

**NEBRASKA TAXPAYERS FOR FREEDOM ISSUE PAPER:  
WITHDRAW NEBRASKA FROM NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARD ASSOCIATION.**

**BACKGROUND.** The National School Board Association (NSBA) created a national backlash in Sept. 2021, after 2 of its executives sent a letter to Pres. Biden, beseeching him to send federal law enforcement against parents nationwide who complain about subversive and sexual perversion content in their public schools. Parents increasingly are seeking better access to school curricula and involvement in school activities. During school board meetings nationwide, tensions have risen as parents voice their concerns with obstinate school boards. The letter demanded that Homeland Security and other federal law enforcement agencies investigate and compile data on angry parents. The letter authors claimed that they were under immediate threat from right wing hate groups. An NSBA internal review released May 20, 2022, revealed that the association had considered requesting the involvement of the Army National Guard and its Military Police at school district events in one draft of the letter. Several officials in the NSBA leadership objected to the unilateral decision to send the letter without consulting state chapters, to investigate and prosecute parents who supposedly intimidate or threaten school board administrators and board members, internal communications revealed. Several members of the NSBA board of directors were upset that NSBA president Viola Garcia and its interim executive director did not obtain their input or consent on the letter, the 2 collaborating instead with the White House to bolster it and revise the language before formally sending it. An NSBA statement has since apologized for the letter, but that has not stopped the criticism.<sup>1</sup>

**REGIME RESPONSE.** After receipt of the letter, Biden Att.-Gen. Merrick Garland, with no evidence that parental behavior at board meetings justified a federal investigation, directed the FBI and U.S. Attorney Office to meet in 30 days to discuss strategies for dealing with harassment, intimidation, and threats of violence. Garland replied to the NSBA by circulating a memo that warned of a disturbing spike in harassment, intimidation, and threats of violence against educational personnel and asserted that the Dept. of Justice (DOJ) will discourage these threats, identify them when they occur, and vigorously prosecute them. The creation of a task force ensued, consisting of representatives from the Dept. of Justice 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. The DOJ created specialized training for school boards and administrators to identify threats, report them to law enforcement, and obtain and preserve evidence to aid in prosecutions. One investigative report confirms that the Biden Regime colluded with members of the NSBA to abuse the counterterrorism authority of the federal government to investigate conservative parents.<sup>2</sup> Progressive activists in the Biden Regime want to stop conservative parental involvement by intimidating them with federal targeting of their speaking out. Emails obtained by Parents Defending Education through the Freedom of Information Act indicate that NSBA President Garcia and CEO Chip Slaven conspired and exchanged information with the White House before releasing official demands for the Biden Regime to target parents. Notwithstanding the NSBA apology statement, Garland indicated in a Senate Judiciary oversight hearing that the DOJ will continue to target parents. He set guidelines for community members to become informants against irate parents, including a 1-800 hotline to the FBI.



**THE TOXIC NSBA.** This association is a group of individual state associations that lobbies on public education issues. Public school boards nationwide pay dues annually to belong to state board associations and also the NSBA, which has a liberal political agenda similar to teacher unions. Large districts with more than 15,000 students pay more than \$8,000 per year for their memberships. The NSBA uses district taxpayer money meant to assist students to press for a list of leftist causes, including blocking school choice and lobbying for larger federal control over local schools. It seeks to micromanage school discipline policies. The NSBA urged the Biden Regime to pursue policies that advance critical race theory in schools and lobbied for restoring the workforce diversity training that the Trump Administration appropriately blocked in 2020. Conservatives who attended these training sessions told of content that advocated for racial prejudice, such as telling White attendees that they oppress others because of the color of their skin and that they should apologize for their "white privilege." This association also operates a program called "Dismantling Institutional Racism in Education," which the NSBA says "acknowledges that institutional, structural, and systemic racism has been ingrained in the history of America and throughout its public education system." Programs on equity and diversity abound. This

<sup>1</sup> Caroline Downey, National School Boards Association at Risk of Losing Millions over State Chapter Withdrawals, Dec. 7, 2021.

<sup>2</sup> Final Report on the Events Surrounding the NSBA's Sept. 29, 2021 Letter to the President, May 20, 2022.

propaganda comes directly from the critical race theory playbook.<sup>3</sup> The group seeks to protect public schools from efforts to undermine them by challenging vouchers and tuition tax credits. The NSBA takes a far more positive view of domestic terrorism emanating from the Left. Its 2019 annual conference featured a keynote address from Angela Davis, a radical who bought and supplied the shotgun used by her Black Panther lover to kidnap and murder a judge. Her letters to her lover expressing unequivocal solidarity with his commitment to political violence (i.e., "domestic terrorism") is established public record. Her record is a source of pride for the NSBA, which boasted that she draws upon her own experiences in the early seventies as a person who spent 18 months in jail and on trial, after being placed on the FBI Ten Most Wanted List.<sup>4</sup>

**THE BACKLASH.** Public disclosure of this letter caused immediate outrage and backlash from conservative parents nationwide and conservative congressmen who labeled the provocation an attack on 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment rights and muzzling of free speech. Many state school boards disagree with the NSBA underhanded tactics. The letter sent without



knowledge or input from the state associations it is supposed to represent. What bothered many state organizations even more was their belief that local law enforcement could handle tense situations, that the FBI and other federal agencies need have no involvement in such matters. As of May 24, 2022, 25 state school board associations had either withdrawn membership, participation, or dues from the NSBA. A group of 17 state attorneys general sent a letter to Biden and Garland, asking for them to immediately withdraw the October 4, 2021 Memorandum and to immediately cease further actions designed to intimidate parents from expressing their opinions on the education of their children. Civil discourse is the foundation of our representative form of government. Our local law enforcement agencies are the best partners for our local school boards to address the safety and security needs for their districts. Best for law enforcement to decide what constitutes intimidation, harassment, or threats. Most protesters at local school board meetings are concerned parents and citizens

exercising their constitutional right to speak. Those who fail to adhere to the law at these meetings should face appropriate consequences. The NSBA cannot apologize and ask parents to forget or forgive, when parents/citizens continue to deal with the constant reminders of public school failings in the embarrassing assignments their children bring home and the discovery of books containing perverted sexual content in [school libraries](#) and classrooms. Parents have a right to know and approve of the materials used in their children's education. They are the primary educators of their children. They also are their children's first defense against the steady deluge of depravity infecting public school classrooms. When an organization uses taxpayer money to tell the federal government that parents are the enemy, an indefensible stance of the NSBA, credibility disappears.

**NTF.** In Oct. 2021, our NTF organization urged and continues urging Nebraskans to contact their local school boards and the NE School Board Association to disengage from the NSBA. "What the letter does is accuse concerned parents of being domestic terrorists," said Doug Kagan, President of Nebraska Taxpayers for Freedom. If enough state school board associations withdraw from the organization, it might lead to the deserved demise of the NSBA, stated NTF.

**1<sup>ST</sup> AMENDMENT.** Parents by right of both federal law and natural law are the first educators of their children. The notion that school boards are immune from criticism of curricula that undercut fundamental parental rights is an insult to American constitutional rights to petition. There exists a 1st Amendment right to petition or otherwise address a government entity for redress. The U.S. Constitution explicitly states, the "right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances shall not be abridged." The 1st Amendment applies to all levels of government, federal, state, and local. It therefore applies to public school boards and state boards of education. It is alarming that local school boards, our state board of education, and the NSBA attempt to violate our Constitution in order to immunize themselves from popular complaints and grievances. Attempts to stop parents from speaking is certainly an attempt to abridge the constitutional right of petition. If parents/taxpayers complain about what instructors teach in the classroom, the correct remedy is to alter the curricula, not muzzle citizen complaints.

**HIT THEIR FINANCES.** NSBA largely funded by dues collected from affiliated state school board associations, paid for by local school boards with local taxpayer dollars. The NSBA could lose millions of dollars in funding, as state chapters end their memberships and stop paying dues in the backlash against its conduct. 17 Florida chapters collectively contributed \$1.1 million to NSBA funding in 2019, according to NSBA records. Its state association along with these

<sup>3</sup> Heritage Foundation, [What Is the NSBA, and Why Is It Trying to Shut Down Parents?](#), Oct 18, 2021.

<sup>4</sup> [Concerned About Your Child's School? You Might Be a Domestic Terrorist](#), by Max Eden, Research Fellow, American Enterprise Institute, Oct. 6, 2021.

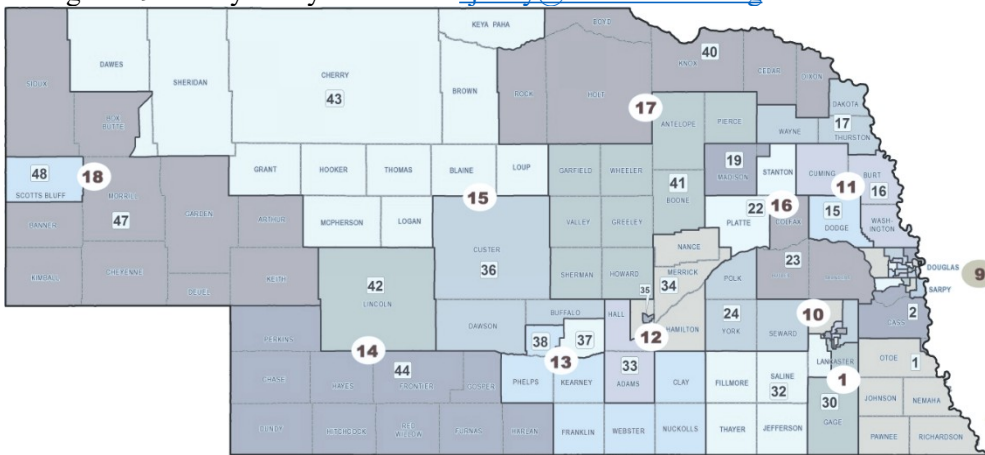
chapters have severed ties with the national group. Their funds accounted for a huge percentage of the millions in annual dues paid to the NSBA by all 49 state chapters in that year. The group Axios noted that these chapters had financially supported the NSBA in many other ways, such as subsidizing its programs and events.<sup>5</sup> The loss of dues from state group departures is only part of the equation, because many state affiliates invest other monies throughout the year for various NSBA initiatives, such as conferences. Our NE School Board Association and its local affiliates likewise should terminate all relations with the NSBA.

**PROGRESS SO FAR.** The executive committee of the NE School Board Association voted to cancel its membership in the national association, joining Texas and many other states. The full board must decide on June 11, if NE formally should withdraw from the NSBA. A Board of Directors consisting of 19 regional directors and 4 officers manage our state association. It meets at least 5 times per year to discuss policy direction and adopt an annual budget. Its legislative positions and bylaws change, these originating predominantly from local school boards of education. The board must debate and approve annually these items, first by a Legislation Committee and then by the Board of Directors and Delegate Assembly. The Delegate Assembly affords each member board a voice in determining the political direction of the organization. For Even Number Regions, director terms end in 2022. Odd Numbered Region terms end in 2024. The following are NASB officers:

- Brad Wilkins - President - Ainsworth - [bwilkins@NASBonline.org](mailto:bwilkins@NASBonline.org)
- Kim Burry - President-Elect - Bayard - [kburry@NASBonline.org](mailto:kburry@NASBonline.org)
- Sandy Noffsinger - Vice President - Dundy County Stratton - [snoffsinger@NASBonline.org](mailto:snoffsinger@NASBonline.org)

The following are region directors:

- Region 1 - Neal Kanel - HTRS - [nkanel@NASBonline.org](mailto:nkanel@NASBonline.org)
- Region 2 - Sarah Centineo - Bellevue - [scentineo@NASBonline.org](mailto:scentineo@NASBonline.org)
- Regions 3, 6 & 7 - Shavonna Holman - Omaha - [sholman@NASBonline.org](mailto:sholman@NASBonline.org)
- Regions 3, 6 & 7 - Tracy Casady - Omaha - [tcasady@NASBonline.org](mailto:tcasady@NASBonline.org)
- Regions 3, 6 & 7 - Nancy Kratky - Omaha - [nkratky@NASBonline.org](mailto:nkratky@NASBonline.org)
- Regions 4 & 5 - Bob Rauner - Lincoln - [brauner@NASBonline.org](mailto:brauner@NASBonline.org)
- Regions 4 & 5 - Annie Mumgaard - Lincoln - [amumgaard@NASBonline.org](mailto:amumgaard@NASBonline.org)
- Region 8 - Robin Richards - Ralston - [rrichards@NASBonline.org](mailto:rrichards@NASBonline.org)
- Region 9 - Alan Moore - ESU 3 - [amoore@NASBonline.org](mailto:amoore@NASBonline.org)
- Region 10 - Ed Swotek - Malcolm - [eswotek@NASBonline.org](mailto:eswotek@NASBonline.org)
- Region 11 - Jim Vlach - Lyons-Decatur Northeast - [jvlach@NASBonline.org](mailto:jvlach@NASBonline.org)
- Region 12 - Lisa Wagner - Central City - [lwagner@NASBonline.org](mailto:lwagner@NASBonline.org)
- Region 13 - Marilyn Bohn - ESU 10 - [mbohn@NASBonline.org](mailto:mbohn@NASBonline.org)
- Region 14 - Steve Koch - Hershey - [skoch@NASBonline.org](mailto:skoch@NASBonline.org)
- Region 15 - Joel Carlson - Cozad - [jcarlson@NASBonline.org](mailto:jcarlson@NASBonline.org)
- Region 16 - Stephanie Summers - David City - [ssummers@NASBonline.org](mailto:ssummers@NASBonline.org)
- Region 17 - Michelle Reikofski - Osmond - [mreikofski@NASBonline.org](mailto:mreikofski@NASBonline.org)
- Region 18 - Doug Keener - Mitchell - [dkeener@NASBonline.org](mailto:dkeener@NASBonline.org)
- Region 19 - Stacy Jolley - Millard - [sjolley@NASBonline.org](mailto:sjolley@NASBonline.org)



<sup>5</sup> National School Board Association Could Take Million-Dollar Financial Hit as State Chapters Withdraw, by Michael Nobles, Dec. 7, 2021.

**TAKE ACTION NOW.** With its letter, the NSBA committed its members to an attitude of profound contempt not only for parents but also for our constitutional rights. Categorizing vociferous dissent as domestic terrorism removes legitimate parental concerns from the realm of public debate. If school board members and state lawmakers do not repudiate and



defund NSBA, they will passively reinforce NSBA scorn for parents and the American system of republican self-government. We strongly urge NTF members to contact the NE Association of School Board directors before June 11 and give them reasons, using the information above, to withdraw from the National Association of School Boards. Demand that they vote to both repudiate and disaffiliate from the NSBA and watch carefully how directors vote. Public participation does not interfere with school board ability to conduct its business. NE parents/taxpayers do not subject individual board members to threats of violence, abuse, or harassment. When our state legislature convenes in

Jan. 2023, contact state senators to pass legislation to prohibit taxpayer money from flowing from local school boards to our state school board association, unless this association disaffiliates with and stops funding the NSBA. While our state school board association remains affiliated with NSBA, local school boards should vote to disaffiliate from the state organization. Using the above information, lobby your state senator and local school board members to pass a bill/ resolution to prohibit funding from NE government entities to the NSBA. Email [netaxpayers@gmail.com](mailto:netaxpayers@gmail.com) for state senator contact information and join our NTF *Education Watch Project*.

Research, documentation, and analysis for this issue paper done by **Nebraska Taxpayers for Freedom**. This material copyrighted by Nebraska Taxpayers for Freedom, with express prior permission granted for its use by other groups in the *NE Conservative Coalition Network*. 6-22. C

