

NSBA MEMORANDUM

TO: NSBA Members
FROM: NSBA Board of Directors and Executive Director & CEO Dr. John Heim
DATE: February 4, 2022
RE: **NSBA Launches Independent Review of September 2021 Letter to Biden Administration**

Thank you to those of you who joined us last month for our annual Equity Symposium and Advocacy Institute in Washington, D.C. It was so encouraging to be together in-person, as these types of convenings are incredibly important in helping us understand and champion the needs of our members. The work you do, day in and day out, is critical in ensuring equity and excellence in public education.

There continue to be many questions regarding the September 2021 letter sent from the NSBA to the Biden administration. We take this matter seriously and will continue to take appropriate action.

Before we share news about the path forward, we want to reiterate that the sentiments shared in the letter do not represent the views or position of the NSBA towards parents, and directly contradict our core commitment to parent engagement—we sent the wrong message, and we apologize.

The NSBA Board of Directors has taken several significant steps as part of our ongoing work to address this matter. This includes naming Dr. John Heim as the new NSBA Executive Director and CEO effective November 23, 2021. Dr. Heim replaces former Interim Director and CEO Chip Slaven.

We are also launching an independent comprehensive review to fully understand the circumstances around the letter sent to the Biden administration.

- The review will be conducted by Philip Kiko, an attorney and the former Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives under two different Speakers, and the law firm Michael Best & Friedrich.
- It will include a review of all relevant policies and procedures relating to the creation, review, approval and distribution of the September 2021 letter, as well as a review of possible coordination with outside parties.
- The review will seek to address as many questions as possible, and we will share the findings with our members and the Hill as quickly as possible.

We also know many of you continue to field questions on this, including from your local constituents—we at the national level are actively engaged in planning efforts to better support you and equip you to answer the questions coming your way.

This past year was one when frankly, we at NSBA fell short. You can and should expect more from NSBA. And under the new leadership of Dr. Heim, we are committed to re-earning your trust.

For more than 80 years, the NSBA has served as a leading advocate and bipartisan national voice for public education. Moving forward, we will continue to focus on the most important work at hand—ensuring that every child has equitable access to excellent education.

Thank you for your continued leadership and service during this pivotal time.