

**Minutes**  
**NAAE Board of Directors Meeting**  
**February 20-21, 2021**

The NAAE Board of Directors conducted a board of directors meeting on February 20-21, 2021 virtually. Board members in attendance included: Sherisa Nailor (PA), President; Stan Scurlock (FL), President-Elect; Eric Tilleman (MT), Region I Vice President; Todd Thomas (CO), Region II Vice President; Shari Graffunder (WI), Region III Vice President; Deanna Thies (MO), Region IV Vice President; Bill Newsom (TN), Region V Vice President; Dr. Robin McLean (NJ), Region VI Vice President; and Alissa Smith (KY), NAAE Chief Executive Officer. Other guests attended portions of the meeting as detailed in the meeting minutes.

The minutes of the meeting are as follows:

**Saturday, February 20, 2021**

- 1. Call to Order** – President Sherisa Nailor called the board meeting to order at 8:03 a.m. on Saturday, February 20, 2021. Sherisa welcomed all to the meeting.
- 2. Reflections and Pledge to the American Flag** – President Elect Stan Scurlock led the directors in reflections and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.
- 3. Approval of the Agenda** – Todd Thomas moved, Eric Tilleman seconded, to approve the agenda with flexibility; the motion carried.
- 4. Approval of Minutes** – Robin McLean moved, Todd Thomas seconded, to approve the minutes from the November 29, 2020 NAAE Pre-convention Board of Directors Meeting; the December 1, December 2, and December 4, 2020 NAAE Convention Business Sessions; and the December 10, 2020 NAAE Post-convention Board of Directors Meeting. The motion carried.
- 5. Board and Staff Reports** – Sherisa Nailor invited each director and staff person to present an update on their activities since the 2020 NAAE Convention.
- 6. Board Orientation and Training** – Alissa Smith led the board through board training to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the NAAE board of directors and the NAAE staff.

**Executive Session** – Shari Graffunder moved, Robin McLean seconded, to go into Executive Session. Motion carried. The NAAE Board moved into Executive Session at 9:48 a.m.

Shari Graffunder moved, Robin McLean seconded, to adjourn the Executive Session. Motion carried. The NAAE Board adjourn from executive session at 10:50 a.m.

**Please note: NAAE does not keep minutes or make comments regarding Executive Sessions.**

7. **CEO Report** – Alissa Smith presented the CEO report, which included staff updates, program and communication plan updates as well as observation from the last couple months on the job.
8. **NAAE Financial Update** – Jay Jackman, Chief Financial Officer, joined the meeting to present the current financial update including going over the most recent financial compilations from January 31, 2021.
9. **Teacher Recruitment, Retention Update** – Ellen Thompson, Director of NAAE’s Teach Ag Campaign, joined the meeting virtually to share the update from teacher recruitment and retention. Ellen shared some data from the National Supply and Demand Study as well as updates related to the FAST program and National Teach Ag Day.
10. **CASE Update** – Nancy Trivette, Director of CASE, joined the meeting virtually to share the update from CASE which included the funding and scholarship information and the intent of moving all CASE CI’s to virtual for the 2021 summer.

*President Sherisa Nailor recessed the board meeting for lunch.*

## **11. Committee Meetings**

- a. **Strategic Planning Committee Meeting** – Stan Scurlock, Board Strategic Planning Committee Chair, conducted the Strategic Planning Committee meeting. Dana Wood, North Carolina, Full Strategic Planning Committee Chair, joined the meeting via Zoom. (Refer to the committee report for the details of the committee meeting.)
- b. **Professional Growth Committee Meeting** – Eric Tilleman, Board Professional Growth Committee Chair, conducted the Professional Growth Committee meeting. Annette Weeks, Washington, Full Professional Growth Committee Chair, joined the meeting via Zoom. (Refer to the committee report for the details of the committee meeting.)
- c. **Finance Committee Meeting** – Deanna Thies, Board Finance Committee Chair, conducted the Finance Committee meeting. Stacy French, Missouri, Full Finance Committee Chair, joined the meeting via Zoom. (Refer to the committee report for the details of the committee meeting.)
- d. **Member Services Committee Meeting** – Bill Newsom, Board Member Services Committee Chair, conducted the Member Services Committee meeting. David Ruvarac, Pennsylvania, Full Member Services Committee Secretary, joined the meeting via Zoom. (Refer to the committee report for the details of the committee meeting.)
- e. **Marketing Committee Meeting** – Robin McLean, Board Marketing Committee Chair, conducted the Marketing Committee meeting. Kim Houser, Wisconsin, Full Marketing Committee Chair, joined the meeting via Zoom. (Refer to the committee report for the details of the committee meeting.)

- f. **Public Policy Committee Meeting** – Shari Graffunder, Board Public Policy Committee Chair, conducted the Public Policy Committee meeting. (Refer to the committee report for the details of the committee meeting.)
- g. **Policy and Bylaws Committee Meeting** – Todd Thomas, Board Policy and Bylaws Committee Chair, conducted the Policy and Bylaws Committee meeting. Matt Dettloff, Florida, Full Policy and Bylaws Committee Chair, joined the meeting via Zoom. (Refer to the committee report for the details of the committee meeting.)

**13. NAAE Representative to Ag Ed Boards Update**

- a. **The National Council for Agricultural Education Report** – Mary Hoffmann, NAAE’s representative to The National Council for Agricultural Education, presented a Council report.
- b. **National FFA Foundation Board of Trustees Report** – Sherisa Nailor, NAAE’s representative to the National FFA Foundation Board of Trustees, presented a report from the National FFA Foundation Board of Trustees.

*President Sherisa Nailor recessed the board meeting until Sunday morning.*

**Sunday, February 21, 2021**

*President Sherisa Nailor reconvened the meeting on Sunday, February 21, at 9:00 a.m.*

**13. NAAE Representative to Ag Ed Boards Update (CONTINUED)**

- c. **National FFA Organization Board of Directors Report** – Dave Gossman, one of the teacher representatives to the National FFA Organization Board of Directors, presented a report from the National FFA Organization Board of Directors.
- 14. 2021 NAAE Convention** – Alissa Smith reported that the 2021 NAAE Convention will be a hybrid convention with an on-site convention held in New Orleans, Louisiana, November 30-December 4, 2021 along with a virtual component so that those who can not travel will still be able to access portions of the convention.
- 15. NAAE Branding Project** – Alissa Smith led the discussion of the NAAE branding project. JoJo Rinebold from Rinebold Company presented to the board via Zoom highlighting some of the results of the branding study that occurred over the past year. JoJo shared the messaging pieces for the branding project and reported that the visual components would be available soon.
- 16. 2021 NAAE Regional Conferences** – Alissa Smith shared with the Board the recommendation from our lawyers related to the inability of NAAE to defend the organization related to the lack of pandemic protection through our meeting liability insurance as well as the major burden of compliance that comes with having in-person meetings would not be the best interest of our organization at this time but the situation was fluid and dependent on the roll out of the vaccine. Robin McLean moved, Todd Thomas

seconded, all 2021 NAAE summer Regional Business Meetings are held virtual. Motion carried. Stan Scurlock moved, Robin McLean seconded, NAAE Board members have the ability and support to attend state ag teachers conference if in-person. Discussion included the importance of supporting those states that can have in-person conferences since it has been over a year since Board members have been able to attend. Further discussion included this would not be a requirement but would be on a case by case basis since their may be travel and quarantine guidelines in place by some states. Motion carried. Discussion continued related to the Regions being able to select their own date in the month of June and providing professional development support for the conferences through a summer virtual professional development conference in July.

17. **Committee Reports and Approvals** – Todd Thomas moved, Robin McLean seconded, to accept the board committee reports as posted on Communities of Practice; the motion carried.
18. **NAAE Strategic Planning** – Sherisa Nailor led the board in discussion related to creating a survey that would measure committee effectiveness. The Board created questions and the staff will now take the questions and create a survey. The survey should be ready and sent to the board by March 8<sup>th</sup> for approval with the goal of distributing to committee members on March 15. Other discussion included providing examples of former strategic planning assessment questions to the current Strategic Planning committee.
19. **New Business** – Sherisa Nailor led the board in discussion of the selection of NAAE representation to other Boards. Discussion focused on keeping the representative on that board up to date on what is going on the Board level as well as the role of the Past President to the current Board of Directors. Robin McLean moved, and Eric Tilleman seconded, the NAAE representatives to the National FFA Board, the National FFA Foundations Board of Trustees, the National Council for Agricultural Education and the NAAE Past President serve as advisory council members on the NAAE Board of Directors and attend NAAE Board Meetings. Motion carried. Eric Tilleman moved, and Robin McLean seconded, to propose a bylaws amendment to be presented to the Delegates at the 2021 NAAE Convention to add Past President as an ex-officio, non-voting member of the NAAE Board of Directors. Motion passed.
20. **2021 Spring Board Meeting** – The spring board meeting will be April 17, 2021. Topics for this directors meeting will include approval of the 2021-22 NAAE budget, evaluate data from Committee Effectiveness survey, and discuss 2021 NAAE Convention schedule as well as other new business as it develops.
21. **Adjournment** – With no further business to be transacted at this NAAE Board of Directors meeting, Stan Scurlock moved, Robin McLean seconded to adjourn; the motion carried. President Sherisa Nailor declared the meeting adjourned at 12:14 p.m.