

Leadership

Board of Directors February Minutes

February 24, 2026

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME/ RECORD OF APPROVED MINUTES

The NSDA Board of Directors held its February meeting February 24, 2026. President Arthur called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Members in attendance were Byron Arthur, Jamelle Brown, Sara Gibson, David Huston, Adam Jacobi, Erez Kalir, Anoop Mishra, Renee Motter, Esther Oyetunji, Jay Rye, Joshua Swartzel, and Holly Williams.

MISSION MOMENT, ICE BREAKER, AND PRESIDENTIAL CHARGE

This moment is designed to set the tone for the meeting and purposefully remind all present of our mission, vision, values, and goals as we deliberate and conduct business on behalf of our current and future membership.

1ST AND 2ND QUARTER FINANCIAL UPDATE

Chief Financial Officer Laura Stein gave a brief mid-year financial update of budget vs. actuals.

3RD AND 4TH QUARTER ADJUSTMENTS TO DEVELOPMENT PREDICTIONS

Chief Advancement Officer Nicole Wanzer-Serrano provided a brief overview of the adjustments that have been endorsed by the External Affairs committee to the 2026 fiscal year development revenue projections.

PROPOSED 3RD AND 4TH QUARTER BUDGETARY ADJUSTMENTS

Chief Financial Officer Laura Stein went over proposed budgetary adjustments for the 2026 fiscal year which have been previously communicated to the Internal Affairs Committee.

OUTLINE OF PROPOSED BUDGETING PLAN FOR 2027 FISCAL YEAR

Chief Financial Officer Laura Stein outlined the current budgeting plan and timeline for the 2027 fiscal year. Due to the year-one rollout of the strategic growth plan, some newly developed facets of our development efforts, as well as the implementation of new budgeting software, the budgeting process will require a different strategy and timeline this year.

CONSIDERATION OF A GOVERNANCE PROPOSAL FOR AN OPTIONAL ONE-YEAR PAST PRESIDENT MICRO-TERM

Moved by Williams, seconded by Huston:

“Establish an optional one-year Past President micro-term, as a voting position, which may be offered to any Board President whose leadership term and Board term end in the same year, and must be served in the year immediately following the presidential term.”

Passed: 11-0-1

Aye: Arthur, Brown, Gibson, Huston, Jacobi, Kalir, Motter, Oyetunji, Rye, Swartzel, Williams

Abstain: Mishra

The Governance Committee chairs offered a proposal to establish an optional Board Past President micro-term of one year in length. The Board discussed the viability for such an option.

This bylaw change will go into effect August 1, 2026. The roles and responsibilities of the Past President include but are not limited to:

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- *Providing strategic advice.* This guidance can consist of helping to shape the organization's direction, giving feedback on proposed policies and decisions, and educating others about the company's challenges.
- *Identifying and addressing risks and opportunities.* They provide a non-executive perspective on critical matters, allow for early pinpointing of risks and opportunities, and help direct the board in decision-making.
- *Sharing best practices and lessons learned.* Recalling their history with the organization, these insights could involve revealing successful fundraising campaigns and info on what did and didn't work with a particular initiative.
- *Mentoring incoming Board leadership.* Emeritus members understand their organization's mission and goals, and can provide guidance to new members on what's needed to be successful and achieve those goals.

LEGAL/CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

Moved by Huston, seconded by Swartzel:

"Enter executive session."

Passed: 10-0 (Brown, Gibson, Huston, Jacobi, Mishra, Motter, Oyetunji, Rye, Swartzel, Williams)

Moved by Huston, seconded by Swartzel:

"Exit executive session."

Passed: 10-0 (Brown, Gibson, Huston, Jacobi, Mishra, Motter, Oyetunji, Rye, Swartzel, Williams)

Each Board meeting includes time allotted for relevant updates on any pending legal matters or other business that requires discussion in executive session.

During executive session, the Board agreed to offer President Byron Arthur a one-year Past President micro-term at the conclusion of his current term.

UPDATE FROM BOARD NOMINATION COMMITTEE CHAIRS ON 2026 FISCAL YEAR BOARD ACQUISITION PROCESS

The chairs of the Board Nominations Committee gave a brief overview of how the process is going, leading up to the Spring Board meeting, during which recommendations will be considered.

COMPETITION AND RULES LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE (CRLC) UPCOMING ELECTION UPDATE

Executive Director Scott Wunn provided an update to the Board on the number of candidates per region for the upcoming CRLC election and a report of the terms of the CRLC members.

OPEN FORUM

This is an opportunity for Board members to mention things they would love to see us explore more as an entire Board discussion / action item at future meetings. This is designed to be an open opportunity for some thought leadership on potential ways to leverage Board discussions on key issues.

EQUITY PAUSE


To be consistent and intentional about incorporating the [NSDA Equity Lens](#), a moment was added at the end of the meeting to consider questions from this lens that may be relevant to the conversation.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Motter, seconded by Rye:

"Adjourn."

Passed: 11-0 (Arthur, Brown, Gibson, Huston, Jacobi, Mishra, Motter, Oyetunji, Rye, Swartzel, Williams)

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday. 

QUESTIONS? CONCERNS? IDEAS?

We want to hear from you! Send your feedback to board@speechanddebate.org.