Minutes of the NCBEA Leadership Cabinet Meeting, September 28, 2023, 5:00 pm ET

Attendees: Tom Mays (chair), Karen Hirshey, Lacy Bugielski, Todd Williams, Teresa Bentz, Molly Wickam

We had a quorum so Tom opened the meeting at 5:05 pm. Karen gave a financial update. NCBEA has three accounts and the total of all accounts is just over $10,000. There has been no activity on the accounts except a bit of interest gained. No money has been spent.

New business: What should we do with this organization? There seem to be three choices: 1) keep our regional organization; 2) become an affiliate of NBEA, or 3) dissolve. Pros and cons were discussed and each cabinet member gave their thoughts based on conversations they have had with colleagues at their state level. Here is a summary of the thoughts:

If we became an affiliate of NBEA we would keep the NCBEA name, dissolve our 501c3 non-profit organization, and become sort of a “committee” (for lack of a better word) that would report to NBEA. If we wanted, we could have our own regional events with marketing support from NBEA. We discussed how we might rebrand ourselves if we decided to become an affiliate of NBEA.

We discussed that there are so many business education conferences at the state, regional and national level and they all compete with each other for attendees. Some newer business teachers don’t see the value of belonging to a professional organization due to lack of time and the ability to get high-quality information online for free. Additionally, many schools will not allow teachers to attend conferences and/or pay for professional development due to funding and a teacher shortage.

Some cabinet members believe there is not room in business education to have associations at three levels: state, regional and national. It seems like the market is telling us that our regional association is no longer necessary.

We discussed what would happen to the money in our accounts and we are not sure. We believe our board would decide how to spend down the money if we voted to dissolve but need to find out more. We discussed ideas such as giving the funds to the state associations in our region, or giving the money to NBEA. We believe the NCBEA membership would have to vote to dissolve or become an affiliate and we discussed whether we would have to wait for an in-person meeting, such as at the NBEA Convention in Myrtle Beach, NC, in 2024, or if we can hold a membership meeting via Zoom and attempt to dissolve or become an affiliate by the end of 2023.

Since we have so many questions about the process of becoming an affiliate of NBEA or dissolving, Tom will invite Joe McClary, Executive Director of NBEA, to our next meeting so we can get his advice.

Our leadership cabinet is responsible for awards, so we discussed whether to have an awards committee to gather nominations and present awards. Motion by Karen Hirshey: I move to suspend the awards committee for 2023 due to the uncertainty as to where NCBEA is headed. Seconded by Molly Wickam. Further discussion was held. Motion approved.

Our next meeting is Thursday, November 30, 2023, at 3:00 pm CT and 4:00 ET. Tom will invite Joe to this meeting. Tom adjourned the meeting at 5:51 pm.

-Molly Wickam, NCBEA Secretary