

From: [Terri Shaw](#) on behalf of [Terri Shaw](#) <[REDACTED]>
To: [Board of Trustees](#)
Cc: [Directors](#)
Subject: NSBA letter to President Biden
Date: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 3:04:59 PM
Attachments: [OSBA Member Letter-10-5-21-BOT.pdf](#)
[NSBA Letter to President Biden Concerning Threats to Public Schools and School Board Members.pdf](#)
[AASA NSBA Violence School Opening FINAL.docx](#)
Importance: High

MEMO

TO: OSBA Board of Trustees
FROM: Rick Lewis, CAE, Chief Executive Officer
DATE: October 6, 2021
RE: NSBA Letter to President Biden

The National School Boards Association released the attached press statement dated September 22 last week. They followed it up with a letter to President Biden on September 29. Apparently, this communication was created by the NSBA president and NSBA executive director without prior approval or knowledge of the board of directors or its members. School boards associations across the nation are now feeling the blowback from the letter. It ranged from humorous social media, to angry social media, to the lead story on both CNN and Fox to an MSNBC editorial calling for legislation prohibiting the use of public funds to join state school boards associations. The Oklahoma state legislature has called upon OSSBA to renounce NSBA and several associations are bleeding membership.

Today things have hit closer to home. The House Republicans sponsoring the backpack bill just held a press conference. One of their speakers used the NSBA letter labeling parents "domestic terrorists" as one of the talking points for why the legislation is needed suggesting that parents can take this money, go somewhere else and make boards more attentive. This is hitting us very directly now.

On Monday, the Executive Committee and senior staff met to discuss the situation. There was consensus that OSBA needed to clarify both our position on local board meetings and our lack of involvement in the NSBA efforts. The attached letter is scheduled to go to all members this evening. We wanted to make certain you were fully aware of it before its distribution. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to REPLY ALL on this email or call me personally at (614) 439-3574.

Thank you.

