

Minutes
NAAE Board of Directors Meeting
September 20-21, 2024

The NAAE Board of Directors conducted a board of directors meeting on September 20-21, 2024 in Lexington, KY at the NAAE Office. Board members in attendance included: Eric Tilleman (MT), President; Bill Newsom (TN), President-Elect; Deanna Schnuck (MO), Past President; Kyle Stapleton (ID), Region I Vice President; Cameron Dale (OK), Region II Vice President; Paul Aarsvold (MN), Region III Vice President; Jeff Voris (MO), Region IV Vice President; Nelson McCracken (GA), Region V Vice President; Aaron Geiman (MD), Region VI Vice President; and Alissa Smith (KY), NAAE Chief Executive Officer.

The minutes of the meeting are as follows:

1. **Call to Order** – President Eric Tilleman called the board meeting to order at 8:33 a.m. on Friday, September 20, 2024. Eric welcomed all to the meeting.
2. **Reflection and Pledge** – President-Elect Bill Newsom provided a reflection to the group and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.
3. **Review and Adjust Agenda** – Nelson McCracken moved, Cameron Dale seconded, to approve the agenda with flexibility. Motion carried.
4. **Approval of Minutes** – Cameron Dale moved, Kyle Stapleton seconded, to approve the minutes from the March 21, 2024 virtual meeting, the May 23, 2024 virtual meeting, and the July 29, 2024 virtual meeting. The motion carried.
5. **NAAE Board and Staff Updates** – Eric Tilleman invited each director and staff person to present an update on their activities since the last board meeting in July.
6. **NAAE Membership Report** – Alissa Smith provided an update on membership as of September 13, 2024 and unprocessed rosters. Alissa also presented the final 2023-2024 NAAE Membership Report and delegate for the 2024 NAAE Convention. Aaron Geiman moved, Paul Aarsvold seconded, to approve the 2024 NAAE Convention Delegate Count as reported. Motion carried.
7. **NAAE CEO Report** – Alissa Smith shared an update National Teach Ag Day and all of the reporting data that will be collected over the next couple weeks as well as an updated concerning staff and internal operations.

8. NAAE Board Committee Meetings

- **Finance** –The Finance Board Committee was called to order by Chair Eric Tilleman at 10:33 a.m. Alissa Smith provided and updated regarding the financial compilations up to June 30, 2024. She also reported that we received a clean audit and the Audit is saved on the website with all of the compilations as well as the budget and an updated Ag Ed Relief Fund report. Alissa also reported that we are running profit and loss statements twice a month as well. Eric reported the Financial Review committee met in August and put forth the motion for the NAAE Board of Directors to review if the organization needs to increase the membership dues. Eric created an Ad Hoc committee of Deanna Schnuck, Marty Jones, Stacy French, Cameron Dale, Eric Tilleman and Alissa Smith. The committee will do a review of the finances and provide a report at the December NAAE Board of Directors meeting. The Financial Review committee also put forth the motion for the NAAE Board to find three ways to cut expenses. The Board reported that for the 2024 Budget year the cut expenses by: Moved programming to lower cost locations, decreased staff expenses by 18%, decreased number of programs, and decreased number of participants in programs. With no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:23 a.m.
- **Policy & Bylaws** – The Policy & Bylaws Board Committee was called to order by Chair Deanna Schnuck at 11:24 a.m. Alissa Smith shared about the need for a look at the NAAE Bylaws to make sure we are operating within our own Bylaws and policies. Alissa that we have signed a contract with Beyond the Gavel to use for consultation. With no further business, the Policy & Bylaws Board Committee was adjourned at 11:32 a.m.
- **Strategic Planning** – The Strategic Planning Board Committee was called to order by Chair Bill Newsom at 4:06 p.m. Alissa Smith presented the 2025 NAAE Student Teacher Scholarship application. Kyle Stapleton moved, Bill Newsom seconded, to accept the application as amended. Motion carried. Aaron Geiman moved, Kyle Stapleton seconded, for NAAE to develop a policy statement for the use of artificial intelligence. Motion failed. The NAAE Board set the 2025 Board meeting as January 31-February 1 with January 30th being the travel day. January Committee meeting dates were also set as Advocacy in Ag Education – January 16th, Financial Review – January 21st, Member Experience – January 15th, TRRR – January 22nd and Professional Development – January 20th. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 4:58 p.m.

10.NAAE Convention Update – Alissa Smith shared the updated schedule for convention and ask Board to make sure you update your profile on the convention scheduler. Alissa shared we will host The Council’s Summit on Tuesday again and will have new sessions for the Wise Owl Roundtables, the Admin Track at ACTE as well

as the State Leaders Training.

11. National FFA Convention – Alissa Smith shared the plans for the 2024 National FFA Convention. NAAE will be there to support teachers at the NAAE Educator’s Lounge again as well as provide Wellness Bags to teachers in the lounge. Alissa also shared that teachers can attend workshops sponsored by NAAE in Room 145. In addition to our support of teachers, NAAE will again have the #TeachAg recruitment booth, #TeachAg student workshops, and support the ATA Conclave.

12. Selection of Ag Ed Representation to the Ag Ed Boards/Committees – Jeff Voris moved, Kyle Stapleton seconded, Eric Tilleman as the representative to the Alumni & Supporters Council. Motion carried. Bill Newsom moved, Kyle Stapleton seconded, Nelson McCracken as the representative to the National FFA Board of Directors. Motion carried. NAAE will also add Jeff Voris and Cameron Dale to the Advanced CTE organizational membership.

President Eric Tilleman recessed the board meeting at 5:23 p.m. until Saturday morning.

Saturday, September 21, 2024

13. NAAE Representative on Ag Ed Board Reports –

- a. **Advanced CTE** – Jeff Voris and Eric Tilleman gave an update of the new Career Clusters and their framework. Jeff shared that the Council is working on documents to help states utilize the new clusters.
- b. **National FFA Foundation Board of Trustees** – Cameron Dale updated the board about the most recent meeting and provided insight on the new Ag Ventures board and purpose.
- c. **National Council for Agricultural Education** – Jeff Voris updated the board on the latest related to the Council and reported on the committees that were created and their work.
- d. **National FFA Board of Directors** – Deanna Schnuck updated the board on what has occurred since our last meeting and discussed her upcoming role at National FFA Convention and the delegate session.
- e. **National FFA Alumni & Supporters Council** – Shari Graffunder shared her notes from the National FFA Alumni meeting she attended virtually.

14. NAAE Board Committee Meetings Cont.

- a. **Advocacy in Agricultural Education**
Jeff Voris, Board Chair for the Advocacy in Agricultural Education Committee, conducted the meeting. Mary Handrich, Wisconsin, Advocacy in Agricultural Education Membership Committee Chair, joined the meeting via Zoom. (Refer to the committee report for the details of the committee meeting.)
- b. **Member Experience**

Cameron Dale, Board Chair for Member Experience Committee, conducted the meeting. Erica Whitmore, Washington, Member Experience Membership Committee Chair, joined the meeting via Zoom. (Refer to the committee report for the details of the committee meeting.)

c. **Professional Development**

Aaron Geiman, Board Chair for the Professional Development Committee, conducted the meeting. Rob Yates, Montana, Professional Development Membership Committee Chair, joined the meeting via Zoom. (Refer to the committee report for the details of the committee meeting.)

d. **Teacher Recruitment, Retention, and Recognition**

Deanna Schnuck, Board Chair for the Teacher Recruitment, Retention, and Recognition Committee conducted the meeting. Annette Weeks, Washington, Teacher Recruitment, Retention, and Recognition Membership Committee Chair, joined the meeting via Zoom. (Refer to the committee report for the details of the committee meeting.)

15. **Committee Reports** – Paul Aarsvold moved, Aaron Geiman seconded, to approve the committee reports as presented. Motion carried.
16. **INFLUENCE Experienced Teacher Program** – Bill Newsom moved, Aaron Geiman seconded, to conduct the INFLUENCE program as presented in 2025. Motion carried.
17. **DEI Statement** – Deanna Schnuck moved, Aaron Geiman seconded, to change the name of the NAAE DEI Statement to NAAE Belonging and Engagement Statement. Motion carried.
18. **Old Business** – Eric Tilleman set the committee meeting date to review the MOU with the Ag Ed Magazine.
19. **Adjournment** – With no further business to be transacted at this NAAE Board of Directors meeting, Bill Newsom moved, Cameron Dale seconded to adjourn; the motion carried. President Eric Tilleman declared the meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.