



June 18, 2009

Dear Colleague:

I am honored to greet you today as the new Chair of the National Black Caucus of School Board Members. I am also pleased to introduce the members of the 2009 - 2010 National Black Caucus of School Board Members Board of Directors.

The National Caucus of Black School Board Members Board of Directors are:

Chair - Edward McCormick (NY) edmccor@aol.com

Chair-Elect - Ron Price (TX) RJPrice@hotmail.com

Secretary-Treasurer - Tawana Lynn Keels (OH) RecruiterKeels@yahoo.com or

Immediate Past Chair - Brian K. Perkins (CT) briankperkins@doctor.com

Central Region Director - Mary Blackmon (MI) blackmm@mail.resa.net

Northeast Region Director - George Evans (DE) gevans747@aol.com

Pacific Region Director - Paul Chatman (CA) phchat@gmail.com

Southern Region Director - Gwendolyn J. Williams (AR) 50gwilliams@att.net

Western Region Director - Thelma R. Parks (OK) (no e-mail address. Please direct any concerns to mmaxwell@nsba.org)

Below is a listing of the regional directors and the states they represent.

Central Region: Mary E. Blackmon

Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin

Northeast Region: George E. Evans

Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and U.S. Virgin Islands

Pacific Region: Paul Chatman

Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Oregon, Utah, and Washington

Southern Region: Gwendolyn Williams

Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia

Western Region: Thelma R. Parks

Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Oklahoma, and Wyoming

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The board and I wish to communicate our sincere enthusiasm and thanks for support of the leadership team that was elected in San Diego at the national conference. We conducted our first board meeting on Monday, April 6, at the Hilton San Diego Bayfront Hotel, and held a conference call on May 20, 2009.

In addition, the board is committed to expanding our communication protocols, to continually improve the information flow to membership. This is the first installment with more to come. E-mail has become one of the primary means for the Caucus to quickly distribute information to its members. Over the next year we plan on expanding our e-mail communication with frequent updates detailing news articles and information about upcoming programs or events. If you have recently changed or unsure if we have your e-mail address on file, please contact us at Black_Caucus@nsba.org.

We want to encourage all our members to renew their caucus memberships. The NSBA Finance department will be sending invoices for the next fiscal year's membership dues in the near future. Not only do we asked you to return your dues, but urge you to encourage at least one non-member to join NBC. The more robust our membership, the more vibrant our focus will be on our mission.

NSBA Board of Directors Meeting

I had the opportunity to attend the NSBA Board of Directors Meeting in Alexandria, VA, from June 5-6, 2009. Here are some of the key topics discussed during the meeting were:

The Board discussed the proposed charge to the *ad hoc* Finance Committee, focusing on the level of involvement that the Committee should have in the budget development process and whether the Committee should report to the Executive Committee or to the whole Board. The Board voted to have the *ad hoc* Finance Committee as "*ad hoc*" for one year and decide at the end of that time, during the June 2010 Board meeting, whether it should become a standing committee. The charge was adopted as amended, including a reporting relationship to the Board as a whole.

The Board considered the proposed budget for FY 2009-10. Anne Bryant detailed the process used for setting priorities in creating the proposed budget. That process starts with the four goals and strategic objectives approved by the NSBA Board each December, following the annual strategic planning retreat. In addition the staff incorporates any guidance provided by the Board or its committees for future planning. In addition staff then looks at individual programs for revenue and expenditure review to identify programs that may be becoming questionably viable. Associate Executive Director Sue Merry reviewed the financial assumptions for revenue and expenses and displayed information on the historical perspective and context for budget proposals. She also displayed data and projections for NSBA's various entrepreneurial programs and reviewed various reductions in expenditures.

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Strategic planning consultants Lisa Yates and JoAnn Yee, recommended to NSBA by the California School Boards Association, led the Board in a series of activities to help define the focus and direction of the strategic planning process that will be used with State Association leadership this summer and fall at the Regional Meetings, the Summer Institute, and the Presidents' Retreat. The Board of Directors will consider all of the work done at these meetings when it meets for its own two-day retreat on Strategic Planning in October.

In October, the NSBA Board of Directors will meet again to formulate the strategic plan for the organization. As part of the pre-planning for this meeting, the NSBA portion of the regional meetings will be dedicated to sharing the plan around the strategic plan and gathering input from our board members who participate at the regional meetings. We urge you to attend these meetings so that your feedback is included. If you are not able to attend your regional meeting, and you wish to provide feedback, please feel free to contact me or your regional director who will make sure that I get the information you provide.

NSBA Staff Changes

During the NSBA Board of Directors Meeting, it was announced that one of the ways to balance this year's budget included the reduction of staff positions. As a result of this decision eleven positions were eliminated. One of the positions eliminated is our Director of Caucus Relations, Barbara Allen. Barbara has served our Caucus so well over the past 10 years. We have become colleagues and friends. She will be sorely missed. I feel certain, however that NSBA has carefully thought through the reassignment of duties to the highly-capable Director of Educational Services, Kanisha Williams-Jones, with continuing support from Myra Maxwell and Valarie Carty. Kanisha has been at NSBA since September of 1999 and has been responsible for educational programming at the NSBA Annual Conference and the Presidents' Retreat, and training and Board development using the Key Work of School Boards. From all we have seen and heard, Kanisha will be a wonderful addition to our team.

Upcoming Events

The National Black Caucus will hold its annual Board Retreat August 7-8, 2009, in Alexandria, VA. If you have any issues that you wish to have addressed by the board, please forward your information to your regional director. He or she will make sure that I receive this information, and have it placed on the meeting agenda for discussion.

The National Alliance of Black School Educators (NABSE) Annual Conference will take place November 18-22, 2009, in Indianapolis, IN. The National Black Caucus will hold a Board of Directors meeting during this conference. The date, time, and location have not been confirmed, but will be announced as soon as we find out this information. If you are planning to attend the NABSE conference, we invite you to attend the NBC Board meeting for an update on the progress of the Caucus.

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2009 NSBA Annual Conference

The NSBA Annual Conference will take place April 10-12, 2009, in Chicago, IL. During the Annual Conference, the National Black Caucus will conduct a workshop as part of the conference programming. If you have any ideas for a presentation, please forward it to your regional director or Myra Maxwell at (mmaxwell@nsba.org). Please provide your contact information so that you may be reached for additional information if it is needed.

National Black Caucus Committees

One of the agenda items for NBC's Retreat will be the discussion of committee structure. We will review the committees charge, effectiveness and linkage to our mission, as well as the makeup and leadership of each committee. In the meantime, please send an e-mail to Myra Maxwell (mmaxwell@nsba.org) with your contact information indicating your committee or area of preference. Committee assignments are limited, but we will do our best to get everyone involved in a constructive manner. We will make an announcement following the NBC Retreat to the membership with information regarding these committees, and their makeup. Currently, the National Black Caucus Committees are:

- 1) Committee on Black Student Achievement;
- 2) Committee on the National Black Caucus Scholarship;
- 3) Committee on Federal Relations;
- 4) Committee on Membership;
- 5) Committee on Policies and Resolutions; and,
- 6) Committee on Nominations.

I appreciate your commitment to the goals and mission of the National Black Caucus of School Board Members. Our focus must continue to be on closing the achievement gap for all children. I look forward to working with you on this noble endeavor.

Sincerely,



Edward McCormick, Chair
National Black Caucus of School Board Members