

From: [Sally Smith](#)
To: [Pam Doyle](#)
Cc: [Andrea Messina](#); [Beverly Slough](#); [Ronnie Hopkins](#); [Valarie Wilson](#); [Gina Patterson](#); dan.troxell@tasb.org; [Tammy Grissom](#); [Jackson, Denotris MS](#); [Dr. Janet Pope](#); [Scott Price](#); [Tony Prothro](#); [Leanne Winner - North Carolina School Boards Association \(E-mail\)](#); [Shannon Cauley](#); [Ronnie Owens](#)
Subject: RE: NSBA Letter to President Biden / SR Directors
Date: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 6:08:51 PM
Attachments: [image001.wmz](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image007.png](#)

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Some more thoughts....

I would like to stress that the announcement from the U.S. Department of Justice yesterday does not change Alabama's position one iota. In fact, it only exacerbates our frustration and raises additional questions:

- How many states/members asked for federal law enforcement assistance in these matters?
- Did anyone consider the impact this might have on members in this highly polarized climate?
- Clearly, this was orchestrated and the letter contrived for political theater. If NSBA is going to shill for an administration (any administration) to the detriment of many of its members, what rational explanation is there for failure to involve the board in this decision?
- When did NSBA know about the DOJ release?

I appreciate the stance by our SR directors and hope you get timely answers to these questions as well as those of my colleagues. -S.

Sally Smith, J.D.
Executive Director
Alabama Association of School Boards
43 South Jackson Street | Montgomery, AL 36104
Cell: [REDACTED] | Direct: [REDACTED]
Switchboard: [REDACTED] | Fax: [REDACTED]
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AASB's mission is to develop excellent school board leaders through quality training, advocacy and services.

From: Pam Doyle [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, October 4, 2021 7:51 PM
To: Sally Smith <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED].org>
Cc: Andrea Messina [REDACTED] >; Beverly Slough [REDACTED] >;
Ronnie Hopkins [REDACTED] >; Valarie Wilson [REDACTED] >; Gina Patterson
<[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] >; Tammy Grissom ([REDACTED]@[REDACTED]) >;
Jackson, Denotris MS <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>; Dr. Janet Pope ([REDACTED]@[REDACTED])
<[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>; Scott Price <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>; Tony Prothro [REDACTED] >; Leanne
Winner - North Carolina School Boards Association ([REDACTED]@[REDACTED]) >;
Howard O'Cull (E-mail) [REDACTED] >; Shannon Cauley ([REDACTED]@[REDACTED])
<[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>; Ronnie Owens ([REDACTED]@[REDACTED])
<[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: NSBA Letter to President Biden / SR Directors

Thank you Sally.

I hear you and agree completely.

We are listening and will be issuing a statement from the 3 Southern Region Directors to Viola, Chip and the board in the coming days.

Our NSBA board meeting is on Wednesday, October 20th. We will be sharing the link for those of you that will attend the virtual meeting.

Thank you for your leadership.

Pam

On Mon, Oct 4, 2021 at 7:36 PM Sally Smith <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]> wrote:

Southern Region Directors:

There is a place for a national voice on the extreme behavior we are seeing at local board meetings.

There is a need to expose the verifiable activities of groups whose stated goal is to disrupt school board meetings.

That opportunity is now lost. NSBA's letter to the president was so incompetent it achieves neither of these goals, and in fact, did far more harm than good.

Even without the foreseeable negative publicity the letter generated, it was a bad idea; contrary to NSBA positions supporting local control; full of unsubstantiated hyperbole in referencing hate crimes and domestic terrorism; politically reckless in linking CRT and masking; and ineptly

executed with no apparent strategic plan for rollout and media follow up.

This tone-deaf fiasco would be embarrassing enough, yet it is coming at a time when the NSBA leadership and the value of membership is already under scrutiny, and the board has yet to respond to members' concerns.

Alabama's confidence in the leadership of NSBA continues to wane. We believe the authors/architects of this plan should be held accountable, and the NSBA leadership should spend more time focusing on members' concerns than doing the bidding of the White House. -S.

Sally Smith, J.D.

Executive Director

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AASB's mission is to develop excellent school board leaders through quality training, advocacy and services.

From: Pam Doyle [REDACTED] >

Sent: Sunday, October 3, 2021 6:29 PM

To: Andrea Messina <[REDACTED]>; Beverly Slough <[REDACTED]>;
Ronnie Hopkins <[REDACTED]>; Valarie Wilson <[REDACTED]>; Pam Doyle
<[REDACTED]>; Sally Smith <[REDACTED]>; Gina Patterson
[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED]; Tammy Grissom ([REDACTED])
<[REDACTED]>; Jackson, Denotris MS <[REDACTED]>; Dr. Janet Pope
[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>; Scott Price <[REDACTED]>; Tony Prothro
[REDACTED]>; Leanne Winner - North Carolina School Boards Association
[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>; Howard O'Cull (E-mail) <[REDACTED]>

Subject: NSBA Letter to President Biden / SR Directors

Dear Southern Region,

As your Southern Region Directors, we want to address the letter sent to President Biden by NSBA President Garcia. <https://nsba.org/News/2021/federal-assistance-letter>. This letter was not shared with the Board of Directors nor were we consulted about the contents prior to it being sent to the President.

NSBA and its members have a history of advocating at the national level for local control and minimal federal intrusion. The collective strength of the **state association members** has successfully kept our local control protected. There is no reason to allow the federal government into your board room and governing process. As your region directors, we support, lobby, and advocate for local control and your ability to govern within your own state and districts. Your

school boards make decisions based on their district and students' needs.

We realize there are Boards that have been challenged by parents concerning masks, meeting protocols, and other issues across the United States, as some of you may have experienced. Your boards continue to show professional fortitude and leadership as you engage your stakeholders in the process. Many, if not all, of you have worked through the challenges and have found peaceful solutions to the controversies that that have arisen. We firmly support local control and adamantly oppose any federal intrusion or interference.

We do not agree with the letter, nor believe it has helped our relationship with other organizations, general public, or stakeholders. <https://defendinged.org/press-releases/joint-statement-in-response-to-nsba/>. We believe that the Executive Director and officers have overreached by transmitting the letter to the President and most certainly by releasing it to the national press before discussing it with the full Board of Directors and receiving the input and wisdom of those who have been elected to represent the Association.

Individually, we have each reached out to NSBA after receiving a copy of the letter, but we have not received any responses. After receiving your input, we plan to reach out to Chip Slaven and the officers with an official position from Southern Region. We realize that many of you have experienced chaotic meetings and maybe even veiled (and not so veiled) threats. We would like to hear your success stories about the challenges you have faced and how your boards have worked with your stakeholders to find common ground and peaceful meetings. We, as your representatives, do not agree with the tone or contents of the Presidential letter. We realize that other regions may have different points of view, but we are YOUR voice.

Please reach out to any and all of us with your thoughts, suggestions and requests going forward. We came to you first, but will be addressing President Garcia, NSBA Board and NSBA leadership in the coming days.

Thank you for allowing us to advocate on your behalf. We serve you and want public education to be stronger, together.

Pam Doyle
Ronnie Hopkins
Beverly Slough