are important, they have become all-consuming, crowding out the ability of both school system staff and board members to focus on other matters. It is important that our school board members and administrators spend their time on educating students, not debating the same controversial issues over and over again with the public or each other,” they said.

Here is that letter:



*Leanne E. Winner
Executive Director*

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Columbus
Allison Gant
Alamance-Burlington
Mae Hodges

September 17, 2021

North Carolina Office of the Governor
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

Dear Governor Cooper:

On behalf of school boards across North Carolina, the North Carolina School Boards Association (NCSBA) respectfully requests your help in reducing the disorder taking place at local school board meetings.

Serving on a local board of education is a challenging but rewarding position. Local board members are concerned with providing students an excellent education, and doing so requires them to be informed on a number of different topics, including school finance, student achievement, and curriculum, just to name a few. Given the importance of the role they fill, board members welcome public feedback, recognizing that parents will of course be invested in the quality of their children’s education.

However, across school districts, we are seeing a disturbing trend arising out of debate over COVID-19 mitigation measures. There have been several instances of significant disruption by protestors that have led to

Mask mandated voting, SBA letter
(<https://www.slideshare.net/educationnc/mask-mandated-voting-sba-letter>) from EducationNC (<https://www.slideshare.net/educationnc>)

At a press conference last week at school board meetings.

EdNC

Cooper called for maturity among adults at school board meetings. (<https://www.ednc.org/>)



“Threats, bullying, intimidation — none of this belongs in our public schools, particularly by adults,” Cooper said, according to **The News & Observer** (<https://www.newsobserver.com/news/coronavirus/article254411589.html>). “Remember, our children are watching.”

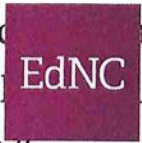
State Superintendent of Public Instruction Catherine Truitt, State Board of Education Chair Eric Davis, and Vice Chair Alan Duncan released a joint statement today about safety concerns at district school board meetings. Here is it in its entirety:

“As education leaders in our state, we are united by our fierce passion for serving students and in our commitment to providing all students and those serving our students with a safe environment. As we continue to see instances of violence unfold during some local school board meetings, we are yet again unified. The increased hostility and threats of force that we have seen across the state are not reflective of what we expect and ask of our own students: treating others with kindness and respect.

“As educators, as parents and as concerned citizens, we respect the rights of our fellow citizens to share their concerns and voice their opinions. However, this must be done without the use of intimidation or intentionally inspiring fear. Every one of us has a responsibility to instill in our children their first amendment rights and responsibilities, but we have an even greater responsibility to model good behavior while doing so.

“Our schools and district buildings should remain safe havens, and these acts of aggression cannot be tolerated. Our school board members and local leaders should not be threatened. Especially in times of disagreement, we should act with civility and respect for our teachers, local boards,

superintendents, and school staff who are doing their best throughout this unprecedented time to provide and educate our students. We invite you to join us in this endeavor.”



(<https://www.ednc.org/>)



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Alex Granados (<https://www.ednc.org/author/agranados/>)

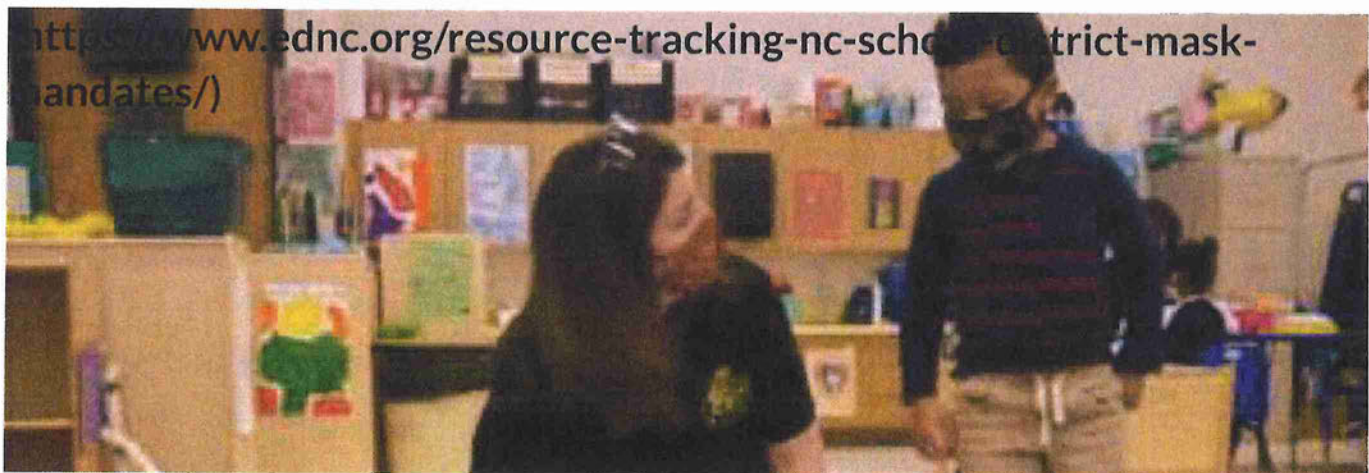


(<https://twitter.com/agranadoster>)

✉ (<mailto:agranados@ednc.org>)

Alex Granados is senior reporter for EducationNC.

Recommended reading



<https://www.ednc.org/resource-tracking-nc-school-district-mask-mandates/>



NEWS

Resource | Tracking NC school district mask mandates

by North Carolina School Board Association | July 28, 2021

(<https://www.ednc.org/perspective-nc-school-board-members-and-school-district-leaders-are-being-threatened-as-they-work-to-keep-our-children-and-educators-safe-this-has-to-stop/>)



PERSPECTIVE

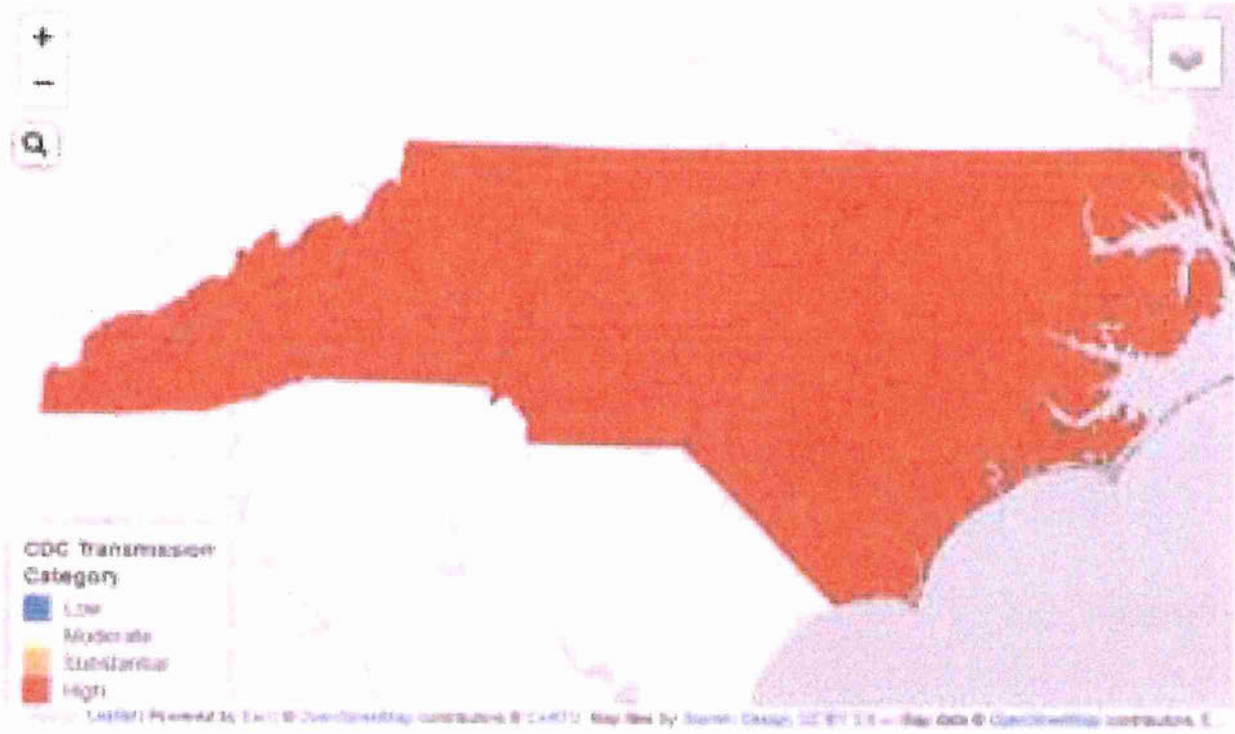
Perspective | N.C. school board members and school district leaders are being threatened as they work to keep our children and educators safe. This has to stop.



(<https://www.ednc.org/09-13-21-what-is-the-covid-19-transmission-rate-for-your-school-district/>)

September 13, 2021

Click on a school district to view its case rate. To search for an address, city, or zip code, click on the magnifying glass on the top left. Click on the map symbol (top right) to turn on/off a Google layer.

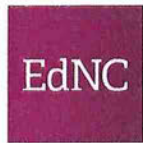


NEWS

What is the COVID-19 transmission rate for your school district?

by Anna Pogarcic | September 13, 2021





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Fact-checking

Posts mischaracterize school board organization's letter to Biden

By **TERRENCE FRASER** October 5, 2021

CLAIM: The National School Boards Association is asking the Biden administration to label parents who protest school policies domestic terrorists.

AP'S ASSESSMENT: False. The organization — the NSBA, for short — is not asking Biden to label parents who protest at school board

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investigation of threats of violence against school board members and said the threats "could be the equivalent to a form of domestic terrorism and hate crimes." Biden has yet to publicly comment on the issue, and there's no indication he or the Department of Justice has called protesting parents "domestic terrorists," despite false claims to that effect by social media users.

THE FACTS:
Local school boards around the country have become

journalist

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such as

COVID-19

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transgender students and how to teach the history of racism and slavery in America, The Associated Press has reported.

The National School Boards Association, a non-profit representing U.S. school boards, said these disputes were also leading to harassment and threats of violence against school board members. On Sept. 29, the NSBA sent a letter to President Joe Biden, asking his administration to investigate these threats.

letter
documents

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threats,
harassment,
disruption and
acts of
intimidation in
California,
Florida,
Georgia, New
Jersey, Ohio
and other
states. It cites
the September
arrest of an
Illinois man for
aggravated
battery and
disorderly
conduct for
allegedly
striking a
school official
at a meeting.

But on Sept. 30,
social media
users took to
Instagram to
spread
misinformation
about the
letter.

A popular
Instagram post
circulated
widely last
week, showing
a screenshot of

race theory

critical race

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Institute, a conservative think tank. “The National School Boards Association asked the feds to crack down on anti-critical race theory protests as ‘domestic terrorism,’” Rufo said in the screenshot image.

Another Instagram post shared a screenshot of a tweet by an account called Fight for Schools, which advocates for the full reopening of public schools and against the teaching of critical race theory.

“The National School Boards Association is asking the

who protest
school religion

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tweet said. An
article from
EdWeek is also
shared as part
of the tweet.
“The White
House should
aid education
leaders facing
disruption and
harassment
over COVID-19
rules, a
national group
says,” the
linked article
says.

Rufo, in a
comment
emailed
Thursday to
The Associated
Press, said the
Biden
administration
is “using the
FBI to suppress
parents and
criminalize
dissent.”

In fact, the
request for a
law
enforcement
review did not
come from the

the National
School Boards

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letter,
requested that
federal
agencies
conduct a
review to
“examine
appropriate
enforceable
actions” in
cases of
“crimes and
acts of
violence.”

The NSBA says
comments
made by Rufo
and Fight for
Schools aren’t
accurate
because
violence and
threats are the
issue, not
protests from
parents.

“This is
absolutely
false. NSBA
and school
board members
don’t want to
stop parents
from
expressing
their First

terrorists,”

NSBA CEO

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statement
emailed to the
AP. “Our letter
to President
Biden was
about stopping
dangerous and
threatening
acts that school
board members
and other
education
leaders are
receiving,”
Slaven added.

NSBA’s letter
to the Biden
administration
does state that
threats against
school board
members
“could be the
equivalent to a
form of
domestic
terrorism and
hate
crimes” that
could be
prosecuted
under anti-
terrorism and
anti-hate crime
statutes. But
the NSBA has

particular way.

NSBA

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government to assist local law enforcement in investigating the level of risk posed by threats.

“NSBA believes immediate assistance is required to protect our students, school board members, and educators who are susceptible to acts of violence affecting interstate commerce because of threats to their districts, families, and personal safety,” the NSBA letter said.

The letter goes on to request that federal agencies coordinate with local law

training. The
letter also calls

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Service to
intervene
against
threatening
letters and
cyberbullying
attacks sent to
teachers,
students,
school board
members and
district
administrators.

“We want to
stop the death
threats, threats
to family
members, and
other
harassment
and acts of
intimidation,”
Slaven said.

—
This story has
been updated
to add
comment from
Chris Rufo.

—
This is part of
AP’s effort to
address widely
shared

companies and
organizations

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misleading
content that is
circulating
online. [Learn
more about
fact-checking
at AP.](#)



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Promoted:
The

Motley
Fool

Promoted:
Covid

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NOT REAL NEWS: A look at what didn't happen this week

By The Associated Press October 8, 2021



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A roundup of some of the most popular but completely

None of these

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were shared

widely on
social media.

The Associated
Press checked
them out. Here
are the facts:

—

Pfizer's
COVID-19
vaccine does
not contain
fetal cells,
contrary to
online claims

CLAIM: Newly
leaked emails
among Pfizer
employees
show that the
company's
COVID-19
vaccine
contains fetal
cells.

THE FACTS: A
widely shared
video by the
group Project
Veritas has led
to a false claim
online that
purported
emails among
Pfizer officials
show that the

**THE APP THAT'S TEACHING AMERICANS
Spanish In 15 Minutes A Day**

Babbel

**Long-serving Utah US Senator Orrin
Hatch dies at age 88**

**The Dead Giveaway That Tells You When
Amazon's Giving You A Better Price Than
Other Retailers**

Capital One Shopping

**Michigan GOP picks candidates with
Trump clout on the line**

by Taboola

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vaccine

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CELLS. BUT THE
video — an
interview
between
Project Veritas
founder James
O’Keefe and a
self-identified
Pfizer
employee who
claims to show
internal emails
from the
company —
does not
support that
erroneous
conclusion.
Instead, it
shows that the
company used
a fetal cell line
when testing
the efficacy of
its vaccine.
Cell lines,
which are key
to medical
research, are
cloned copies
of cells from
the same

source that
have been
adapted to
grow
continuously

the falsehood

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COVID-19

vaccine widely

on social

media. "You

are mandated

to inject dead

babies into

your body,"

one Twitter

account

sharing the

video falsely

claimed. "Fetal

cells in the

vaccines yet

they are

denying people

religious

exemptions."

At the heart of

the widely

shared video

spurring the

false claims are

purported

emails among

Pfizer officials

from early

2021. The

messages

displayed show

an alleged

conversation

about the

company's

reluctance to

publicize that

testing of its

that was

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fetal tissue.

One of the main emails cited specifically says, "Human fetal derived cell lines are not used to produce our investigational vaccine, which consists of synthetic and enzymatically produced components."

It adds: "One or more cell lines with an origin that can be traced back to human fetal tissue has been used in laboratory tests associated with the vaccine program." The video also shows an email

referencing the HEK293T cell line — or Human Embryonic

the early 1970s

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of a cell.
What's not
made clear in
the video is
that it is
already
public record
that Pfizer's
vaccine was
tested using
such cells. In a
paper
published in
September
2020 detailing
the vaccine's
development
and success in
mice and
monkeys,
Pfizer and
BioNTech
scientists said
that the
vaccine had
been tested
using the
HEK293T cell
line. And the
United States
Conference of
Catholic

Bishops in a
January
document
about the
COVID-19

used an

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line in the
development
or production
of the vaccine.

However, such
a cell line was
used to test
the efficacy of
both vaccines.”

The
conference
recommended
that, in the
absence of a
vaccine with
no connection
at all to such a
cell line,
vaccines that
use them “only
for testing
would be
preferable to
those that use
such cell lines
for ongoing
production.”

Dr. Saahir
Khan, an
assistant
clinical
professor of

infectious
diseases at the
University of
Southern
California. said

components of

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and none used
in
manufacturing.”
Khan said it is
very common
to use such cell
lines
somewhere
along the way
in the research
or
development
of vaccines and
other medicine
for humans.
He said such
cell lines,
started
decades ago,
are grown in
labs — so the
cells being
used for
research are
not the
original cells.
One COVID-19
vaccine used in
the U.S., from
Johnson &
Johnson, is
produced by

using an
adenovirus
that is grown
using retinal
cells that trace

the Vaccine

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Children's

Hospital of
Philadelphia.

Vaccines for
chickenpox

and other

diseases also

use this type of

process. But

none of these

vaccines

contain fetal

cells. Pfizer did

not respond to

questions

about the

Project Veritas

video, but a

spokesperson

pointed out

that

information

about the

testing has

been publicly

disclosed

through a

number of

sources and

news reports.

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Press writer

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contributed
this report.

—
The FBI is not
targeting
opponents of
critical race
theory

CLAIM:
“Attorney
General
Merrick
Garland has
instructed the
FBI to
mobilize
against parents
who oppose
critical race
theory in
public schools,
citing
‘threats.’”

THE FACTS: A
memo Garland
issued on
Monday to
address a rise
in criminal
conduct
targeting
school
personnel is
being
misrepresented
online.

critical race

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FBI would
work with U.S.
attorneys and
federal, state
and local
authorities to
develop
strategies to
combat what
he called “a
disturbing
spike” in
violent threats
facing
educators,
administrators
and school
boards. The
trend was
highlighted in
a Sept. 29
letter from the
National
School Boards
Association to
President Joe
Biden
requesting
federal
assistance to
investigate
mounting

threats and
crimes against
educators and
school
officials.

activist known

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critical race
theory — a
way of thinking
about
America’s
history
through the
lens of racism
— shared the
erroneous
claim that the
FBI was
specifically
targeting
public school
parents who
oppose such
race education.

Wyn
Hornbuckle,
the Justice
Department’s
deputy
director of
media affairs,
told The
Associated
Press the claim
was misleading
and stated that
the Attorney
General’s

guidance and
the Justice
Department’s
efforts are
focused on

violence for

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particular

ideology.

“There has

been

misinformation

circulated that

the Attorney

General’s

directive is an

effort to

silence those

with particular

views about

COVID-related

policies, school

curricula, or

other topics of

public

discussion.

This is simply

not true,”

Hornbuckle

wrote in an

email. Critical

race theory,

developed by

scholars during

the 1970s and

1980s, centers

on the idea

that racism is

systemic in the

nation’s

institutions

and that they

function to

maintain the

concept has

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by
conservative
commentators,
lawmakers and
former
President
Donald Trump.
The NSBA's
letter did not
specifically
focus on
threats
surrounding
critical race
theory. It
asked for the
federal
government to
investigate any
cases where
threats or
violence could
be handled as
violations of
federal civil
rights laws —
no matter what
prompted
them. "NSBA
and school
board
members don't

want to stop
parents from
expressing
their First
Amendment

emailed to the

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death threats,
threats to
family
members, and
other
harassment
and acts of
intimidation
that school
board
members are
facing.” The
group
documented
more than 20
instances of
threats,
harassment,
disruption and
acts of
intimidation
across multiple
states. While
the letter did
cite several
threats it had
flagged in
response to
false assertions
that school
boards were
adopting

critical race
theory
curriculum,
the majority of
the threats it

coronavirus-

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including mask
and vaccine
requirements
in schools.

— Associated
Press writer
Sophia Tulp in
Atlanta
contributed
this report,
with additional
reporting from
Terrence
Fraser in New
York.

—
Infrastructure
bill doesn't
include tax on
cows

CLAIM: Under
the proposed
infrastructure
bill, farmers
will be taxed
for each cow,
including
\$6,500 a year
for dairy cows.

THE FACTS:
The
infrastructure
bill, a \$1
trillion

the Senate,

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PROVISION. TEL
in a tweet
shared by
thousands that
also circulated
on Facebook, a
conservative
commentator
falsely claimed
the legislation
would impose
taxes on cows
that would
cripple
American
agriculture.

“Just one
example cattle
farmers have
to pay \$2600
PER COW a
year,” Melissa
Tate wrote.

“Dairy cows
\$6500 a year.
This will put
millions of
cattle farmers
out of
business.” Tate
did not
respond to a

request for
comment. The
erroneous
claim follows a
congressman’s

trillion

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as the bill
Back Better
Act, that is
supported by
many
Democrats. In
a statement
criticizing that
bill, Oklahoma
Rep.
Markwayne
Mullin said the
legislation
“would impose
a ‘fee’ on all
methane
emissions,
including in
our agriculture
industry. ...
The tax is
estimated to
cost \$6,500 per
dairy cow,
\$2,600 per
head of cattle,
and \$500 per
swine each
year.” But the
reconciliation
bill as
currently

drafted
includes taxes
on methane
emissions
relating to oil

livestock. A

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acknowledged
that the bill
does not
currently
contain those
provisions.

“This is what
could happen
if the methane
fee were
applied to
agriculture,”

Meredith
Blanford said
in an email.

She said that
while the text
of the bill only
specifies the
oil and gas
industry, it
also references
the

Environmental
Protection
Agency’s

greenhouse gas
inventory “and
leaves too
much room for
the EPA to
expand its

regulatory
reach.”

Blanford said
the numbers
were derived

Bureau

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group. The organization's vice president for public affairs, Sam Kieffer, said in a Sept. 30 statement that the group's economists over the summer conducted an analysis of potential costs on agriculture using proposals relating to the methane tax on oil and gas. "To clear up any confusion, I want to make clear that the current language of the reconciliation bill does not impose a methane tax on

agriculture," Kieffer said.

— Angelo Fichera

AP NEWS

Listen

need to be
vaccinated to

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home in New
York

CLAIM: New
York hospitals,
including NYU
Langone
Health, will
not release
newborn
babies or
infants in
neonatal
intensive care
units,
frequently
referred to as
NICUs, to
parents who
have not been
vaccinated.

THE FACTS:
No such
restrictions
exist. The false
information,
which claimed
to stem from
Centers for
Disease
Control and
Prevention

guidelines,
circulated
widely on
Twitter,
Facebook and

Langone and

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NEW YORK AND

Long Island
are Forcing
that if the
parent is not
VAXXED they
will not release
Babies from
the NICU to
Parents or
after birth as
per CDC
Guidelines.
You Need to
Show VAX-
Passport to see
your own New
Born Baby,”
the false post
states. State
health officials
said there was
no truth to the
claim. “The
New York
State
Department of
Health is
deeply
disturbed by
the grossly
inaccurate

messages
being spread
on social
media
regarding the

parents/guardians

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hospital based
upon
vaccination
status,” Jill
Montag,
director of
communications
at the state
Department of
Health, told
the AP in an
email. NYU
Langone
Health
addressed the
baseless claims
on Twitter last
week. “In
response to
the false &
completely
unfounded
post
circulating on
social media:
NYU Langone
DOES NOT
prohibit a
parent/guardian
from taking a
child home
from the NICU

due to their
vaccination
status — we
vehemently
discourage the

information,”

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— Associated
Press writer
Arijeta Lajka in
New York
contributed
this report.

—
Teen’s death in
England
misrepresented
by vaccine
opponents

Adam Ali, a
high school
student from
Solihull, a
town in West
Midlands,
England, died
from the
COVID-19
vaccine.

THE FACTS:
Ali, a 17-year-
old student
who died in
September,
had not been
vaccinated
against

COVID-19. His
death was
misrepresented
online. The
actual cause of

spokesperson

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hospitals

Birmingham

NHS. One false

tweet claimed,

“Adam Ali 17

years old from

Alderbrook

school, had his

first jab, had

instant adverse

reaction,

convulsing,

blood clots,”

adding “he

died the other

day within two

weeks and not

a word from

the media.” Ali,

a student at

Alderbrook

Sixth Form in

Solihull, died

at

Birmingham’s

Queen

Elizabeth

Hospital on

Sept. 19. “We

can confirm

that Adam did

not have a

COVID-19

vaccination;

the cause of

his tragic death

is currently

Birmingham

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program at

University

Hospitals

Birmingham

NHS said in an

emailed

statement.

— Arijeta

Lajka

—

Posts falsely

claim sex

offenders don't

carry

identifying

cards for

privacy

reasons

CLAIM: Sex

offenders are

not required to

carry cards

identifying

them as sex

offenders

because it is an

invasion of

their privacy.

THE FACTS:

Several states

require

registered sex

offenders to

carry special

identification.

laws, it has

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Amendment,
not privacy.
Social media
users are
misrepresenting
sex offender
laws as they
criticize
requirements
to show proof
of COVID-19
vaccination,
and incorrectly
compare the
two. “So we
need a vaccine
card to drink a
beer at a bar,
but sex
offenders don’t
need to carry
anything?”
reads the text
on one widely
shared TikTok
video. “The
U.S. has over
750,000
registered sex
offenders and
NONE of them
are required to

carry a
passport
because it
violates their
privacy.”

rest on the

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protections
prevent sex
offenders from
being required
to carry special
identification.
But experts on
sex offender
laws confirmed
that in at least
nine states, sex
offenders do
have to carry a
state ID card
with a special
label. "In some
states this says
Sex Offender
while in others
the
designation is
a code that is
known to law
enforcement,"
said Elizabeth
Jeglic, a
professor and
psychologist at
John Jay
College in New
York who
researches

sexual violence
prevention.
Courts in some
states have
struck down

themselves in

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not cited

privacy

reasons.

Instead, they

have pointed

to the First

Amendment's

compelled

speech

doctrine,

which says the

government

can't force an

individual or

group to

convey a

certain

message. The

claims

spreading

online this

week also fail

to recognize

that registered

sex offenders

have limited

access to

privacy as it is,

according to

Alissa

Ackerman, an

assistant

professor of

criminal

justice at

California

State

offenders are

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must upload
their full name,
demographic
information,
aliases,
birthday,
address and
other
information to
a public
database,
Ackerman said.
“So they don’t
have a lot of
privacy,” she
said. “This
claim that is
being made
online is just
asinine.”

— Associated
Press write Ali
Swenson in
New York
contributed
this report.

—
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Checks here:
<https://apnews.com/>

—
Follow
@APFactCheck
on Twitter:
<https://twitter.com/A>



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UKIA

...

KY...

an
hour
ago

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of...

Promoted:
Washington
Examiner

Distr

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Of...

Promoted:
SmartAsset

Wh

y

A...

Promoted:
The
Farmer's
Dog

The

Futu

re ...

Promoted:
Tonal

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a...

LON

DO



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From: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>

Sent: Sunday, September 26, 2021 9:29 PM

To: Garcia, Viola [REDACTED]; Henderson, Frank - KS [REDACTED]; Swett, Kristi (UT) [REDACTED]; Wilson, Charlie [REDACTED]

Subject: Draft Letter to the President

Good evening Viola, Frank, Kristi, and Charlie:

I wanted to share with you the letter we plan on sending the President regarding threats to school board members and public schools. Deborah Rigsby worked on it and did a great job. It is very bold and calls for threat assessments to be conducted by various federal law enforcement agencies. It also calls out several of the problems that have been publicly reported. We will be doing some more editing in the morning, but I wanted to make sure I shared it with you prior to it going out. Jason believes this will get some attention. Please let me know if you have any questions or see any necessary edits.

Thanks,
Chip

From: Frank Henderson [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 27, 2021 12:00 PM
To: Kristi Swett [REDACTED]
Cc: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>; Garcia, Viola [REDACTED]; Wilson, Charlie [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Draft Letter to the President

It looks great! I agree with the edits and adding Viola!

Thanks!

Frank

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 27, 2021, at 10:08 AM, Kristi Swett [REDACTED] wrote:
Thank you, Chip, the letter looks good... a bit long, but the content is relevant and provides perspective to the issues. I would agree with Charlie, I would like to see Violas name included, unless she has objections.

Kristi

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 26, 2021, at 7:29 PM, Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org> wrote:

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Thanks,
Chip
<NSBA Letter-Federal Intervention 9-2021.pdf>
Scanned By Microsoft EOP

From: viola garcia [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 27, 2021 12:09 PM
To: Chip Slaven <cslaven@nsba.org>; Kristi Swett [REDACTED]
Cc: Henderson, Frank - KS [REDACTED] Wilson, Charlie [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Draft Letter to the President

I agree and have not objection.

Thanks,
Viola

On Monday, September 27, 2021, 10:07:35 AM CDT, Kristi Swett [REDACTED] wrote:

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Kristi
Sent from my iPhone

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Chip

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Sent from my iPhone

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Thanks,

Chip

<NSBA Letter-Federal Intervention 9-2021.pdf>

Scanned By Microsoft EOP

From: Wilson, Charlie [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 26, 2021 9:47 PM
To: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>; Garcia, Viola [REDACTED]; Henderson, Frank - KS [REDACTED]; Swett, Kristi (UT) [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Draft Letter to the President

The letter looks fine to me with just one typo that I saw. However is misspelled early in the letter. I do, however, have one question: Should the letter be signed by both the CEO and our President? --charlie

From: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 26, 2021 9:29 PM
To: Garcia, Viola [REDACTED]; Henderson, Frank - KS [REDACTED]; Swett, Kristi (UT) [REDACTED]; Wilson, Charlie [REDACTED]
Subject: Draft Letter to the President

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Thanks,
Chip

New iMessage

Cancel

To: Frank Henderson



I just signed on to the meeting Frank. Your portion is set to start at 12:15 eastern in about 15 minutes

I'm on!

Great. Text me if you need anything

Will do

We have not sent the letter to the President yet. We plan to that shortly after we wrap up here. We will probably publicly release it later today Jason is still working on the rollout and we will finalize that process this afternoon. FYI

Ok. Thanks

Wed, Sep 29, 1:32 PM

You did a great job Frank

To: Viola Garcia



Wed, Sep 29, 7:56 PM

Unless you object I thought I would share the letter to President Biden with the board . Jane is going to send it to the executive directors after I get it to board. Are you okay with me going ahead and sending it to the board?
Thanks

Yes, do send it.

Thanks! Will do

Thu, Sep 30, 1:08 PM

Please call me when you have a few minutes.
Thanks!

Thu, Sep 30, 8:59 PM

Good luck tomorrow Viola! Jason says you are ready to go!

I just did Chris Hayes and I'm off for the rest of the night. The Don Leming piece was moved to tomorrow night. Good night



iMessage



Floyd >

iMessage
Thu, Sep 30, 7:23 PM

Good report on CNBC.
Thank you.

Fri, Oct 1, 8:12 AM

Frank Henderson

Our letter to President Biden made NBC news Today Show! Nice job!

Viola just did a interview on CNN. She did fantastic!

Viola Garcia

I just got off CNN and Chip did various live interviews yesterday. It's picking up steam!

Frank Henderson

Super!! Thank you!!

Charlie Wilson

I watched Viola live. She did a great job. I understand Chip and one of my fellow board members will be on cnn tonight live.

Frank Henderson

Wow! That's great!

Kristi Swett

MSNBC also picked up the story

From: viola garcia [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, October 2, 2021 9:38 AM
To: Frank [REDACTED]; Kristi Swett [REDACTED] Chip Slaven
<cslaven@nsba.org>; Wilson, Charlie [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: NSBA Letter to President Biden on Threats School Boards Members and Public Schools

Thank you, Charlie! I agree that the responses are positive and appreciative.

We'll talk on Tuesday about reactions from some on our board.

Regards,
Viola

On Saturday, October 2, 2021, 08:34:03 AM CDT, Wilson, Charlie [REDACTED] wrote:

Viola,

I must admit I received numerous incomprehensible emails from her when I was president. I think I am a little bit competent at reading and deciphering difficult writings, but I was often unable to make sense of most of her emails. I assumed she was intentionally gaslighting me to get me to question my sanity. I now think you may be correct that there is something amiss with her frame of mind. What she has written is incomprehensible.

For what it is worth, the feedback I'm getting is universally positive and highly congratulatory. The only criticism I have heard is why did NSBA take so long sending this letter to Biden. The administration has dragged its feet coming to the defense of local officials in the face of this nationally coordinated and well-funded attack on local officials. This attack strikes directly at the future of our democracy and republican form of government; but the administration has been missing in action. Many have never been so proud of NSBA for its willingness to challenge the Biden administration to do better to preserve our republican form of government.

Thanks,

Charlie

From: viola garcia [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, October 2, 2021 9:04 AM
To: Frank [REDACTED]@ [REDACTED]; Kristi Swett [REDACTED]; Wilson, Charlie
[REDACTED]@ [REDACTED] Chip Slaven <cslaven@nsba.org>
Subject: Fw: NSBA Letter to President Biden on Threats School Boards Members and Public Schools

Sometimes I wonder about Pam's frame of mind. I can't make out what she means or intends and thought I'd share with you.

Regards,

Viola

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Pam Doyle [REDACTED]

To: viola garcia [REDACTED]

Sent: Saturday, October 2, 2021, 07:56:57 AM CDT

Subject: Re: NSBA Letter to President Biden on Threats School Boards Members and Public Schools

All over the boards meant the email would be fragmented because I am getting bombarded and mind is racing as I try to convey thoughts in a concise and effective way

Pam Doyle

On Sat, Oct 2, 2021, 7:53 AM viola garcia [REDACTED] wrote:

Thank you, Pam. I'm not clear about your message. My email was to the board and staff, so yes, it will be all over the board.

Thanks,

Viola

On Saturday, October 2, 2021, 07:39:25 AM CDT, Pam Doyle [REDACTED] wrote:

Viola,

I will warn you up front, this email is going to be all over the board and may cause you angst, because quite frankly, I have little confidence that anything I say or do will matter. My head is spinning from all the civic and national groups and news reports about the letter that you sent to President Biden as well as the criticism I am getting in Southern Region. I have been respectful not to flame the fire by sending out to all board members and staff quite a few times on things I hoped you would correct, but this has not worked. I am giving you this opportunity to hear me speak frankly and hope you will take my words as seriously as you have those you have been listening to in your inner circle. Everything I have said is to help and prepare you for possible adverse actions that affect NSBA.

Thank you for sharing the response you sent to John. I don't believe anyone disagrees with having the conversation, but whoever wrote that letter went too far in several areas and I take great offense with it.

The letter put me as a nsba board member, state associate board member, local school board member, parent, grandparent and business owner in a defensive position. The length of accusations, insults, and characterizations further divided our boards from those we serve. The very fact that the Board was not given advance notice or allowed input indicates that the officers are not listening to the Board, or it's members. We do not get regular updates although the officers meet with Chip weekly, and have 12 states that are on the brink of leaving. Do you realize 12 states can start an organization or join other organizations like David Picklers' or even Tom Gentzels? Those states are the movers and shakers. The ones that come to the table with suggestions and support for NSBA. They have been ignored and labeled as "very vocal minorities" and dismissed in my opinion.

I know Charlie has problems with his community, and has been very vocal about that, while in turn many of us have great relationships with ours and engage them in the process. To counter attack those who exhibited bad behavior at some school board meetings only put NSBA at their level. That does not reflect what is happening in districts that are functioning in an open way embracing the community members they serve.

Tolerance, Equity, Inclusion, Transparency are only words. Our actions are our reputation. It is our fiduciary responsibility to be the model of good behavior and FOCUS ON OUR MISSION, CORE VALUE, BYLAWS and MEMBERS. Every member. Again, NARROW THE FOCUS and save NSBA.

There will always be common local issues that plague schools throughout the United States. Our concerns should be defined as how we deliver education in a high quality, academic driven, safe, serving the whole child in the best way possible, in an equitable way, at the local level.

Our organization serves all the state associations. This should have been vetted through several levels before referencing incidents in our member's states and linking articles to their district news. That has now drawn attention and a negative light to our members among their state leaders and others.

Statements have been made about our school boards transparency and working together, but NSBA has not fulfilled that obligation to our Board and members. We continue to have executive sessions that do not stay on the topic related to confidentiality. The members do not trust us and several board members said they don't trust the officers in one executive session.

You asked President Biden to intervene with means to protect boards from parents and the community. That offends me and all those I have heard from.

LOCAL CONTROL. . I think it hurt us as an organization and put a black eye on public education. Our credibility is under fire. Rightfully so.

We will see what the 12 states do now. I don't think this is going to end well.

I pray for all the children of this great country that we adults can put aside personal agendas and take care of business without getting pulled into individual and local district power struggles.

Pam

On Sat, Oct 2, 2021, 6:59 AM viola garcia [REDACTED] wrote:

Good morning NSBA Directors,

First of all, I want to thank you for your active engagement and recent responses. These are troubling times. NSBA has been engaged with the White House and the Department of Education on these and other issues related to the pandemic for several weeks now. The pandemic and our heightened political environment have created a lot of tension in our society.

School boards have been under the spotlight since the start of the pandemic, but it's risen to a new level over the last few weeks. We felt compelled to say something when we started hearing about the threats, harassment, and acts of intimidation at school board meetings.

What we have witnessed are coordinated efforts, *playbooks*, for creating chaos at school board meetings and in local communities. Letters across states are very similar and these incidents are beyond random acts. What we are now seeing is a pattern of threats and violence occurring across state lines and via online platforms, which is why we need the federal government's assistance.

Disagreements are one thing, even among us, but what we're seeing is rising to a dangerous level in some instances. We also want the public to understand that these disruptions are interfering with school boards' most important business—ensuring the health, safety, and education of our students. These disruptions are interfering with the REAL issues facing school boards—ensuring we have enough good teachers for all students; serving students with disabilities; and making sure all kids have access to their internet in their homes. That's what school board members care about. It's why we decided to run for school board. We want to get back to the business of making sure that every student is preparing for a successful future.

I know, and we all acknowledge that email as a mode of communication about these serious matters does not optimize our ability to work through this together. I will follow up with the officers and Chip to coordinate next steps for all of us.

Regards, stay well and stay safe,

Viola

On Saturday, October 2, 2021, 12:11:18 AM CDT, Steven Chapman [REDACTED] wrote:

My hope for a letter like this, or any letter that we are going to send to the President of the United States and push through a press release is at least reviewed by the executive committee.

That being said, in Arizona earlier this year a governing board was forced to leave their boardroom due to security issues with those in attendance. After the board and staff left the room, those in the audience decided that it would be alright for them to stage their own board meeting, elect new board members, and vote on their own items. A month or so ago, we had an individual film himself with a parent and that parent's student on their way to a school site with a pair of zip tie handcuffs to arrest a principal for enforcing a quarantine policy that was approved by the county and state. And these are just a few of several examples just in my state. These are not acts of concerned parents, nor should they be dismissed as just one off situations.

I agree that if a board meeting remains civil, and the community is at the microphone during public comment criticizing board/district decisions, threatening to recall or vote them out, that it is fair game whether we agree on their rationale or not. But when it becomes more, it needs to be taken seriously. We have seen what happens when it is not taken seriously.

We need to be mindful of the political ramifications of any action or inaction we take, but we also cannot shy away from every controversial issue. No elected official or public servant should be in physical danger because of the work they do.

Steven Chapman

Board of Directors, Pacific Region | NSBA

Immediate Past President | ASBA

Immediate Past Chair | NSBA Pacific Region

Past President, Board Member | Tolleson UHSD



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On Fri, Oct 1, 2021 at 7:54 PM Beverly Slough <Beverly.Slough@stjohns.k12.fl.us> wrote:

Thank you, John. Very thoughtful analysis of our current situation. I agree - we must do better.

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From: John Halkias [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, October 1, 2021 10:50:52 PM
To: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>

Cc: 2021-2022 Board of Directors <2021-2022-BOD@nsba.org>; Elena Kukanova – Carpenter <ECarpenter@nsba.org>; Francisco Negron <fnegron@nsba.org>; Jane Mellow <JMellow@nsba.org>; Renee Joe <RJoe@nsba.org>; Kimberly Muse <KMuse@nsba.org>; Patricia Boyd-King <pboyd-king@nsba.org>

Subject: Re: NSBA Letter to President Biden on Threats School Boards Members and Public Schools

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. **Do not** click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. Please report suspicious or potentially dangerous emails using the "Phish Alert Button".

After a challenging week and seeing the responses of some of my fellow board members to this issue, I wanted to think through this more deeply and share my thoughts.

I have no doubt that this was done with the best of intentions and in an attempt to support our members and our schools during this difficult time for us. Many of us have faced challenges these last two years that we have never faced in our history as school board members. It has indeed been difficult, but we have faced them and persevered. We do want the understanding and support of our association for our membership.

However, while I believe the intent was good, unfortunately, instead of helping our members and working to decrease the tensions and hostility that many of us are facing, we seem to have fanned those flames of hostility and division. Rather than helping our cause and calming the waters, this letter has re-awakened hostilities that were just beginning to finally calm down as the things many of us put in place were having a positive effect on student safety, learning, and attendance.

I agree with many of my colleagues that the Board of Directors should have been consulted before a letter like this was sent out publicly, and no less to the President of the United States and the National Press. I also agree that the letter took a stance that went beyond what many of us would consider to be reasonable and used terms that were extreme, and asked for action by the Federal Government that many of us would not request. In fact in a recent press conference, the White House Press Secretary stated that when these incidents occur, it is a matter for local law enforcement and local authorities, and NOT the Federal government. Local control has been a stalwart of our principles, and we do not want to abandon that concept now.

Many of us have been put in a position now of explaining or defending this action of our association as we are asked by members of our community if we consider them domestic terrorists for showing up to our meetings and expressing their opinions. As a Member of this Board, I can defend the intent, but not the approach or much of the tone or content. And it makes me chagrined to have to say that. I have learned

in my own state of Ohio that is filled with diverse views that it does me no good to ignore the views of my neighbors and not try to find common ground rather than sow division.

This letter has created a new and renewed firestorm. We have given our loudest critics more ammunition to criticize us. I believe this letter was created unfortunately in the same kind of vacuum that has fueled the recent criticism of this Board and our Association.

We can, and should do better, but we can only do that if we work together and collaborate for our common good rather than acting without our full consent and counsel. We owe that to our association and our membership if we are to continue and succeed.

Sorry for the length of this, but what happened with this letter and the backlash I am seeing has made me reflect on my service on this board to this point, and how we have gone about our business that goes beyond this letter, and has caused me concern. If we don't do better, the very survival and relevance of NSBA is at stake.

John W. Halkias

Director, Central Region NSBA

Sent from my iPad

On Sep 29, 2021, at 8:18 PM, Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org> wrote:

Good evening,

Attached is a letter President Garcia asked that I share with the board. It was sent to President Biden concerning threats to public schools and school board members. We co-signed the letter which lays out the current issues local school board members are facing and asks for federal cooperation with state and local law enforcement as well as public schools to address these serious issues. It also asks for threat assessments regarding the current situation. Additionally, in talks over the last several weeks with White House staff, they requested additional information on some of the specific threats, so the letter also details many of the incidents that have been occurring.

As you are probably aware, the level of threats and actual violence have increased the last few weeks and there are now some groups recognized for violence showing up at schools and school board

meetings. The level of concern is rising. It is hoped the letter will also call out the bad behavior occurring and promote calmer thinking when people are debating these important issues. This letter is embargoed until tomorrow morning when it will be shared publicly. The letter will also be shared this evening with the state association executive directors.

Thank you for all your leadership on your local school board.

Take care,

Chip

From: viola garcia [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, October 2, 2021 6:09 PM
To: Chip Slaven <cslaven@nsba.org>
Cc: Frank - KS Henderson [REDACTED]; Kristi (UT) Swett [REDACTED]; Wilson, Charlie [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: NSBA Letter to President Biden on Threats School Boards Members and Public Schools

Thank you so much, Chip. I'm assuming that only 4-5 on our board replied negatively. At least, that's all I saw. The details you shared are important to know. We'll need to discuss the best way to share with the board.

I agree, if NSBA does not step out now, then when?

Thank you all for being such great advocates for public education and for school boards!

Regards,
Viola

On Oct 2, 2021 at 2:05 PM, <[Chip Slaven](#)> wrote:
Good afternoon,

I'm going to refrain from any board wide communications on this for now. Viola, your response was excellent, and I appreciate you sending it. But I did want to offer a few things for us to consider that may help in responding to the questions and concerns.

First, the letter was shared with the board of directors Wednesday evening prior to it going out to the press which didn't happen until Thursday morning. I received no emails or even acknowledgment let alone questions or concerns. The first I saw of any board interest occurred almost two days after the letter was shared. They only are complaining now because they are being asked about it. The correct response by them should be to say they stand by the letter because they are concerned about stopping violence. For them not to push back strenuously that NSBA is not calling parents terrorists or limiting free speech is an outrageous lack of moral courage and a demonstration of a willingness not to lead.

In the letter, the word(s) "student" or "students" are used 19 times. The word(s) schoolchildren or children are used 5 times. Terrorism is referred to twice. *"As these acts of malice, violence, and threats against public school officials have increased, the classification of these heinous actions could be the equivalent to a form of domestic terrorism and hate crimes"* and domestic terrorism is referred to one other time related to the Patriot Act to distinguish it from the action available under foreign terrorism. The word(s) "parent" or "parents" are used 0 times. So, the claim we are calling parents terrorists is not only ridiculous, the fact is we don't refer to parents at all in the letter, not one time.

In regard to federal overreach, this is an absolutely legitimate request of the federal government. Threats through the mails or through electronic means are federal crimes. I know the FBI is already investigating at least one threat and I am sure there are many more we are not aware of they are also

investigating. The U.S. Secret Service runs the National Threat Assessment Center to deal with this very kind of situation. They released a report on targeted school violence in 2019 to help prevent violence in and to schools. This is the description given in the report:

"The U.S. Secret Service has a longstanding tradition of conducting threat assessments as part of its mandate to ensure the safety of this Nation's highest elected officials. Our National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC) is dedicated to expanding the field of violence prevention by closely examining the targeted violence that affects communities across the United States. As part of this mission, NTAC has maintained a particular focus on the prevention of targeted school violence. For 20 years, the Center has studied these tragedies, and the following report, titled Protecting America's Schools: A U.S. Secret Service Analysis of Targeted School Violence, supports past Secret Service research findings that indicate targeted school violence is preventable."

It should also be noted that the California School Boards Association, our largest member by far, wrote a public letter to Governor Newsome requesting state law enforcement help because local police were not responding to threats and problems in many communities. As Charlie has pointed out, his own district has had difficulty getting local police to respond to the school district. We left those references out of the letter, but they are realities. This move is meant to push local authorities to do more without calling them out.

The final thing I would point out is that the Proud Boys which is a known extremist hate group with a history of violence, including at the U.S. Capitol, have been showing up at board meetings and they marched on a public school in session in Vancouver, WA to "escort" a mask-less student into the building and the schools had to be locked down. I don't want to call them out publicly because it gives them more publicity but their involvement as well as the interest schools are now getting from the Qanon movement make this a very dangerous situation. The references to domestic terrorism acts are really referring to them.

This is definitely an uncomfortable situation and does make NSBA more visible to the opponents of public schools and some of the very people threatening school board members. I am now receiving some of the same emails school board members have received. Thankfully it has been a small number and they have not contained any direct threats, but national organizations are supposed to lead and this comes with the territory. NASSP called for federal action two weeks ago. It just didn't receive as much press. Randi Weingarten of AFT called me yesterday to commend us for being so bold and promised to work with us to try and cool temperatures down. The White House was extremely careful in their wording on Thursday as they should be, first responders are going to be local authorities, but she also called the incidents horrible and suggested there was movement going on in the federal government which has been occurring for several weeks. I was made aware the WH staff met with the DOJ a week ago Wednesday. I gave the WH the bullets that were going to be in the letter the night before that meeting and we sat on the letter for a week. In the private responses I received back on Thursday we were thanked for our leadership, and they pledged to work with us. The fact that there is pushback on this shows the power the letter carried. The coalition letter that came out in opposition clearly stated it was against violent acts. That is of itself was positive even if their response was inaccurate, which it was, National news are now showing clips of the incidents before they talk about the letter and that makes the organizers and dark money funders nervous. I would also add that San Diego has been a hotbed of incidents and problems. I have been very concerned about the security precautions for the Annual Conference. The letter will now make private calls to federal, state, and local authorities to help us secure the site more likely to be productive so we can have a safe gathering.

These are just a few of my thoughts I wanted to share.

Thanks again for strong leadership that the four of you are showing.

Take care,
Chip

From: viola garcia [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, October 2, 2021 9:14 AM
To: Henderson , Frank - KS [REDACTED]; Swett, Kristi (UT) [REDACTED];
Wilson, Charlie - OH [REDACTED]; Chip Slaven [REDACTED]
Subject: Fw: NSBA Letter to President Biden on Threats School Boards Members and Public Schools

FYI,
Viola

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: viola garcia [REDACTED]@ [REDACTED]
To: Janine Bay Teske [REDACTED]
Cc: Swett, Kristi (UT) [REDACTED]@ [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, October 2, 2021, 08:10:24 AM CDT
Subject: Re: NSBA Letter to President Biden on Threats School Boards Members and Public Schools

Thank you, Janine. I appreciate your words of wisdom. I think this is the section of the letter that you reference "calling parents terrorists." That's not what the section says, but it is obvious that "bad words" create fodder for those intent on misinformation.

I appreciate you!

Viola

As these acts of malice, violence, and threats against public school officials have increased, the classification of these heinous actions could be the equivalent to a form of domestic terrorism and hate crimes. As such, NSBA requests a joint expedited review by the U.S. Departments of Justice, Education, and Homeland Security, along with the appropriate training, coordination, investigations, and enforcement mechanisms from the FBI, including any technical assistance necessary from, and state and local coordination with, its National Security Branch and Counterterrorism Division, as well as any other federal agency with relevant jurisdictional authority and oversight. Additionally, NSBA requests that such review examine appropriate enforceable actions against these crimes and acts of violence under the Gun-Free School Zones Act, the PATRIOT Act in regards to domestic terrorism, the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, the Violent Interference with Federally Protected Rights statute, the Conspiracy Against Rights statute, an Executive Order to enforce all applicable federal laws for the protection of students and public school district personnel, and any related measure. As

the threats grow and news of extremist hate organizations showing up at school board meetings is being reported, this is a critical time for a proactive approach to deal with this difficult issue.

On Saturday, October 2, 2021, 07:38:21 AM CDT, Janine Bay Teske [REDACTED]@ [REDACTED] wrote:

Thank you for your email. As I was once in the media spotlight, I took a course on messaging. The course focused on good words and bad words. Bad words are words that evoke strong negative reactions. This letter is laced with bad words, calling parents terrorists, for example. We need to be the adults in the room and not revert to the same kind of action that is being used by those that are attacking us. We need to unite not divide. We should be setting the example for our students. We should be talking about civility, local control and the resources necessary to make our schools safe from the critics. This letter is divisive and certainly doesn't promote civility. We should not be using our schools as a political battleground.

On Sat, Oct 2, 2021 at 7:59 AM viola garcia [REDACTED]@ [REDACTED] wrote:

Good morning NSBA Directors,

First of all, I want to thank you for your active engagement and recent responses. These are troubling times. NSBA has been engaged with the White House and the Department of Education on these and other issues related to the pandemic for several weeks now. The pandemic and our heightened political environment have created a lot of tension in our society.

School boards have been under the spotlight since the start of the pandemic, but it's risen to a new level over the last few weeks. We felt compelled to say something when we started hearing about the threats, harassment, and acts of intimidation at school board meetings.

What we have witnessed are coordinated efforts, *playbooks*, for creating chaos at school board meetings and in local communities. Letters across states are very similar and these incidents are beyond random acts. What we are now seeing is a pattern of threats and violence occurring across state lines and via online platforms, which is why we need the federal government's assistance.

Disagreements are one thing, even among us, but what we're seeing is rising to a dangerous level in some instances. We also want the public to understand that these disruptions are interfering with school boards' most important business—ensuring the health, safety, and education of our students. These disruptions are interfering with the REAL issues facing school boards—ensuring we have enough good teachers for all students; serving students with disabilities; and making sure all kids have access to their internet in their homes. That's what school board members care about. It's why we decided to run for school board. We want to get back to the business of making sure that every student is preparing for a successful future.

I know, and we all acknowledge that email as a mode of communication about these serious matters does not optimize our ability to work through this together. I will follow up with the officers and Chip to coordinate next steps for all of us.

Regards, stay well and stay safe,

Viola

On Saturday, October 2, 2021, 12:11:18 AM CDT, Steven Chapman <schapman.asba@gmail.com> wrote:

My hope for a letter like this, or any letter that we are going to send to the President of the United States and push through a press release is at least reviewed by the executive committee.

That being said, in Arizona earlier this year a governing board was forced to leave their boardroom due to security issues with those in attendance. After the board and staff left the room, those in the audience decided that it would be alright for them to stage their own board meeting, elect new board members, and vote on their own items. A month or so ago, we had an individual film himself with a parent and that parent's student on their way to a school site with a pair of zip tie handcuffs to arrest a principal for enforcing a quarantine policy that was approved by the county and state. And these are just a few of several examples just in my state. These are not acts of concerned parents, nor should they be dismissed as just one off situations.

I agree that if a board meeting remains civil, and the community is at the microphone during public comment criticizing board/district decisions, threatening to recall or vote them out, that it is fair game whether we agree on their rationale or not. But when it becomes more, it needs to be taken seriously. We have seen what happens when it is not taken seriously.

We need to be mindful of the political ramifications of any action or inaction we take, but we also cannot shy away from every controversial issue. No elected official or public servant should be in physical danger because of the work they do.

Steven Chapman
Board of Directors, Pacific Region | NSBA
Immediate Past President | ASBA
Immediate Past Chair | NSBA Pacific Region
Past President, Board Member | Tolleson UHSD



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On Fri, Oct 1, 2021 at 7:54 PM Beverly Slough <Beverly.Slough@stjohns.k12.fl.us> wrote:
Thank you, John. Very thoughtful analysis of our current situation. I agree - we must do better.

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From: John Halkias [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, October 1, 2021 10:50:52 PM
To: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Cc: 2021-2022 Board of Directors <2021-2022-BOD@nsba.org>; Elena Kukanova – Carpenter <ECarpenter@nsba.org>; Francisco Negron <fnegron@nsba.org>; Jane Mellow <JMellow@nsba.org>; Renee Joe <RJoe@nsba.org>; Kimberly Muse <KMuse@nsba.org>; Patricia Boyd-King <pboyd-king@nsba.org>
Subject: Re: NSBA Letter to President Biden on Threats School Boards Members and Public Schools

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After a challenging week and seeing the responses of some of my fellow board members to this issue, I wanted to think through this more deeply and share my thoughts.

I have no doubt that this was done with the best of intentions and in an attempt to support our members and our schools during this difficult time for us. Many of us have faced challenges these last two years that we have never faced in our history as school board members. It has indeed been difficult, but we have faced them and persevered. We do want the understanding and support of our association for our membership.

However, while I believe the intent was good, unfortunately, instead of helping our members and working to decrease the tensions and hostility that many of us are facing, we seem to have fanned those flames of hostility and division. Rather than helping our cause and calming the waters, this letter has re-awakened hostilities that were just beginning to finally calm down as the things many of us put in place were having a positive effect on student safety, learning, and attendance.

I agree with many of my colleagues that the Board of Directors should have been consulted before a letter like this was sent out publicly, and no less to the President of the United States and the National Press. I also agree that the letter took a stance that went beyond what many of us would consider to be reasonable and used terms that were extreme, and asked for action by the Federal Government that many of us would not request. In fact in a recent press conference, the White House Press Secretary stated that when these incidents occur, it is a matter for local law enforcement and local authorities, and NOT the Federal government. Local control has been a stalwart of our principles, and we do not want to abandon that concept now.

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in my own state of Ohio that is filled with diverse views that it does me no good to ignore the views of my neighbors and not try to find common ground rather than sow division.

This letter has created a new and renewed firestorm. We have given our loudest critics more ammunition to criticize us. I believe this letter was created unfortunately in the same kind of vacuum that has fueled the recent criticism of this Board and our Association.

We can, and should do better, but we can only do that if we work together and collaborate for our common good rather than acting without our full consent and counsel. We owe that to our association and our membership if we are to continue and succeed.

Sorry for the length of this, but what happened with this letter and the backlash I am seeing has made me reflect on my service on this board to this point, and how we have gone about our business that goes beyond this letter, and has caused me concern. If we don't do better, the very survival and relevance of NSBA is at stake.

John W. Halkias
Director, Central Region NSBA
Sent from my iPad

On Sep 29, 2021, at 8:18 PM, Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org> wrote:

Good evening,

Attached is a letter President Garcia asked that I share with the board. It was sent to President Biden concerning threats to public schools and school board members. We co-signed the letter which lays out the current issues local school board members are facing and asks for federal cooperation with state and local law enforcement as well as public schools to address these serious issues. It also asks for threat assessments regarding the current situation. Additionally, in talks over the last several weeks with White House staff, they requested additional information on some of the specific threats, so the letter also details many of the incidents that have been occurring.

As you are probably aware, the level of threats and actual violence have increased the last few weeks and there are now some groups recognized for violence showing up at schools and school board meetings. The level of concern is rising. It is hoped the letter will also call out the bad behavior occurring and promote calmer thinking when people are debating these important issues. This letter is embargoed until tomorrow morning when it will be shared publicly. The letter will also be shared this evening with the state association executive directors.

Thank you for all your leadership on your local school board.

Take care,

Chip

--

Janine Bay Teske
Associate Broker
Jackson Hole Real Estate Associates
[REDACTED]

From: Frank Henderson [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, October 2, 2021 3:30 PM
To: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Cc: Garcia, Viola [REDACTED]; Swett, Kristi (UT) [REDACTED] Wilson, Charlie [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: NSBA Letter to President Biden on Threats School Boards Members and Public Schools

Thank you Chip for your thorough follow up response. Viola, your response was excellent as well. Unfortunately, our board does not have a great deal of the information you shared in this email and there is a great deal of misunderstanding. Different folks have selected portion of the letter and applied their own interpretation.

It is extremely difficult when issues are politicized and folks believe a certain way and cannot accept the facts on an issue. An example is the Senators in Oklahoma that took offense to the reference to CRT, because they believe any discussion on diversity, equity, etc. is CRT and is actively taught in K12 school across the nation.

I look forward to our engagement on Tuesday.

Frank

On Oct 2, 2021, at 2:05 PM, Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org> wrote:

Good afternoon,

I'm going to refrain from any board wide communications on this for now. Viola, your response was excellent, and I appreciate you sending it. But I did want to offer a few things for us to consider that may help in responding to the questions and concerns.

First, the letter was shared with the board of directors Wednesday evening prior to it going out to the press which didn't happen until Thursday morning. I received no emails or even acknowledgment let alone questions or concerns. The first I saw of any board interest occurred almost two days after the letter was shared. They only are complaining now because they are being asked about it. The correct response by them should be to say they stand by the letter because they are concerned about stopping violence. For them not to push back strenuously that NSBA is not calling parents terrorists or limiting free speech is an outrageous lack of moral courage and a demonstration of a willingness not to lead.

In the letter, the word(s) "student" or "students" are used 19 times. The word(s) schoolchildren or children are used 5 times. Terrorism is referred to twice. "*As these acts of malice, violence, and threats against public school officials have increased, the classification of these heinous actions could be the equivalent to a form of domestic terrorism and hate crimes*" and domestic terrorism is referred to one other time related to the Patriot Act to distinguish it from the action available under foreign terrorism. The word(s) "parent" or "parents" are used 0 times. So, the claim we are calling parents terrorists is not only ridiculous, the fact is we don't refer to parents at all in the letter, not one time.

In regard to federal overreach, this is an absolutely legitimate request of the federal government. Threats through the mails or through electronic means are federal crimes. I know the FBI is already

investigating at least one threat and I am sure there are many more we are not aware of they are also investigating. The U.S. Secret Service runs the National Threat Assessment Center to deal with this very kind of situation. They released a report on targeted school violence in 2019 to help prevent violence in and to schools. This is the description given in the report:

"The U.S. Secret Service has a longstanding tradition of conducting threat assessments as part of its mandate to ensure the safety of this Nation's highest elected officials. Our National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC) is dedicated to expanding the field of violence prevention by closely examining the targeted violence that affects communities across the United States. As part of this mission, NTAC has maintained a particular focus on the prevention of targeted school violence. For 20 years, the Center has studied these tragedies, and the following report, titled Protecting America's Schools: A U.S. Secret Service Analysis of Targeted School Violence, supports past Secret Service research findings that indicate targeted school violence is preventable."

It should also be noted that the California School Boards Association, our largest member by far, wrote a public letter to Governor Newsome requesting state law enforcement help because local police were not responding to threats and problems in many communities. As Charlie has pointed out, his own district has had difficulty getting local police to respond to the school district. We left those references out of the letter, but they are realities. This move is meant to push local authorities to do more without calling them out.

The final thing I would point out is that the Proud Boys which is a known extremist hate group with a history of violence, including at the U.S. Capitol, have been showing up at board meetings and they marched on a public school in session in Vancouver, WA to "escort" a mask-less student into the building and the schools had to be locked down. I don't want to call them out publicly because it gives them more publicity but their involvement as well as the interest schools are now getting from the Qanon movement make this a very dangerous situation. The references to domestic terrorism acts are really referring to them.

This is definitely an uncomfortable situation and does make NSBA more visible to the opponents of public schools and some of the very people threatening school board members. I am now receiving some of the same emails school board members have received. Thankfully it has been a small number and they have not contained any direct threats, but national organizations are supposed to lead and this comes with the territory. NASSP called for federal action two weeks ago. It just didn't receive as much press. Randi Weingarten of AFT called me yesterday to commend us for being so bold and promised to work with us to try and cool temperatures down. The White House was extremely careful in their wording on Thursday as they should be, first responders are going to be local authorities, but she also called the incidents horrible and suggested there was movement going on in the federal government which has been occurring for several weeks. I was made aware the WH staff met with the DOJ a week ago Wednesday. I gave the WH the bullets that were going to be in the letter the night before that meeting and we sat on the letter for a week. In the private responses I received back on Thursday we were thanked for our leadership, and they pledged to work with us. The fact that there is pushback on this shows the power the letter carried. The coalition letter that came out in opposition clearly stated it was against violent acts. That is of itself was positive even if their response was inaccurate, which it was, National news are now showing clips of the incidents before they talk about the letter and that makes the organizers and dark money funders nervous. I would also add that San Diego has been a hotbed of incidents and problems. I have been very concerned about the security precautions for the Annual

Conference. The letter will now make private calls to federal, state, and local authorities to help us secure the site more likely to be productive so we can have a safe gathering.

These are just a few of my thoughts I wanted to share.

Thanks again for strong leadership that the four of you are showing.

Take care,
Chip

From: viola garcia [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, October 2, 2021 9:14 AM
To: Henderson , Frank - KS [REDACTED]; Swett, Kristi (UT) [REDACTED]
Wilson, Charlie - OH [REDACTED]; Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Subject: Fw: NSBA Letter to President Biden on Threats School Boards Members and Public Schools

FYI,
Viola

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: viola garcia [REDACTED]
To: Janine Bay Teske [REDACTED]@ [REDACTED]
Cc: Swett, Kristi (UT) [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, October 2, 2021, 08:10:24 AM CDT
Subject: Re: NSBA Letter to President Biden on Threats School Boards Members and Public Schools

Thank you, Janine. I appreciate your words of wisdom. I think this is the section of the letter that you reference "calling parents terrorists." That's not what the section says, but it is obvious that "bad words" create fodder for those intent on misinformation.

I appreciate you!

Viola

As these acts of malice, violence, and threats against public school officials have increased, the classification of these heinous actions could be the equivalent to a form of domestic terrorism and hate crimes. As such, NSBA requests a joint expedited review by the U.S. Departments of Justice, Education, and Homeland Security, along with the appropriate training, coordination, investigations, and enforcement mechanisms from the FBI, including any technical assistance necessary from, and state and local coordination with, its National Security Branch and Counterterrorism Division, as well as any other federal agency with relevant jurisdictional authority and oversight. Additionally, NSBA requests that such review examine appropriate enforceable actions against these crimes and acts of violence under the Gun-Free School Zones Act, the PATRIOT Act in regards to domestic terrorism, the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, the Violent Interference with Federally Protected Rights statute, the Conspiracy Against Rights statute, an Executive Order to enforce all applicable federal laws

for the protection of students and public school district personnel, and any related measure. As the threats grow and news of extremist hate organizations showing up at school board meetings is being reported, this is a critical time for a proactive approach to deal with this difficult issue.

On Saturday, October 2, 2021, 07:38:21 AM CDT, Janine Bay Teske [REDACTED] wrote:

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On Sat, Oct 2, 2021 at 7:59 AM viola garcia [REDACTED]

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Regards, stay well and stay safe,

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Board of Directors, Pacific Region | NSBA
Immediate Past President | ASBA
Immediate Past Chair | NSBA Pacific Region
Past President, Board Member | Tolleson UHSD



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Thank you, John. Very thoughtful analysis of our current situation. I agree - we must do better.

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Sent: Friday, October 1, 2021 10:50:52 PM
To: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Cc: 2021-2022 Board of Directors <2021-2022-BOD@nsba.org>; Elena Kukanova – Carpenter <ECarpenter@nsba.org>; Francisco Negron <fnegron@nsba.org>; Jane Mellow <JMellow@nsba.org>; Renee Joe <RJoe@nsba.org>; Kimberly Muse <KMuse@nsba.org>; Patricia Boyd-King <[Appendix Exhibits](mailto:pboyd-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

king@nsba.org>

Subject: Re: NSBA Letter to President Biden on Threats School Boards Members and Public Schools

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This letter has created a new and renewed firestorm. We have given our loudest critics more ammunition to criticize us. I believe this letter was created unfortunately in the same kind of vacuum that has fueled the recent criticism of this Board and our Association.

We can, and should do better, but we can only do that if we work together and collaborate for our common good rather than acting without our full consent and counsel. We owe that to our association and our membership if we are to continue and succeed.

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Director, Central Region NSBA
Sent from my iPad

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Thank you for all your leadership on your local school board.

Take care,
Chip

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Janine Bay Teske
Associate Broker
Jackson Hole Real Estate Associates
[REDACTED]

From: Wilson, Charlie [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, October 2, 2021 3:24 PM
To: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>; Garcia, Viola [REDACTED]; Henderson, Frank - KS [REDACTED]; Swett, Kristi (UT) [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: NSBA Letter to President Biden on Threats School Boards Members and Public Schools

Chip,

I have just a few thoughts:

1. The letter to Biden was NSBA's finest moment since I have been on the NSBA board. It was an excellent letter, and there is nothing I would change in hindsight.
2. I agree that Viola's response was excellent.
3. Your email below is totally spot-on, and I think it should be shared with the board.
4. The suggestion that the board should vote on letters, press releases, or other advocacy actions is micro-managing to the extreme.
5. I am really disappointed in a few members of our board in their lack of support for local school board members who are under attack. If NSBA will not stand up for locally elected school board members, then why does NSBA exist?
6. Finally, as your email suggests, local law enforcement always says that threatening letters and Internet communications are for the feds, not for local police.

Please do not apologize or be contrite about the letter. Our democracy and republican form of government is under attack. We can't stand by silently as our democracy slides into authoritarianism and lawlessness.

My 2 cents.
Charlie

From: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 2, 2021 3:05 PM
To: Garcia, Viola [REDACTED]; Henderson, Frank - KS [REDACTED]; Swett, Kristi (UT) [REDACTED]; Wilson, Charlie [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: NSBA Letter to President Biden on Threats School Boards Members and Public Schools

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It should also be noted that the California School Boards Association, our largest member by far, wrote a public letter to Governor Newsome requesting state law enforcement help because local police were not responding to threats and problems in many communities. As Charlie has pointed out, his own district has had difficulty getting local police to respond to the school district. We left those references out of the letter, but they are realities. This move is meant to push local authorities to do more without calling them out.

The final thing I would point out is that the Proud Boys which is a known extremist hate group with a history of violence, including at the U.S. Capitol, have been showing up at board meetings and they marched on a public school in session in Vancouver, WA to "escort" a mask-less student into the building and the schools had to be locked down. I don't want to call them out publicly because it gives them more publicity but their involvement as well as the interest schools are now getting from the Qanon movement make this a very dangerous situation. The references to domestic terrorism acts are really referring to them.

This is definitely an uncomfortable situation and does make NSBA more visible to the opponents of public schools and some of the very people threatening school board members. I am now receiving some of the same emails school board members have received. Thankfully it has been a small number and they have not contained any direct threats, but national organizations are supposed to lead and this comes with the territory. NASSP called for federal action two weeks ago. It just didn't receive as much press. Randi Weingarten of AFT called me yesterday to commend us for being so bold and promised to work with us to try and cool temperatures down. The White House was extremely careful in their wording on Thursday as they should be, first responders are going to be local authorities, but she also

called the incidents horrible and suggested there was movement going on in the federal government which has been occurring for several weeks. I was made aware the WH staff met with the DOJ a week ago Wednesday. I gave the WH the bullets that were going to be in the letter the night before that meeting and we sat on the letter for a week. In the private responses I received back on Thursday we were thanked for our leadership, and they pledged to work with us. The fact that there is pushback on this shows the power the letter carried. The coalition letter that came out in opposition clearly stated it was against violent acts. That is of itself was positive even if their response was inaccurate, which it was, National news are now showing clips of the incidents before they talk about the letter and that makes the organizers and dark money funders nervous. I would also add that San Diego has been a hotbed of incidents and problems. I have been very concerned about the security precautions for the Annual Conference. The letter will now make private calls to federal, state, and local authorities to help us secure the site more likely to be productive so we can have a safe gathering.

These are just a few of my thoughts I wanted to share.

Thanks again for strong leadership that the four of you are showing.

Take care,
Chip

From: viola garcia [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, October 2, 2021 9:14 AM
To: Henderson , Frank - KS [REDACTED]; Swett, Kristi (UT) [REDACTED];
Wilson, Charlie - OH [REDACTED]; Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Subject: Fw: NSBA Letter to President Biden on Threats School Boards Members and Public Schools

FYI,
Viola

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: viola garcia [REDACTED]@ [REDACTED]
To: Janine Bay Teske [REDACTED]@ [REDACTED]
Cc: Swett, Kristi (UT) [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, October 2, 2021, 08:10:24 AM CDT
Subject: Re: NSBA Letter to President Biden on Threats School Boards Members and Public Schools

Thank you, Janine. I appreciate your words of wisdom. I think this is the section of the letter that you reference "calling parents terrorists." That's not what the section says, but it is obvious that "bad words" create fodder for those intent on misinformation.

I appreciate you!

Viola

As these acts of malice, violence, and threats against public school officials have increased, the classification of these heinous actions could be the equivalent to a form of domestic

terrorism and hate crimes. As such, NSBA requests a joint expedited review by the U.S. Departments of Justice, Education, and Homeland Security, along with the appropriate training, coordination, investigations, and enforcement mechanisms from the FBI, including any technical assistance necessary from, and state and local coordination with, its National Security Branch and Counterterrorism Division, as well as any other federal agency with relevant jurisdictional authority and oversight. Additionally, NSBA requests that such review examine appropriate enforceable actions against these crimes and acts of violence under the Gun-Free School Zones Act, the PATRIOT Act in regards to domestic terrorism, the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, the Violent Interference with Federally Protected Rights statute, the Conspiracy Against Rights statute, an Executive Order to enforce all applicable federal laws for the protection of students and public school district personnel, and any related measure. As the threats grow and news of extremist hate organizations showing up at school board meetings is being reported, this is a critical time for a proactive approach to deal with this difficult issue.

On Saturday, October 2, 2021, 07:38:21 AM CDT, Janine Bay Teske [REDACTED]@ [REDACTED] wrote:

Thank you for your email. As I was once in the media spotlight, I took a course on messaging. The course focused on good words and bad words. Bad words are words that evoke strong negative reactions. This letter is laced with bad words, calling parents terrorists, for example. We need to be the adults in the room and not revert to the same kind of action that is being used by those that are attacking us. We need to unite not divide. We should be setting the example for our students. We should be talking about civility, local control and the resources necessary to make our schools safe from the critics. This letter is divisive and certainly doesn't promote civility. We should not be using our schools as a political battleground.

On Sat, Oct 2, 2021 at 7:59 AM viola garcia [REDACTED] > wrote:

Good morning NSBA Directors,

First of all, I want to thank you for your active engagement and recent responses. These are troubling times. NSBA has been engaged with the White House and the Department of Education on these and other issues related to the pandemic for several weeks now. The pandemic and our heightened political environment have created a lot of tension in our society.

School boards have been under the spotlight since the start of the pandemic, but it's risen to a new level over the last few weeks. We felt compelled to say something when we started hearing about the threats, harassment, and acts of intimidation at school board meetings.

What we have witnessed are coordinated efforts, *playbooks*, for creating chaos at school board meetings and in local communities. Letters across states are very similar and these incidents are beyond random acts. What we are now seeing is a pattern of threats and violence occurring across state lines and via online platforms, which is why we need the federal government's assistance.

Disagreements are one thing, even among us, but what we're seeing is rising to a dangerous level in some instances. We also want the public to understand that these disruptions are interfering with school boards' most important business—ensuring the health, safety, and education of our students. These disruptions are interfering with the REAL issues facing school boards—ensuring we have enough good teachers for all students; serving students with disabilities; and making sure all kids have access to their internet in their homes. That's what school board members care about. It's why we decided to run for school board. We want to get back to the business of making sure that every student is preparing for a successful future.

I know, and we all acknowledge that email as a mode of communication about these serious matters does not optimize our ability to work through this together. I will follow up with the officers and Chip to coordinate next steps for all of us.

Regards, stay well and stay safe,

Viola

On Saturday, October 2, 2021, 12:11:18 AM CDT, Steven Chapman <schapman.asba@gmail.com> wrote:

My hope for a letter like this, or any letter that we are going to send to the President of the United States and push through a press release is at least reviewed by the executive committee.

That being said, in Arizona earlier this year a governing board was forced to leave their boardroom due to security issues with those in attendance. After the board and staff left the room, those in the audience decided that it would be alright for them to stage their own board meeting, elect new board members, and vote on their own items. A month or so ago, we had an individual film himself with a parent and that parent's student on their way to a school site with a pair of zip tie handcuffs to arrest a principal for enforcing a quarantine policy that was approved by the county and state. And these are just a few of several examples just in my state. These are not acts of concerned parents, nor should they be dismissed as just one off situations.

I agree that if a board meeting remains civil, and the community is at the microphone during public comment criticizing board/district decisions, threatening to recall or vote them out, that it is fair game whether we agree on their rationale or not. But when it becomes more, it needs to be taken seriously. We have seen what happens when it is not taken seriously.

We need to be mindful of the political ramifications of any action or inaction we take, but we also cannot shy away from every controversial issue. No elected official or public servant should be in physical danger because of the work they do.

Steven Chapman
Board of Directors, Pacific Region | NSBA
Immediate Past President | ASBA
Immediate Past Chair | NSBA Pacific Region
Past President, Board Member | To



[Click 2 Connect](#) [Click 2 Connect](#) [Click 2 Connect](#)

On Fri, Oct 1, 2021 at 7:54 PM Beverly Slough <Beverly.Slough@stjohns.k12.fl.us> wrote:
Thank you, John. Very thoughtful analysis of our current situation. I agree - we must do better.

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From: John Halkias [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, October 1, 2021 10:50:52 PM
To: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Cc: 2021-2022 Board of Directors <2021-2022-BOD@nsba.org>; Elena Kukanova – Carpenter <ECarpenter@nsba.org>; Francisco Negron <fnegron@nsba.org>; Jane Mellow <JMellow@nsba.org>; Renee Joe <RJoe@nsba.org>; Kimberly Muse <KMuse@nsba.org>; Patricia Boyd-King <pboyd-king@nsba.org>
Subject: Re: NSBA Letter to President Biden on Threats School Boards Members and Public Schools

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. **Do not** click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. Please report suspicious or potentially dangerous emails using the "Phish Alert Button".

After a challenging week and seeing the responses of some of my fellow board members to this issue, I wanted to think through this more deeply and share my thoughts.

I have no doubt that this was done with the best of intentions and in an attempt to support our members and our schools during this difficult time for us. Many of us have faced challenges these last two years that we have never faced in our history as school board members. It has indeed been difficult, but we have faced them and persevered. We do want the understanding and support of our association for our membership.

However, while I believe the intent was good, unfortunately, instead of helping our members and working to decrease the tensions and hostility that many of us are facing, we seem to have fanned those flames of hostility and division. Rather than helping our cause and calming the waters, this letter has re-awakened hostilities that were just beginning to finally calm down as the things many of us put in place were having a positive effect on student safety, learning, and attendance.

I agree with many of my colleagues that the Board of Directors should have been consulted before a letter like this was sent out publicly, and no less to the President of the United States and the National

Press. I also agree that the letter took a stance that went beyond what many of us would consider to be reasonable and used terms that were extreme, and asked for action by the Federal Government that many of us would not request. In fact in a recent press conference, the White House Press Secretary stated that when these incidents occur, it is a matter for local law enforcement and local authorities, and NOT the Federal government. Local control has been a stalwart of our principles, and we do not want to abandon that concept now.

Many of us have been put in a position now of explaining or defending this action of our association as we are asked by members of our community if we consider them domestic terrorists for showing up to our meetings and expressing their opinions. As a Member of this Board, I can defend the intent, but not the approach or much of the tone or content. And it makes me chagrined to have to say that. I have learned in my own state of Ohio that is filled with diverse views that it does me no good to ignore the views of my neighbors and not try to find common ground rather than sow division.

This letter has created a new and renewed firestorm. We have given our loudest critics more ammunition to criticize us. I believe this letter was created unfortunately in the same kind of vacuum that has fueled the recent criticism of this Board and our Association.

We can, and should do better, but we can only do that if we work together and collaborate for our common good rather than acting without our full consent and counsel. We owe that to our association and our membership if we are to continue and succeed.

Sorry for the length of this, but what happened with this letter and the backlash I am seeing has made me reflect on my service on this board to this point, and how we have gone about our business that goes beyond this letter, and has caused me concern. If we don't do better, the very survival and relevance of NSBA is at stake.

John W. Halkias
Director, Central Region NSBA
Sent from my iPad

On Sep 29, 2021, at 8:18 PM, Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org> wrote:

Good evening,

Attached is a letter President Garcia asked that I share with the board. It was sent to President Biden concerning threats to public schools and school board members. We co-signed the letter which lays out the current issues local school board members are facing and asks for federal cooperation with state and local law enforcement as well as public schools to address these serious issues. It also asks for threat assessments regarding the current situation. Additionally, in talks over the last several weeks with White House staff, they requested additional information on some of the specific threats, so the letter also details many of the incidents that have been occurring.

As you are probably aware, the level of threats and actual violence have increased the last few weeks and there are now some groups recognized for violence showing up at schools and school board meetings. The level of concern is rising. It is hoped the letter will also call out the bad behavior occurring and promote calmer thinking when people are debating these important issues. This letter is embargoed until tomorrow morning when it will be shared publicly. The letter will also be shared this evening with the state association executive directors.

Thank you for all your leadership on your local school board.

Take care,

Chip

--

Janine Bay Teske
Associate Broker
Jackson Hole Real Estate Associates
[REDACTED]

Reply
Forward

Statement to President Biden

2 messages

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
To: "Swett, Kristi (UT)" <[REDACTED]>

Tue, Oct 5, 2021 at 8:06 PM

Hi Kristi,

I was wondering if the following Board policy was followed when the statement to President Biden was drafted or sent:

B-17 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: EMERGENCY POWERS

When it is not possible or feasible for the Board to meet, the Executive Committee shall have general authority to act for the Board on policy decisions or to make statements on public issues subject to the constraint that the decisions or statements are within the limits of and consistent with the NSBA Beliefs and Policies and Constitution and Bylaws and do not include any action reserved for the NSBA Board by the Illinois Not-for Profit Corporation Act. Such authority to act for the Board shall be taken only when the Executive Committee has declared an emergency and determined that it is not possible or feasible for the Board to meet as an assembled body, by telephone or by mail. To declare such an emergency requires the affirmative vote of all the elected officers and one of the other voting members of the Executive Committee. When the Executive Committee makes policy decisions or statements on public issues under such emergency conditions, action will be valid only when five members of the Executive Committee indicate agreement. The members of the Board shall be advised of any emergency action of the Executive Committee within 24 hours and shall confirm the Executive Committee action at the next regular meeting.

I am very concerned about the process by which the statement was made and the tone that essentially allowed the White House to direct the Attorney General to consider members of our community "domestic terrorists". I agree that we need to focus on civility, and we should be looking to our local law enforcement to protect board members and deal with threats of violence. I would have appreciated an opportunity to work with my fellow board members to give better direction on this very delicate topic.

Thanks,

Marnie

Kristi Swett <[REDACTED]>
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

Wed, Oct 6, 2021 at 8:02 AM

Hi Marnie

I would love to talk with you about the letter when we are all together this weekend.

At the time, no, I didn't think the letter fell under an emergency situation, it certainly was not characterized that way when Chip told the officers he was writing a letter to provide information to the White House, from a request by Secretary Cordona.

In hindsight, I do think our board needs to have a discussion about a screening process for communications which go out from NSBA, that is aligned with our mission, vision and purpose statement. If we (the board) can have a productive conversation to identify guardrails, it will begin to address the communication issues which plagues NSBA.

I am glad we will be together, lets find time to strategize for the upcoming board meeting.

Thanks....

Kristi

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 9:06 PM
To: Kristi Swett <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Statement to President Biden

[Quoted text hidden]
Scanned By Microsoft EOP

To: Viola Garcia Kristi Swett |



iMessage
Fri, Oct 1, 6:11 PM

Kristi Swett

I just read the email that Bev sent, and also Kathy and Pam's remarks. This is only my two cents, and I will stand by it. Nsba was asked by local districts with local school board members for help with the onslaught of incivility, violence and threats. I was not aware, that every letter sent by the CEO and our president had to be approved by the board of directors first. I am fairly certain, letters have been sent multiple times over multiple years. If the board wants to discuss and then vote to have every letter come for approval, then place it on an agenda so it can be taken up at a future meeting of the board of directors. You should not apologize in anyway shape or form for listening, and providing pathways for a conversation to begin. Where would we be if we just sat back and did nothing about the impacts and learning gaps caused by the pandemic....



Kristi



iMessage



To: Viola Garcia Kristi Swett



Viola Garcia



It is so unfortunate that misinformation looks so convincing. Chip, I agree with Kristi, spoke with Jason about the response from a few of our Directors. I know interviews are still scheduled this weekend, but I'm happy to work with you and Comms teams to set the record straight regarding the coordinated, we'll fund effort to disrupt.



Funded

That is great Viola. Thanks for your leadership. I'm on CNN tonight at 11:15 along with Charlie's board colleague. I'm going to be very clear in what our goals are

Thanks so much Kristi. I couldn't agree more. The letter is getting attention and not all of it positive but some of the true incidents are now being reported and the groups behind much it are reacting. I...

3 Replies

Kristi Swett



I just have to say, would we be receiving this kind of blow back if it wasn't because there's a Democrat in the White House. Too bad



iMessage



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we'll funded effort to disrupt.

VG Funded

That is great Viola. Thanks for your leadership.
I'm on CNN tonight at 11:15 along with
Charlie's board colleague. I'm going to be very
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Thanks so much Kristi. I couldn't agree more. The letter is getting
attention and not all of it positive but some of the true incidents are
now being reported and the groups behind much it are reacting. I...

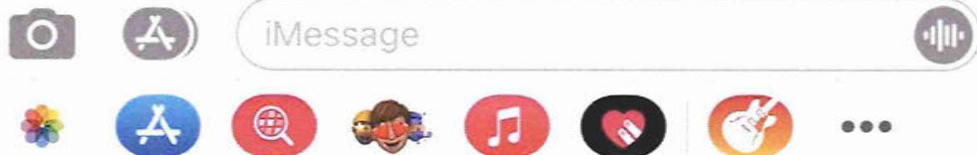
3 Replies

Kristi Swett

I just have to say, would we be receiving this
kind of blow back if it wasn't because there's
a Democrat in the White House. Too bad,
Partisan politics continues to Eek into the
conversation

KS Good luck, have a good weekend

Thanks again Kristi



From: [Beverly Slough](#)
To: [Ronnie Hopkins](#)
Subject: Re: NSBA Letter to President Biden on Threats School Boards Members and Public Schools
Date: Friday, October 1, 2021 2:15:25 PM

I am so upset. Moms for Liberty will have a field day with this!

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From: Ronnie Hopkins [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, October 1, 2021 2:08:33 PM
To: Beverly Slough [REDACTED] >
Subject: RE: NSBA Letter to President Biden on Threats School Boards Members and Public Schools

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Bev, I highly agree with you on this matter. One of the last things I need is the Federal Government telling me how to run my school.
Thanks for your comments.

Ronald K. Hopkins, Esq.

106 Washington Street
Jefferson, Georgia 30549
Telephone [REDACTED]
Facsimile (706)367-9431
[REDACTED]

From: Beverly Slough [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, October 1, 2021 2:01 PM
To: Chip Slaven <[REDACTED]>; 2021-2022 Board of Directors [REDACTED] >
Cc: Elena Kukanova – Carpenter <[REDACTED]>; Francisco Negrón [REDACTED] >; Jane Mellow <[REDACTED]>; Renee Joe [REDACTED] >; Kimberly Muse [REDACTED] >; Patricia Boyd-King [REDACTED] >
Subject: Re: NSBA Letter to President Biden on Threats School Boards Members and Public Schools

I must object to the sending of this letter in the strongest way. Something of this magnitude should never have been sent without the concurrence of the full Board of Directors. While I realize that we have all been under duress at our meetings, I do not feel that it rises to the level of asking for federal law enforcement to manage the meetings.

In my mind, it was bad enough that the letter was sent without full board approval. To go the extra step of issuing a press release has resulted in greater problems for some of us who live in highly conservative areas. I am greatly disappointed that all this was done without discussion and approval by the National Board.

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From: Chip Slaven <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, September 29, 2021 8:18:21 PM
To: 2021-2022 Board of Directors <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Elena Kukanova – Carpenter <[REDACTED]>; Francisco Negrón <[REDACTED]>; Jane Mellow <[REDACTED]>; Renee Joe <[REDACTED]>; Kimberly Muse <[REDACTED]>; Patricia Boyd-King <[REDACTED]>
Subject: NSBA Letter to President Biden on Threats School Boards Members and Public Schools

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. **Do not** click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. Please report suspicious or potentially dangerous emails using the "Phish Alert Button".

Good evening,

Attached is a letter President Garcia asked that I share with the board. It was sent to President Biden concerning threats to public schools and school board members. We co-signed the letter which lays out the current issues local school board members are facing and asks for federal cooperation with state and local law enforcement as well as public schools to address these serious issues. It also asks for threat assessments regarding the current situation. Additionally, in talks over the last several weeks with White House staff, they requested additional information on some of the specific threats, so the letter also details many of the incidents that have been occurring.

As you are probably aware, the level of threats and actual violence have increased the last few weeks and there are now some groups recognized for violence showing up at schools and school board meetings. The level of concern is rising. It is hoped the letter will also call out the bad behavior occurring and promote calmer thinking when people are debating these important issues. This letter is embargoed until tomorrow morning when it will be shared publicly. The letter will also be shared this evening with the state association executive directors.

Thank you for all your leadership on your local school board.

Take care,
Chip

EDUCATION

St. Johns County school board member leads state effort to cut ties with national board

Colleen Michele Jones St. Augustine Record

Published 10:08 p.m. ET Dec. 7, 2021 | Updated 5:11 p.m. ET Dec. 13, 2021

A flap between the National School Boards Association and its state constituents in September has prompted some of those representative organizations, including the Florida Schools Board Association, to cut ties with the NSBA in recent weeks.

St. Johns School Board member Beverly Slough had sat on the board of directors of the NSBA before resigning Dec. 1 over what Slough called the "overly politicized" actions of the group.

Most recently, she said, those included its director asking President Joe Biden on Sept. 29 to provide federal protection — perhaps, even guards — at local school board meetings over concerns about extremist radicals taking a stand on mask issues related to the COVID pandemic in some communities.

Slough spoke with The Record Monday about the FSBA's decision, made official Nov. 30 at a state conference she attended, to part ways with its national parent organization.

Debate over local authority: St. Johns County School Board members to national board: We don't need federal protection

More: Fight over masks in St. Johns County schools continues in emotional school board meeting

Slough's vote of no confidence in the NSBA was one of 21 members of the FSBA's board of directors. Following what Slough characterized as "a very vigorous discussion," the board voted unanimously to allow its membership in the NSBA to lapse as of Dec. 1, effectively withdrawing the FSBA as a member of the organization.

The St. Johns County School Board is a member of the FSBA.

"The most recent letter [on Sept. 29] sent to the president was the catalyst — it was done at completely unilateral level — but there have been continuing problems with the governance previous to this," Slough said.

Slough acknowledged that while the tenor of some school board meetings in St. Johns County had become increasingly contentious, and political, over the past year and a half since the pandemic began, the idea of having federal security at meetings, according to Slough, "was not going to fly."

Doubts around the job the NSBA was doing date back at least two years to when Slough first took the position on the national organization.

According to statement issued by the FSBA on Nov. 30, on July 1 the state organization of school boards did not submit dues for 2020-21.

"FSBA was clear about reassessing the value of the affiliation with NSBA due to concerns surrounding NSBA's governance, leadership, transparency and failure to embrace non-partisanship.

FSBA's decision to let membership in NSBA lapse was necessary, but not made lightly. The decision to allow our membership to lapse was made in response to a persistent pattern of dysfunction within the NSBA organization and among those charged with its governance."

Slough, a registered Republican, added that over the last couple of years the NSBA has "clearly leaned left" in its actions. She said she hopes a new, nonpartisan national organization representing school boards across the country will be formed.

The Record made several attempts to speak with members of other area school boards but calls were not returned. Representatives from the National School Boards Association did not return calls for comment.

EDUCATION

St. Johns County School Board members to national board: We don't need federal protection

Colleen Michele Jones St. Augustine Record

Published 10:03 p.m. ET Oct. 12, 2021

Two St. Johns County School Board members have publicly opposed a letter issued by the National School Boards Association requesting federal protection for public education officials as political volatility continues to drive the climate at school board meetings in some communities across the U.S.

Beverly Slough and Kelly Barrera, both registered Republicans, say they do not stand behind the NSBA's statement which was sent Sept. 29 to President Joe Biden to express concerns about "extremist hate organizations showing up at school board meetings," according to the letter.

Under fire: St. Johns County parent: Make students wear masks to protect in-person instruction

Mask debate at issue: St. Johns County School District requires employees to mask up

The issue came up at Tuesday's school board meeting with Slough using her comment period to defend her and Barrera's stance while some in the audience held signs in support stating they were "Moms, not domestic terrorists."

Slough, who is a member of the NSBA Board of Directors, said she sent an email on Oct. 1 to Chip Slaven, the NSBA's interim executive director.

"Something of this magnitude should never have been sent without the concurrence of the full Board of Directors," Slough wrote in the email. "While I realize that we have all been under duress at our meetings, I do not feel that it rises to the level of asking for federal law enforcement to manage the meetings."

Barrera did not immediately return a call by The Record before press time Tuesday.

The Florida School Boards Association — of which the rest of the St. Johns County School Board is a part of — is refusing to pay membership dues to the NSBA after the Washington, D.C.-based organization cited more than 20 instances of harassment or intimidation as reason that the country's "public schools and its education leaders are under an immediate threat."

School board meetings nationwide — and here in St. Johns County — have become increasingly contentious, and political, with debate around safety protocols, such as masks and vaccinations, related to COVID-19.

St. Johns County School Board seats are nonpartisan.

In May, parents staged a demonstration in front of the school administration building in St. Augustine demanding administrators lift a mask mandate, while others in the community have pushed for more protections.

In more recent school board meetings, the tenor has bordered on raucous at times with speakers insulting each other or board members; citing passages from the Bible; yelling and booing; and wearing apparel with profane language at the microphone.

In response to the national organization's letter, U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland on Oct. 5 directed the FBI to work with local officials to stamp out "harassment, intimidation and threats of violence" to school board members following what Garland called a "disturbing spike" in such incidents.

However, in an interview with The Record following Tuesday's board meeting, Slough said, "Whatever controversy we've had, it's nothing we cannot handle at a local level" and had never reached a point of violence.

School board chair Patrick Canan agreed.

Reached Tuesday by The Record, Canan said he respected speakers' First Amendment rights to express their opinion but that comments sometimes did cross the line in terms of personal directness or offensiveness.

"I think we as a community have to be role models for our children in terms of demeanor, kindness and civility," said Canan.

Canan, a registered Democrat, said he did not believe that national politics were at play as much as parents' vested interests in the well-being of their children.

Several parents commented at Tuesday's meeting to thank Slough for the position she'd taken. But one speaker suggested she hold a press conference on the issue and/or consider stepping down from her position on the NSBA.

In addition to the organization in Florida, 11 school board associations in Louisiana and Virginia have denounced the letter sent by its national counterpart, contending local law enforcement is well-equipped to handle any threats directed at school board members.

Both the VSBA and LSBA said the NSBA did not consult with their state associations before drafting the letter and sending it to the president.

Representatives from the NSBA did not immediately return a call for comment.

The News Service of Florida contributed to this report.

From: Pam Doyle
To: Beverly Slough
Subject: Fwd: AG Garland Directs Authorities To Address School Board Threats
Date: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 7:24:33 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. Please report suspicious or potentially dangerous emails using the "Phish Alert Button".

I understand Chip knew about the U.S. AG directives before they were published.

So much for communicating with the BOD.

P

----- Forwarded message -----

From: National Connection Daily <NationalConnectionDaily@nsba.bulletinmedia.com>
Date: Tue, Oct 5, 2021 at 6:17 AM
Subject: AG Garland Directs Authorities To Address School Board Threats
To: <[REDACTED]>

If you are unable to see the message or images below, [click here to view](#)

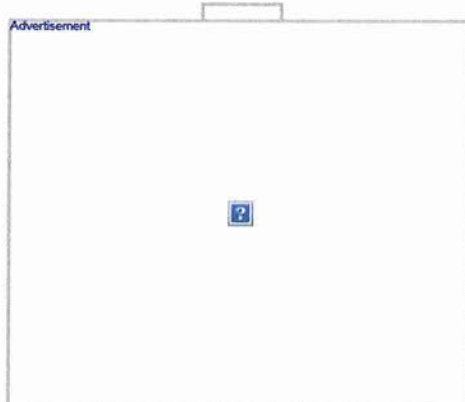
Please add NationalConnectionDaily@nsba.bulletinmedia.com to your address book



Good morning Pam Doyle

October 5, 2021

LEADING THE NEWS



AG Garland Directs Authorities To Address School Board Threats

The [AP](#) (10/5, Fields) reports Attorney General Merrick Garland on Monday "directed federal authorities to hold strategy sessions in the next 30 days with law enforcement to address the increasing threats targeting school board members, teachers and other employees in the nation's public schools." In a [memorandum](#), Garland said there has been "a disturbing spike in harassment, intimidation, and threats of violence against school administrators, board members, teachers, and staff who participate in the vital work of running our nation's public schools." To address the issue, "Garland said the FBI would work with U.S. attorneys and federal, state, local,

territorial and tribal authorities in each district to develop strategies against the threats." Garland said, "While spirited debate about policy matters is protected under our Constitution, that protection does not extend to threats of violence or efforts to intimidate individuals based on their views."

[Education Week](#) (10/5) reports the Justice Department will establish a federal task force to address "the rise in criminal conduct toward school personnel." The task force would "include the FBI,

From: Pam Doyle
To: Beverly Slough
Cc: Ronnie Hopkins
Subject: Re: rough draft
Date: Sunday, October 10, 2021 8:49:59 AM

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I hope you are right. He keeps challenging people that oppose him.

I had one exec to say they thought it was a coup between Chip and the white house in positioning Chip for a place in the Biden square.

Not surprised at anything coming from that man or the officers.

I'll wait to hear from Ronnie and go back over the letter to catch any typos or improper grammar (as much as I can - I am not an english major)

Keep your fingers crossed - firing Chip would be a first step in the right direction.

What do you think Ronnie?

P

On Sun, Oct 10, 2021 at 7:38 AM Beverly Slough [REDACTED] > wrote:

Letter sounds fine. I will say I think they are about to ask us to fire Chip based on Viola's letter last night.

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From: Pam Doyle [REDACTED] >
Sent: Sunday, October 10, 2021 7:16:35 AM
To: Beverly Slough <[REDACTED]>; Ronnie Hopkins [REDACTED] >
Subject: rough draft

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. **Do not** click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. Please report suspicious or potentially dangerous emails using the "Phish Alert Button".

Morning.

I went back through emails and pulled out various comments, etc.

Will you please add, delete, change wording, etc. so we can get a letter out to the board?

Thanks!!

See attache word doc

Re: Read this: Daughter of Attorney General who ordered DOJ to ...

Subject: Re: Read this: Daughter of Attorney General who ordered DOJ to probe angry parents for domestic terrorism is married to founder of education group that promotes Critical Race Theory: Merrick Garland accused of a conflict of interest

From: Gillian Chapman <[REDACTED]>

Date: 10/13/21, 11:36 AM

To: Janine Bay Teske <[REDACTED]>, Bill Scarlett <[REDACTED]>

I could not get the link to work.

We pay for the Panorama SEL and Climate Surveys and data dashboard. WDE uses Panorama for one of the Alternative School Accountability metrics (which SIS has to do).

Gillian Chapman, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Teton County School District #1
Box 568
Jackson, WY 83001

[REDACTED]
@TetonSchools



On Wed, Oct 13, 2021 at 8:40 AM Janine Bay Teske <[REDACTED]> wrote:
Let's make sure we don't use this company!!

Daughter of Attorney General who ordered DOJ to probe angry parents for domestic terrorism is married to founder of education group that promotes Critical Race Theory: Merrick Garland accused of a conflict of interest

Attorney General Merrick Garland is the son-in-law of Xan Tanner, who founded Panorama Education. One of the group's early financial backers is Mark Zuckerberg.

https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-10069425/Garland-accused-conflict-ties-education-group-promoting-Critical-Race-Theory.html?ito=email_share_article-top

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Janine Bay Teske
Trustee
Teton County School District #1
[REDACTED]

From: viola garcia [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, October 2, 2021 9:04 AM
To: Frank [REDACTED]; Kristi Swett [REDACTED]; Wilson, Charlie [REDACTED]; Chip Slaven <cslaven@nsba.org>
Subject: Fw: NSBA Letter to President Biden on Threats School Boards Members and Public Schools

Sometimes I wonder about Pam's frame of mind. I can't make out what she means or intends and thought I'd share with you.

Regards,
Viola

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Pam Doyle [REDACTED]@ [REDACTED]
To: viola garcia [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, October 2, 2021, 07:56:57 AM CDT
Subject: Re: NSBA Letter to President Biden on Threats School Boards Members and Public Schools

All iver the boars meant the email would be fragmented because I am getting bombarded and mind is racing as I try to convey thoughts in a concise and effective way
Pam Doyle

On Sat, Oct 2, 2021, 7:53 AM viola garcia [REDACTED] wrote:
Thank you, Pam. I'm not clear about your message. My email was to the board and staff, so yes, it will be all over the board.

Thanks,
Viola

On Saturday, October 2, 2021, 07:39:25 AM CDT, Pam Doyle [REDACTED]@ [REDACTED] wrote:

Viola,

I will warn you up front, this email is going to be all over the board and may cause you angst, because quite frankly, I have little confidence that anything I say or do will matter. My head is spinning from all the civic and national groups and news reports about the letter that you sent to President Biden as well as the criticism I am getting in Southern Region. I have been respectful not to flame the fire by sending out to all board members and staff quite a few times on things I hoped you would correct, but this has not worked. I am giving you this opportunity to hear me speak frankly and hope you will take my words as seriously as you have those you have been listening to in your inner circle. Everything I have said is to help and prepare you for possible adverse actions that affect NSBA.

Thank you for sharing the response you sent to John. I don't believe anyone disagrees with having the conversation, but whoever wrote that letter went too far in several areas and I take great offense with it.

The letter put me as a nsba board member, state associate board member, local school board member, parent, grandparent and business owner in a defensive position. The length of accusations, insults, and characterizations further divided our boards from those we serve. The very fact that the Board was not given advance notice or allowed input indicates that the officers are not listening to the Board, or it's members. We do not get regular updates although the officers meet with Chip weekly, and have 12 states that are on the brink of leaving. Do you realize 12 states can start an organization or join other organizations like David Picklers' or even Tom Gentzels? Those states are the movers and shakers. The

ones that come to the table with suggestions and support for NSBA. They have been ignored and labeled as "very vocal minorities" and dismissed in my opinion.

I know Charlie has problems with his community, and has been very vocal about that, while in turn many of us have great relationships with ours and engage them in the process. To counter attack those who exhibited bad behavior at some school board meetings only put NSBA at their level. That does not reflect what is happening in districts that are functioning in an open way embracing the community members they serve.

Tolerance, Equity, Inclusion, Transparency are only words. Our actions are our reputation. It is our fiduciary responsibility to be the model of good behavior and FOCUS ON OUR MISSION, CORE VALUE, BYLAWS and MEMBERS. Every member. Again, NARROW THE FOCUS and save NSBA.

There will always be common local issues that plague schools throughout the United States. Our concerns should be defined as how we deliver education in a high quality, academic driven, saf, serving the whole child in the best way possible, in an equitable way, at the local level.

Our organization serves all the state associations. This should have been vetted through several levels before referencing incidents in our member's states and linking articles to their district news. That has now drawn attention and a negative light to our members among their state leaders and others.

Statements have been made about our school boards transparency and working together, but NSBA has not fulfilled that obligation to our Board and members. We continue to have executive sessions that do not stay on the topic related to confidentiality. The members do not trust us and several board members said they don't trust the officers in one executive session.

You asked President Biden to intervene with means to protect boards from parents and the community. That offends me and all those I have heard from.
LOCAL CONTROL . . I think it hurt us as an organization and put a black eye on public education. Our credibility is under fire. Rightfully so.

We will see what the 12 states do now. I don't think this is going to end well.

I pray for all the children of this great country that we adults can put aside personal agendas and take care of business without getting pulled into individual and local district power struggles.

Pam

On Sat, Oct 2, 2021, 6:59 AM viola garcia [REDACTED] wrote:

Good morning NSBA Directors,

First of all, I want to thank you for your active engagement and recent responses. These are troubling times. NSBA has been engaged with the White House and the Department of Education on these and other issues related to the pandemic for several weeks now. The pandemic and our heightened political environment have created a lot of tension in our society.

School boards have been under the spotlight since the start of the pandemic, but it's risen to a new level over the last few weeks. We felt compelled to say something when we started hearing about the threats, harassment, and acts of intimidation at school board meetings.

What we have witnessed are coordinated efforts, *playbooks*, for creating chaos at school board meetings and in local communities. Letters across states are very similar and these incidents are beyond random acts. What we are now seeing is a pattern of threats and violence occurring across state lines and via online platforms, which is why we need the federal government's assistance.

Disagreements are one thing, even among us, but what we're seeing is rising to a dangerous level in some instances. We also want the public to understand that these disruptions are interfering with school boards' most important business—ensuring the health, safety, and education of our students. These disruptions are interfering with the REAL issues facing school boards—ensuring we have enough good teachers for all students; serving students with disabilities; and making sure all kids have access to their internet in their homes. That's what school board members care about. It's why we decided to run for school board. We want to get back to the business of making sure that every student is preparing for a successful future.

I know, and we all acknowledge that email as a mode of communication about these serious matters does not optimize our ability to work through this together. I will follow up with the officers and Chip to coordinate next steps for all of us.

Regards, stay well and stay safe,

Viola

On Saturday, October 2, 2021, 12:11:18 AM CDT, Steven Chapman <schapman.asba@gmail.com> wrote:

My hope for a letter like this, or any letter that we are going to send to the President of the United States and push through a press release is at least reviewed by the executive committee.

That being said, in Arizona earlier this year a governing board was forced to leave their boardroom due to security issues with those in attendance. After the board and staff left the room, those in the audience decided that it would be alright for them to stage their own board meeting, elect new board members, and vote on their own items. A month or so ago, we had an individual film himself with a parent and that parent's student on their way to a school site with a pair of zip tie handcuffs to arrest a principal

for enforcing a quarantine policy that was approved by the county and state. And these are just a few of several examples just in my state. These are not acts of concerned parents, nor should they be dismissed as just one off situations.

I agree that if a board meeting remains civil, and the community is at the microphone during public comment criticizing board/district decisions, threatening to recall or vote them out, that it is fair game whether we agree on their rationale or not. But when it becomes more, it needs to be taken seriously. We have seen what happens when it is not taken seriously.

We need to be mindful of the political ramifications of any action or inaction we take, but we also cannot shy away from every controversial issue. No elected official or public servant should be in physical danger because of the work they do.

Steven Chapman

Board of Directors, Pacific Region | NSBA

Immediate Past President | ASBA

Immediate Past Chair | NSBA Pacific Region

Past President, Board Member | Tolleson UHSD



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On Fri, Oct 1, 2021 at 7:54 PM Beverly Slough <Beverly.Slough@stjohns.k12.fl.us> wrote:
Thank you, John. Very thoughtful analysis of our current situation. I agree - we must do better.

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From: John Halkias [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, October 1, 2021 10:50:52 PM
To: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Cc: 2021-2022 Board of Directors [REDACTED]; Elena Kukanova – Carpenter <ECarpenter@nsba.org>; Francisco Negron <fnegron@nsba.org>; Jane Mellow <JMellow@nsba.org>; Renee Joe <RJoe@nsba.org>; Kimberly Muse <KMuse@nsba.org>; Patricia Boyd-King <pboyd-king@nsba.org>
Subject: Re: NSBA Letter to President Biden on Threats School Boards Members and Public Schools

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. **Do not** click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. Please report suspicious or potentially dangerous emails using the "Phish Alert Button".

After a challenging week and seeing the responses of some of my fellow board members to this issue, I wanted to think through this more deeply and share my thoughts.

I have no doubt that this was done with the best of intentions and in an attempt to support our members and our schools during this difficult time for us. Many of us have faced challenges these last two years that we have never faced in our history as school board members. It has indeed been difficult, but we have faced them and persevered. We do want the understanding and support of our association for our membership.

However, while I believe the intent was good, unfortunately, instead of helping our members and working to decrease the tensions and hostility that many of us are facing, we seem to have fanned those flames of hostility and division. Rather than helping our cause and calming the waters, this letter has re-awakened hostilities that were just beginning to finally calm down as the things many of us put in place were having a positive effect on student safety, learning, and attendance.

I agree with many of my colleagues that the Board of Directors should have been consulted before a letter like this was sent out publicly, and no less to the President of the United States and the National Press. I also agree that the letter took a stance that went beyond what many of us would consider to be reasonable and used terms that were extreme, and asked for action by the Federal Government that many of us would not request. In fact in a recent press conference, the White House Press Secretary stated that when these incidents occur, it is a matter for local law enforcement and local authorities, and NOT the Federal government. Local control has been a stalwart of our principles, and we do not want to abandon that concept now.

Many of us have been put in a position now of explaining or defending this action of our association as we are asked by members of our community if we consider them domestic terrorists for showing up to our meetings and expressing their opinions. As a Member of this Board, I can defend the intent, but not the approach or much of the tone or content. And it makes me chagrined to have to say that. I have learned in my own state of Ohio that is filled with diverse views that it does me no good to ignore the views of my neighbors and not try to find common ground rather than sow division.

This letter has created a new and renewed firestorm. We have given our loudest critics more ammunition to criticize us. I believe this letter was created unfortunately in the same kind of vacuum that has fueled the recent criticism of this Board and our Association.

We can, and should do better, but we can only do that if we work together and collaborate for our common good rather than acting without our full consent and counsel. We owe that to our association and our membership if we are to continue and succeed.

Sorry for the length of this, but what happened with this letter and the backlash I am seeing has made me reflect on my service on this board to this point, and how we have gone about our business that goes beyond this letter, and has caused me concern. If we don't do better, the very survival and relevance of NSBA is at stake.

John W. Halkias
Director, Central Region NSBA
Sent from my iPad

On Sep 29, 2021, at 8:18 PM, Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org> wrote:

Good evening,

Attached is a letter President Garcia asked that I share with the board. It was sent to President Biden concerning threats to public schools and school board members. We co-signed the letter which lays out the current issues local school board members are facing and asks for federal cooperation with state and local law enforcement as well as public schools to address these serious issues. It also asks for threat assessments regarding the current situation. Additionally, in talks over the last several weeks with White House staff, they requested additional information on some of the specific threats, so the letter also details many of the incidents that have been occurring.

As you are probably aware, the level of threats and actual violence have increased the last few weeks and there are now some groups recognized for violence showing up at schools and school board meetings. The level of concern is rising. It is hoped the letter will also call out the bad behavior occurring and promote calmer thinking when people are debating these important issues. This letter is embargoed until tomorrow morning when it will be shared publicly. The letter will also be shared this evening with the state association executive directors.

Thank you for all your leadership on your local school board.

Take care,

Chip

Reply
Forward

From: Janine Bay Teske [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 14, 2021 5:34 PM
To: Maraldo, Marnie [REDACTED]
Cc: 2021-2022 Board of Directors [REDACTED]; Admin Assts <admin-assts@nsba.org>; Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>; Halkias, John W [REDACTED]; Patricia Boyd-King <pboyd-king@nsba.org>
Subject: Re: TIME SENSITIVE: INVITATION FROM DHS TO K-12 SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY MEETING TOMORROW

I should correct my previous email. I have had nothing to do with this letter except the public information search put upon my local district caused by this letter. Cease and desist!!

On Thu, Oct 14, 2021 at 3:26 PM Janine Bay Teske [REDACTED] wrote:
I will not be connected with anymore activity associated with this letter. We need to cease and desist!! STOP now!!

On Thu, Oct 14, 2021 at 3:22 PM [REDACTED] wrote:

Will we know who from the NSBA Board will be in attendance?

Marnie

From: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 14, 2021 12:07 PM
To: Halkias, John W [REDACTED] Patricia Boyd-King <pboyd-king@nsba.org>
Cc: 2021-2022 Board of Directors [REDACTED]; Admin Assts <admin-assts@nsba.org>
Subject: RE: TIME SENSITIVE: INVITATION FROM DHS TO K-12 SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY MEETING TOMORROW

NSBA is not participating in this meeting other than as an attendee, as are what I assume are many other education stakeholders. We are not on the agenda. If you are interested in hearing the current situation from the Department of Homeland Security, who monitors threats to public schools, this is an opportunity to get that information. We only shared this with the BOD members and executive directors. We are simply sharing information with you concerning a briefing on public schools. This is simply a volunteer opportunity.

From: John Halkias [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 14, 2021 2:58 PM
To: Patricia Boyd-King <pboyd-king@nsba.org>
Cc: 2021-2022 Board of Directors [REDACTED]; Admin Assts <admin-assts@nsba.org>
Subject: Re: TIME SENSITIVE: INVITATION FROM DHS TO K-12 SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY MEETING TOMORROW

I believe our region has spoken clearly on the letter sent by NSBA, and how they feel about NSBA's call for Federal intervention and local control. I will not be attending to in any way be in conflict with the concerns that were raised by our members. If there is anything of value raised that is otherwise helpful to our membership, I hope that NSBA will share that information after the meeting.

John

John W. Halkias
Plain Local Schools
Board Member
NSBA Central Region Director

2019 OSBA Past President

Term 2018-2021
Home Phone: [REDACTED]
Cell : [REDACTED]

On Oct 14, 2021, at 1:06 PM, Patricia Boyd-King <pboyd-king@nsba.org> wrote:

Good Afternoon,

This message is sent on behalf of Chip Slaven, NSBA Interim Executive Director & CEO

Have a wonderful day.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) invited NSBA to attend a virtual K-12 School Safety and Security meeting, Friday, Oct. 15, from 2–3:00 pm EDT. I've provided the information and invitation below in the event you would also like to attend.

The invitation states that the discussion will include recent threats to the K-12 community, social media challenges, law enforcement resources, school safety guides, and more. Our understanding is that the meeting will address various current issues around school safety and security, and that safety concerns raised in our recent letter to the President are planned to be one of the items discussed.

Please note we were advised that registration is very limited and to attend your RSVP must be received by DHS by 5 pm ET today, Thursday, Oct. 14.

Best regards,

Chip

*You are cordially invited to a
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
K-12 School Safety and Security Meeting
with*

*Senior Leaders from
U.S. Department of Homeland Security Headquarters,
U.S. Secret Service, and
Cybersecurity Infrastructure and Security Agency.*

***Date:** Friday, the Fifteenth of October, Two Thousand Twenty-One*


***Time:** 2:00-3:00pm EDT*

***Platform:** Zoom*

*Please provide your name, title, organization with RSVP to DHS.OPE@hq.dhs.gov as soon as possible, but **no later than 5:00pm EDT on October 14, 2021**. Please plan to log on by 1:55pm.*

Note: Additional information will be provided once an RSVP is received.

Discussion will include recent threats to K-12 community, social media challenges, law enforcement resources, school safety guides, and more.

<image001.png> Patricia Boyd-King
Executive Assistant
National School Boards Association
1680 Duke Street, FL2
Alexandria, VA 22314

Pboyd-king@nsba.org

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Janine Bay Teske
Associate Broker
Jackson Hole Real Estate Associates
[REDACTED]

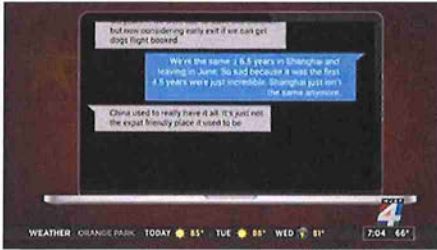
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Janine Bay Teske
Associate Broker
Jackson Hole Real Estate Associates
[REDACTED]

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NEWS

Florida & National school boards associations spar over safety concerns

Joe McLean, Reporter

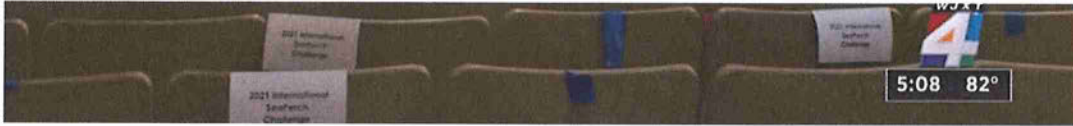
Published: October 14, 2021, 11:17 AM

Updated: October 14, 2021, 6:46 PM

Tags: Florida, Duval County, St. Johns County, DCPS, SJCSD, NSBA, FSBA, St. Johns County School District, Duval County Public Schools, National School Boards Association, Florida School Boards Association, Education



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A recent letter from the National School Boards Association to President Joe Biden was met with backlash from state and local school board officials.



JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – A recent **letter from the National School Boards Association** to President Joe Biden was met with backlash from state and local school board officials.

The Sept. 29 letter said that public school boards across the country are facing unprecedented “threats of violence and acts of intimidation,” specifically pointing to both coronavirus recovery operations and a false narrative about the inclusion of critical race theory in the curriculum as causes for the escalating contention.

“NSBA believes immediate assistance is required to protect our students, school board members, and educators who are susceptible to acts of violence affecting interstate commerce because of threats to their districts, families, and personal safety,” the letter said. “As our school boards continue coronavirus recovery operations within their respective districts, they are also persevering against other challenges that could impede this progress in a number of communities.”

Ad

The association asked the Biden administration for a joint effort of federal, state and local law enforcement resources to address the threats, including those of the U.S. Department of Justice, the FBI, the Department of Homeland Security, the Secret Service and the National Threat Assessment Center.

The NSBA also asked for the U.S. Postal Inspection Service to check on threatening letters and cyberbullying attacks.

“As these acts of malice, violence, and threats against public school officials have increased, the classification of these heinous actions could be the equivalent to a form of domestic terrorism and hate crimes,” the NSBA letter said.

The letter received strong backlash, including from Bev Slough, who serves on the NSBA’s board of directors and on the St. Johns County School Board.

“We have had people speak with a lot of passion at our own board meetings, but not to the extent that we need federal law enforcement to come help us maintain order,” Slough told News4jax. “We’re doing quite well, with local control, thank you very much.”



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Slough, who clarified that she was not speaking for the entire NSBA board of directors, said the board was not informed about the letter's contents before it was sent to the White House.

The Florida School Boards Association, an NSBA chapter, also blasted the letter and called for an examination of the leadership of its parent association.

According to Slough, the FBSA is one of 13 units across the county that withheld chapter dues earlier this year over a series of disagreements.

In a response co-authored by Slough, the FSBA demanded that the national association acknowledge that the letter was a mistake and that it discounted the work being done by local law enforcement.

"Not only has it unnecessarily distracted from the important work being carried out by our members, it has strained important local and state collaborative relationships our members have worked hard to build and maintain for years," the FSBA response said. "This includes our Governor, Legislature, local law enforcement, communities, and our members questioning our commitment to the First Amendment rights of citizens, which we believe is the bedrock of democracy and would always protect."

Ad

In Florida school districts where mask mandates have been imposed have seen particularly contentious school board meetings, as parents and stakeholders clashed over the methods those districts are using to curb the spread of COVID-19.

In Duval County's school district, which imposed a mask mandate, Duval County School Board chair Elizabeth Andersen released a statement, saying the NSBA's letter "does not necessarily reflect the views" of the Duval County School Board.

"As a Board, we are committed to serving our students, families, and the community. We appreciate the engagement we've seen during several contentious issues before us this year. Even when we don't all agree, listening to one another can only make us stronger and helps us be more effective as a governing body.



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While other School Boards across the state and country may be having different experiences, the NSBA letter does not necessarily reflect the views of our local school board. During the workshop this week, our Board discussed drafting a resolution in response that will likely be presented in an upcoming meeting and will reflect our position on the matter.”

— Elizabeth Andersen, Chair, Duval County School Board

Slough said the NSBA is set to hold meetings on Sunday and the following Thursday and that the letters will likely be discussed. Slough was hesitant to predict what that conversation will entail.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR:



Joe McLean

Joe covers education and breaking news. He is a frequent contributor to the News4Jax I-team and Trust Index coverage.

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I just emailed all of you the draft talking points for the states on the letter. If you can all take a quick look tonight I can at least this out to the executive directors this evening. I think it very important we do that. It should be in your email. Thanks, Chip

Thu, Oct 7, 1:34 PM

Viola Garcia

FYI, from Pam

Good afternoon Viola. I would like to ask again for a special called board meeting. The 21st is too far away. More importantly, I am asking that Chip decline any interviews or issue no other statements till the Board meets. We are losing members rapidly and getting hammered by growing number. Please stop the interviews and publications for the sake of saving this organization. Pam

VG

Mon, Oct 11, 3:00 PM

I just emailed the final draft of the federation communication. I recommend it go out before 5:00 eastern to accommodate Dr. Gallon. Thanks!

Kristi Swett

I am sorry, I am not going to have time to read



From: viola garcia [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 8:48 AM
To: Henderson , Frank - KS [REDACTED]; Swett, Kristi (UT) [REDACTED];
Wilson, Charlie - OH [REDACTED]; Hoepfner, Peter [REDACTED]
Cc: Chip Slaven <CSlaven@nsba.org>
Subject: Re: Draft Communication to EDs and State Officers

Thank you, Peter. I've copied Chip because a good amount has been modified to focus and clarify the communication. We're in the last stages of review so that Renee Joe in Communications can get it out by noon today. I'll get with Chip and Renee to review your input for other modifications.

Regards,
Viola

On Wednesday, October 13, 2021, 05:51:25 AM CDT, Peter Hoepfner [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi all,
Sorry this is so late... and the letter is probably already out.
I got back to Cordova on Monday at 3pm after attending a Pacific Region meeting.
While away, my dog had passed away, and I was dealing with that issue that evening and cleaning the house that night. Then today, I had to complete that task.

Then I got a text from my supt to swing by the district office. We have engaged our school district attorney to deal with the fraudulent and misinformation spewing PDE group and their "public information request" of my school district email. I wonder who gets to pay those fees that my district is running up due to my engagement with NSBA?

I had dinner, then started looking at this email..
Hmmm... wondering about this...

Initially, I thought this letter would address Kirk's response that "NSBA has done nothing to address the concerns of the GRC", and I thought it would point out all the operational changes that Anna had made, leaving the "governance" issue to the DA, which sent a NO to restructuring the NSBA board of directors. I have concerns for example on the governance committee that I have sat on for two years. (As an aside, the GRC report... the data was collected in a faulty manner. For example, Pac Region got one vote, while each of the southern region states EACH got votes??? And some states didn't even respond. How is THAT equitable? I just don't understand how that report was even written, do you? -I brought this "data issue" up at that point in time, but nothing was said about the faulty data collection. Then asking GRC members what expertise they used in determining the "new" board of directors, the lady from IL stated that she read books, the lady from CT said she asked her husband, then Rick Lewis said he consulted Boy Scouts of America...)

And then looking at this document, just the section on EDs on committees, the lady from AL who had interesting input to the GRC committee, and KY also who had interesting input to GRC, and both are sitting on this governance committee???

And why "stack the deck" as it were, and put two anti "NSBA board" SAEDs on this particular subject area??

Does it seem strange to anyone else, the choice of these particular SAEDs to committees, or were these folks picked by OSAED.

Ohhh... love ya guys!! Sorry about lateness of email, and not totally digesting all of it, but don't be rushing and handing the helm over. We are in such whacky times, and I am concerned with the behavior of multiple members of the NSBA board, their email responses to state Assn directors, their plans that have developed behind many board members back, the secret meetings that seem to be going on, evidently folks campaigning for votes etc. Is there a "loyalty" oath to NSBA?

(I have been concerned with emails this summer, and again with the letter to Biden. I believe I have stated and sent notes about this same issue multiple times. As this group / gang are trying to sway members and votes by replying all, and giving their "thoughts", and if you speak loud enough, and send enough emails (one board member has responded 7 times to one email, sent 4 reply all's in one day), while others, following rules, are not being heard.)

At this point, with the dysfunction of the board, all the emails talking on about what they are going to do, I am just stunned. Many of the members of the board have not spoken, and all we are hearing is the cacophony of disgruntled folks who are seemingly bent on handing org over to OSAED. I have heard that someone has an individual all lined up to take over... and I just can't believe this. And I am not looking forward to the next NSBA meeting, and how that will all go.

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Also, if there is to be "transparency" on the NSBA board, what about OSAED, will they be held to this same standard? I worried about all the meetings with Anna, what they discussed, and the pressure they put on her, with no notes of the proceedings.

Pete

And I am going to see if I can get a nights sleep now.

I definitely appreciate your leadership at such a critical time for NSBA, while we have an interim director. Thank you for sacrificing yourselves and your time for this great organization!!

And I have faith in you.

I give you a hearty "ata boy" and pat on the back!!!

(I will even buy you a double scotch at the next meeting well, not a real expensive one though.. 😊)

Thumbed in from my iPhone

On Oct 11, 2021, at 1:16 PM, viola garcia [REDACTED]@ [REDACTED] wrote:

Hello Directors,

This email includes an attached communication draft that has been expected by our members on collaborative progress made to date on various NSBA initiatives they requested and/or that we initiated. Please review the memo and provide feedback as soon as possible so that we can send it to the EDs and state officers tomorrow before the end of the work day.

Regards,
Viola

<Communication to Members Final 10.11.2021 (1).docx>



4 People >



Thanks, will ask Pat to schedule.

Yesterday 2:13 PM

Viola Garcia



The officers spoke with Tom after talking with you today. We want you to know that the opportunity for you to present to board is under consideration. Because the decision will be made at the Ex Comm call on Sunday, just before the BO D call, we wanted you to know in case you want to prepare.

Today 6:34 PM

Viola Garcia



The Ex Comm does not need you to present to the BOD. Please schedule a call with officers tomorrow morning.



iMessage



To: Viola Garcia Frank Henderson Kristi Swett
Charlie Wilson

Mon, Oct 18, 12:47 PM

Kristi Swett

I just heard from Idaho, they are getting the same pressure Arizona is.

I just want to say, we need this crisis firm today, our message is coming after the fact that states will be deciding whether to pull from NSBA. These parent groups are mobilized and working with specific political parties to put pressure on denouncing NSBA

The Pennsylvania letter is being circulated and widely used

KS

Frank Henderson

Yes, I'm being pressed because KASB has not condemned the letter.

FH

Charlie Wilson

I agree we must get crisis control firm signed up today which is why I voted against the amendment delaying start to Friday. But the board voted



iMessage



To: Viola Garcia Frank Henderson Kristi Swett
Charlie Wilson

FH

Yes, I'm being pressed because KASB has not condemned the letter.

Charlie Wilson

I agree we must get crisis control firm signed up today which is why I voted against the amendment delaying start to Friday. But the board voted overwhelmingly to delay starting crisis management until Friday. I could not believe the board voted overwhelmingly to delay crisis management until Friday at the earliest.

CW

This is what happens when you go radio silent for two weeks. The right wing has doubled down and used our own members and board members against us while preventing us from responding

Charlie Wilson

CW

Right. We should have been proactive in getting our message out.



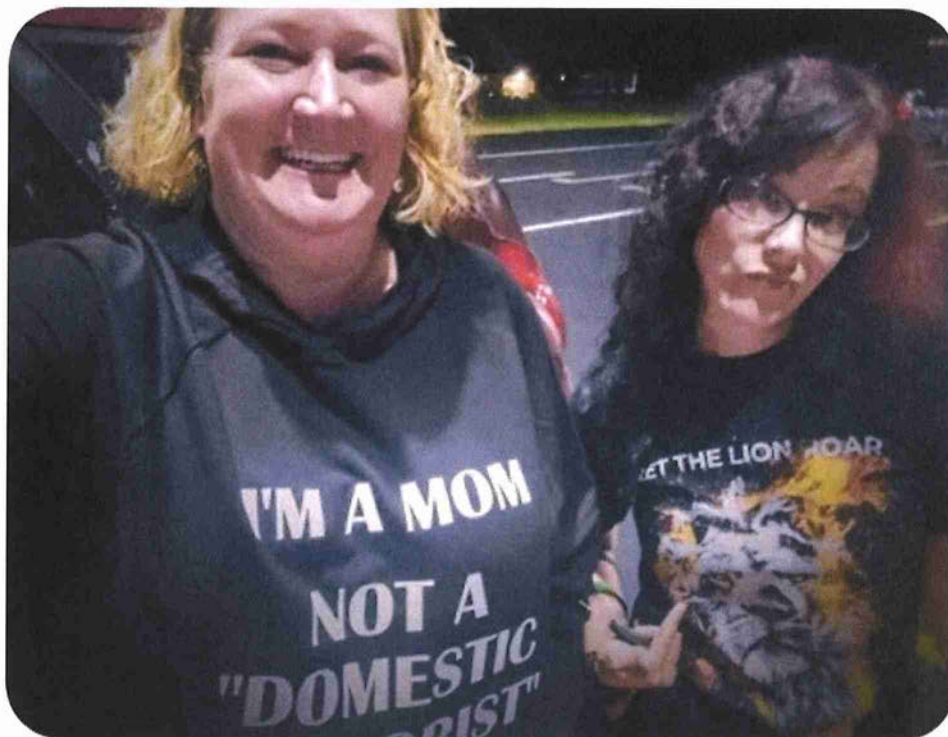
iMessage



To: Viola Garcia Frank Henderson Kristi Swett
Charlie Wilson |



Frank Henderson



FH

My local board!

Viola Garcia

VG

Getting traction!!

Its getting traction because we are silent. It's an orchestrated effort by a Koch Brothers funded group. MSNBC covered it tonight. This is what cease and desist gets you. We had a significant win two weeks ago with the DOJ action but have said nothing since.

Let me know if you need anything else. Thanks

Thu, Oct 21, 7:46 PM

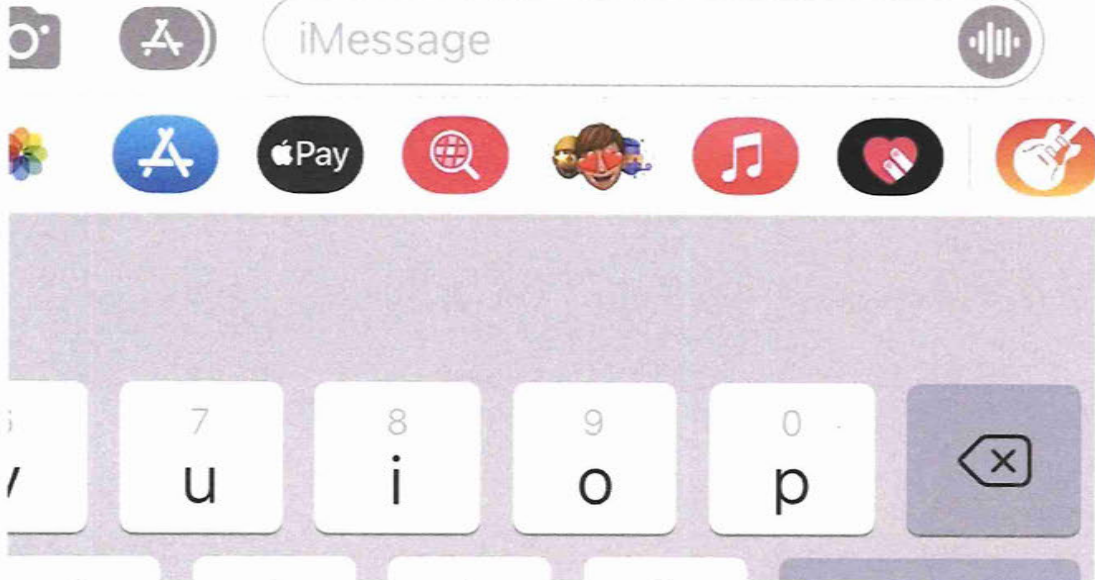
This should have been shared with me prior to finding out on the board call

Last minute

I should have been told Frank

And I completely disagree.

Read 10/21/21



Thu, Oct 21, 7:55 PM

I'm appalled I was surprised with this news on the board call with no notice. It is also completely outrageous and is going to blow the story up even more. This will now be leaked

Charlie Wilson

CW

Chip is right. He should have not been blind sided. It has probably already been leaked. This is wrong.

This is just absolutely outrageous

Charlie Wilson

CW

I agree. What are we thinking?

I can't believe this discussion

Viola Garcia

VG

Who is flor Diaz smith?

Charlie Wilson

CW

Do not know

This is what happens when no one wants to hear the facts.

Charlie Wilson

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Charlie Wilson

I agree. What are we thinking?

I can't believe this discussion

Viola Garcia

Who is flor Diaz smith?

Charlie Wilson

Do not know

This is what happens when no one wants to hear the facts.

Charlie Wilson

Can we give Chip the chance to tell the board the facts? Please!

Why's this not happening in executive

Pete >



Thu, Oct 21, 8:10 PM

I was not informed about this discussion. This was a complete surprise to me tonight. I'm just stunned! I have a 20 plus set up slides going through the letter and I was denied the right to present it to the board and then this happens. This is just awful

Oh crap.....

And it shows a lot of information that reputed the statements being made tonight

I am annoyed how the letter has been taken sooo far out of context, folks picking words, and spinning it...

And not even reading it.

And these orgs taking advantage of

New iMessage

Cancel

To: Pete Hoepner |

So sorry about this chip... crap...

Thanks my friend and I really mean that. I was in touch with this firm and Frank at 5:30 and the discussion was not about an apology but an another statement. They cut me out of the discussion.

Uffff...
Apologize for folks not reading the letter? Apologize for orgs spinning the words?

Yeah..

Fri, Jan 7, 11:15 PM

can decide if they
want you on once we start.

Pam Doyle to Everyone

I am so sorry Francisco.

Frank Henderson to Everyone

Thank you Francisco!

Devin Del Palacio to Everyone

let us not minimize Chips
credentials. After all we had
enough confidence in him to
lead us until we found an ED

Who can see your messages?

To: Viola Garcia (Direct Message)

Type message here...

Hot

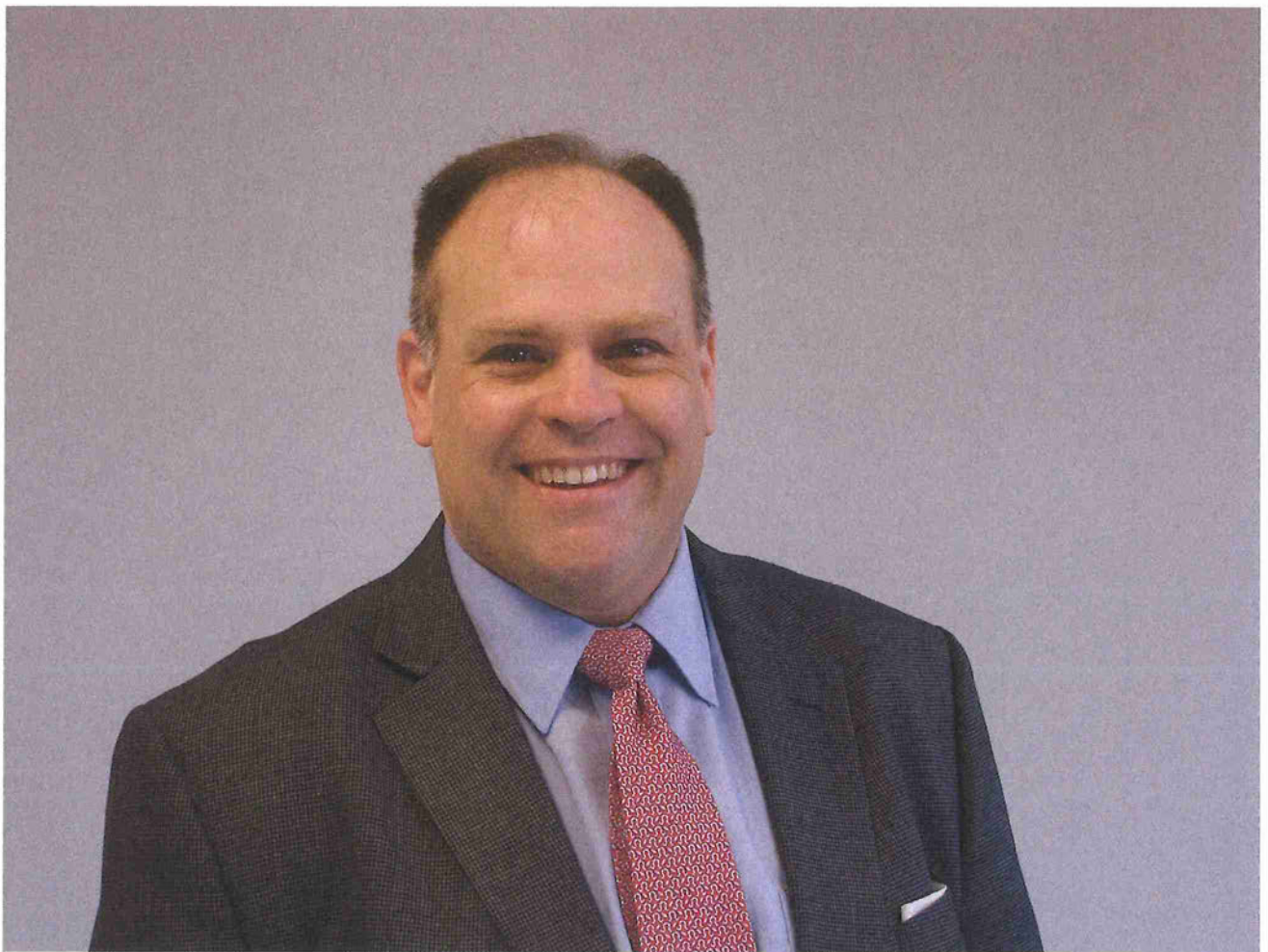
All Posts



This is Chip Slaven. This communist faggot is the CEO of the National School Boards Association. He believes that the FBI should target you as domestic terrorists for not wanting your kids in masks at schools. (media.patriots.win)

203

6 months ago by Lol_Garrus +203 / -0



16 comments share save hide report block hide child comments

Comments (16)

sorted by: top

FustercluckArmy 6 months ago +7 / -0

That can't be a real name... Chip 'em and Enslave 'em. The memes write themselves.

permalink save report block reply



▼ Let him know how you feel.

permalink save report block reply

deleted 6 months ago +5 / -0

▲ NazisWereSocialist 6 months ago +4 / -1

3

▼ Where does one order a few tons of liquified shit and a firehose?

permalink parent save report block reply

deleted 6 months ago +1 / -1

deleted 6 months ago +1 / -0

deleted 6 months ago +1 / -1

▲ knightofday 6 months ago +4 / -0

4

▼ The eyes man...the eyes always show their true demons.

permalink save report block reply

▲ Dilligaf 6 months ago +4 / -0

4

▼ Looks like king pedo

permalink save report block reply

▲ KABLAMICA 6 months ago +4 / -0

4

▼ I emailed this.. ATTN: Communist Faggot Chip Slaven,

You are trying to have the FBI label people like me as domestic terrorists for having issues with children being masked all day?? You are the domestic terrorist, and when this all comes full circle, you will be in prison along with all of your other buddies who participated in this tyranny.. Everybody knows that this has nothing to do with a virus and what you are doing is wrong.. Stop being such a cuck and do the right thing..

permalink save report block reply

▲ VarusSPQR 6 months ago +2 / -0

2

▼ Cliff Klaven?

permalink save report block reply

▲ MyzIplix 6 months ago +2 / -0

2

▼ it has the stain of pedophilia on it.

permalink save report block reply

deleted 6 months ago +2 / -0

▲ MythArcana 6 months ago +2 / -0

2

▼ Chip Slaven. You know he's a communist with that libtard name.



Win / TheDonald

Sign In

▲ PEPEpeepee 6 months ago +2 / -0

2 Petty tyrants need to be sent to whatever purgatory they believe in.

▼
permalink save report block reply

▲ redbeard 6 months ago +2 / -0

2 Probably a kid fucker

▼
permalink save report block reply

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Sent: Sunday, October 24, 2021 12:37 AM

To: Chip Slaven [REDACTED]

Subject: Fuck you



Chip Slaven

Fuck you

[Yes, interested...](#)

[No thanks...](#)

[Reply](#)

[View Jevn's LinkedIn profile](#)

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Help](#)

This email was intended for Chip Slaven (Interim Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer at National School Boards Association). [Learn why we included this.](#)



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Sun 10/24/2021 4:09 AM



To:

- You



Chip Slaven

You are a **piece of shit**

[Yes, interested...](#)

[No thanks...](#)

[Reply](#)

[View Jay's LinkedIn profile](#)

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Help](#)

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How does it feel to know
that 90% of this country all
wish each and every one of
you was aborted

If only all the women in your family
had swallowed we'd all be better
for it

you're a family of Sumbags SLAVEN

Dr. Jill Biden
/ Confused Rd.
Washington D. C.

NEW YORK NY 100
14 APR 2022 PM 11 L



To: Renee Jo



Thu, Oct 21, 3:55 PM

Are you avail for R360 at 4:15?

I'm on the Homeland Security call. I'll try and break away at 4:15 but may be a little late. Send me the

Sun, Oct 24, 8:05 PM

This is a disaster. I'm sorry about the intense emails and social you are receiving . From the NSBA side we'll provide a full report tomorrow with the phone lines integrated.



Thanks Renee but not your fault at all. But I appreciate your concern. You are a very good person. It's just more of the same but it had mostly stopped. LinkedIn actually took action this time on one of the private messages I received and I expect they will do something on the other one I reported since it was worse. Talk to you tomorrow

English

NSBA asks Biden for help to stop threats

🕒 Posted Date: 09/30/2021



The National School Boards Association on Wednesday released a letter (<https://www.nsba.org/-/media/NSBA/File/nsba-letter-to-president-biden-concerning-threats-to-public-schools-and-school-board-members-92921.pdf?la=en&hash=642B7B91E0029BA4427D0F38D7054A00753>), urging President Joe Biden to dedicate federal law enforcement and other resources to investigate threats and dangerous behavior at school board meetings nationwide.

In Kansas, board presidents have suspended meetings due to heated rhetoric about COVID-related decisions such as mask mandates as well as anger about critical race theory supposedly being taught in K12 schools.

Some Kansas school boards have imposed mask mandates, or strongly encouraged mask-wearing, to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus in schools and communities. Some parents and advocacy groups oppose requiring students and/or staff to wear masks in schools; they contend children and staff are traumatized by mask wearing or that education can't be delivered effectively when masks are worn.

Critical Race Theory, or CRT, says racism is embedded in laws and society in ways that produce racist outcomes. The theory is not included in the Kansas History, Government and Social Studies Standards, which provide guidance to districts. Some CRT critics, however, have come out opposed to numerous other school initiatives, such as teaching about equity or encouraging students to become active participants in certain causes.

In Kansas, local school boards determine the curriculum, educational goals and instructional materials for public schools. KASB has put together an in-depth guide to help local school districts

address the debate over Critical Race Theory and other curriculum issues.

[Here is a link to the document](#)

https://files.gabbart.com/2391/kasb_critical_race_theory_and_curriculum_guide.pdf.

Late Thursday, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said the situations cited in the NSBA letter were “horrible,” but indicated local law enforcement bear the brunt of the burden of protecting school board members and school officials. Psaki said, however, the Administration is exploring whether the federal government is monitoring the situation.

“America’s public schools and its education leaders are under an immediate threat,” reads the letter signed by NSBA President Viola M. Garcia and NSBA interim Executive Director and CEO Chip Slaven. “The National School Boards Association respectfully asks for federal law enforcement and other assistance to deal with the growing number of threats of violence and acts of intimidation occurring across the nation.”

The letter asks the federal government to “investigate, intercept, and prevent the current threats and acts of violence against public school officials through existing statutes, executive authority, interagency and intergovernmental task forces, and other extraordinary measures to ensure the safety of our children and educators, to protect interstate commerce, and to preserve public school infrastructure and campuses.”

The letter cites more than twenty instances of threats, harassment, disruption, and acts of intimidation that have transpired during school board meetings and that are targeted at school officials. While local and state law enforcement agencies have worked hard to protect public school officials and restore order, some jurisdictions need assistance, especially around monitoring threat levels. To prevent further harm, NSBA asks that a joint effort be undertaken among federal law enforcement agencies, state and local law enforcement, and public school officials to focus on threats made during public school board meetings, via documented threats transmitted through the U.S. Postal Service, across social media and other online platforms, and around personal properties.

The letter underscores that local school board members want to hear from their communities on important issues and it acknowledges that such feedback is at the heart of good school board governance and promotion of free speech. It also notes, however, that there “must be safeguards in place to protect public schools and dedicated education leaders as they do their jobs.”

“As the threats grow and news of extremist hate organizations showing up at school board meetings is being reported, this is a critical time for a proactive approach to deal with this difficult issue,” the letter argues.

The letter comes of the heels of a **joint statement** (<https://www.nsba.org/News/2021/end->

threats-violence-joint-statement) issued last week by NSBA and AASA, The School Superintendents Association, calling for an end to threats and violence around safe school opening decisions.

To: John Heim |



iMessage
Thu, Oct 7, 9:33 AM

Hey Chip- John Heim here. Do you have a few minutes to chat today?

Hi John. Would 11:15 eastern work for you? Thanks

Yes sir- 10:15 my time. Thank you!

Sounds good. Talk to you then. Thanks!

Mon, Nov 8, 4:15 PM

Hi John. I just wanted to congratulate you. I'm pleased to speak with you whenever you are ready. I want to make things as smooth for you as possible. Thanks.

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Regards,
Viola

<Communication to Members Final 10.11.2021 (1).docx>

relationship is with NJ.

Yesterday 12:03 PM

Hi Chip. Politico is doing a short blurb on John's hiring for their movers and shakers section. They asked what position you're moving to. I think I already asked, but you'll go back to Chief Advocacy Officer, correct?



Right. Just resuming my duties. I did not apply nor plan to become the permanent ex director so this has been the plan. Thanks Jason

Yesterday 2:47 PM

What was Brian's advice?

A minimal response that points out that the search process had been going on for several months, say we're excited about John coming aboard, and point out that you were interim ED/CEO during the search and would be going back to your previous position as Chief Advocacy Officer.

Okay. Thanks Jason. I appreciate it.

Delivered



Message





← CDO HOME



With Membership Losses Threatening One of Them, NSBA and AASA Leaders Worry About the Traditional Strength of Their Partnership

By Eric Randall Feb 18, 2022

AASA
THE SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION

**Your Partner for
Public Education**

**JOIN
TODAY!**





John Heim, left, and Daniel Domenech, right discuss the relationship between NSBA and AASA.

Membership loss in the National School Boards Association could end up undermining the ability of AASA to effectively advocate for public education at the federal level, AASA Executive Director Daniel Domenech said Friday in an AASA national conference session with John Heim, NSBA's new executive director and CEO.

Historically, NSBA and AASA have agreed on most legislative and policy positions and presented lawmakers with a unified message from the organizations representing school management and governance, Domenech said. Voicing fear that NSBA may splinter into two associations, he said that possibility would make it harder to present a united front to lawmakers in Washington, D.C.

The executive directors of the two organizations annually hold a joint session at each organization's national conference. This year's session had more discussion of political intrigue than usual.

Heim, who joined NSBA as executive director in November after leading the Kansas Association of School Boards, said he is trying to rebuild NSBA after it sent, then rescinded, a letter to President Biden seeking federal assistance to "stop threats and acts of violence" against school board members and school personnel during protests over COVID-19 mitigation efforts in schools.

Heim said there are unresolved questions about the Sept. 29, 2021, letter. Those include allegations that either the White House or the Justice Department had a role in determining the contents of the letter. Some critics have claimed the letter was intended to intimidate parents and suppress their right to express opinions to elected officials.

Noting he was hired almost two months after the letter was sent, Heim said it was "clearly a mistake." What is not clear, he said, is what specific missteps were made. He said NSBA has hired a law firm to investigate what happened, and a report is expected at the end of March, prior to the organization's national conference in San Diego in April. That report will enable NSBA to move forward constructively, he said.

The first thing to understand is that NSBA not a membership organization like AASA but a federation of state school boards associations, Domenech said.

While individual superintendents are members of AASA, individual school board members are not members of NSBA, he and Heim noted. Rather, a given school board can, as an entity, join a state school boards association. NSBA is a federation whose members are the state school boards associations. The

maximum number of members is 49 because Hawaii does not have a state school boards association.

About 10 state school boards associations have dropped membership in NSBA in recent months, Heim indicated. Another 10 have put NSBA on notice they are reevaluating their membership status.

Domenech expressed curiosity about whether this scale of exodus could be attributed to one high-profile letter. "Being on the outside and looking at it ... what else was going on?" he asked.

Heim said executive directors of state associations want more say in NSBA. Currently, the NSBA board of directors is made up solely of school board members, with one state executive director serving as a non-voting member.

Heim said he was "minding his own business" as Kansas' executive director when fallout over the letter to Biden led to a leadership vacancy with the national association. Saying he believes the national group has a vital role, he said his goals are to reestablish trust, keep members in the fold and possibly win members back.

Domenech, he said, was the first in the nation's capital to reach out to him after he joined NSBA. "It was so good to feel like I had a friend in Washington."

At both the national and local levels, everything is better when school boards and superintendents operate as a team, Domenech said. If a school district has a long-term superintendent and a school board with members who have served from many years, there is a 90 percent chance that it's a high-performing school district, he said.

"It's so hard for a board to be successful without a good superintendent, and vice versa," Heim agreed.

He added that the current environment seems to be tough for everyone in school leadership.

Noting he used to be a superintendent, Heim added, "I've closed school buildings. I've fired coaches. And I have never seen anything like the last two years."

(Eric Randall is senior editor with AASA's *Conference Daily Online* and editor of *On Board* at the New York State School Boards Association in Latham, N.Y.)



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ANOTHER BIG WIN

We forced the NSBA to apologize for its letter labeling parent protests "domestic terrorism."

October 26, 2021 Christopher F. Rufo

The National School Boards Association’s gambit to label parent protests “domestic terrorism” has collapsed. The organization has splintered, its strategy has backfired, and its board of directors has been forced to apologize.

I’m going to explain exactly how we did it.

First, when the initial NSBA and Department of Justice letters came out, we immediately framed the narrative on social media that the NSBA and Attorney General Garland wanted to “label parents domestic terrorists.” My initial [tweet](#) did 14 million impressions, sparking a week-long media cycle that exploited their reckless language.

We then deployed a rhetorical ju-jitsu move, [debunking the false claim](#) that parents had been violent against school officials and recasting the dynamic as the Biden Administration using the FBI to suppress parents and criminalize dissent. Suddenly, they were on the defensive.

Next, the incredible teams at Open The Books and Parents Defending Education did the Freedom of Information Act research to uncover that Attorney General Garland’s son-in-law was benefitting from critical race theory consulting and that the NSBA and DOJ had been secretly colluding on the original letter. We caught them in a double-corruption.





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Fight for Schools rallied parents to peacefully protest as “Moms vs. FBI,” which framed the conflict on our terms and cast the Administration as repressive and anti-democratic.

In the political arena, elected officials including Senator Josh Hawley and Representative Burgess Owens hauled Biden Administration officials in for testimony and grilled them on both counts: the suppression of parents and the corruption within the Attorney General’s office. The Biden officials stumbled and were forced into a humiliating retreat.

We also started putting pressure on state NSBA chapters, with activists such as Corey DeAngelis reporting that 20+ state associations were revolting against the national organization. We hammered at them until the national board of directors was forced to apologize, blowing up the rationale for the entire campaign.

Our strategy was successful for the following reasons: we framed the narrative early, exploited their mistakes, generated hundreds of millions of media impressions, and rallied the entire movement together, including journalists, activists, parents, and political officials who have been fighting critical race theory.

The next step is to turn the screws on Attorney General Garland, who secretly conspired with outside groups to mobilize the FBI against political opponents and whose family benefits financially from critical race theory in schools.

We have the momentum: the public hates CRT, parents are mobilized nationwide, the NSBA is in shambles, and the DOJ is on the ropes. We must press forward with all of our strength, to protect parents from political suppression and protect kids from state-sanctioned racism. Onward.

First published as a viral Twitter thread.

Christopher F. Rufo is a writer, filmmaker, and senior fellow of Manhattan Institute. He has directed four documentaries for PBS and is currently a





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