



**Executive Summary of the Motion of the Montana School Boards Association to Terminate
Membership in the National School Boards Association
November 1, 2021**

The Motion: The Montana School Boards Association Board of Directors (MTSBA) unanimously passed a motion on November 1, 2021 to terminate membership in the National School Boards Association (NSBA) at the end of the term for which it has paid (June 30, 2022). MTSBA’s motion incorporated a decision to forego any attempt to seek a refund of dues previously paid in July 2021 and to immediately engage in collaborative efforts with other state associations in the creation of a new national organization to meet the federal advocacy and related needs of its member school boards in a manner that values community ownership through local school board governance and engagement of students, families and other community stakeholders.

Rationale: The MTSBA Board passed its motion following extensive analysis and discussion of the gradual decline in NSBA’s focus on supporting community ownership and excellence of public schools over the last decade. Despite extensive efforts to help NSBA regain that focus, the MTSBA Board concluded that NSBA currently lacks the leadership necessary to bring about the fundamental change for NSBA to regain its important role as an advocate for excellence in public education through school board leadership.

MTSBA’s decision to terminate membership was not without forewarning. MTSBA renewed its membership with NSBA at the end of June 2021 with a significant degree of reluctance and with a specific intent that its renewal not be construed as an endorsement of NSBA’s conduct. MTSBA included a letter to the NSBA Board that accompanied its payment of dues last June. That letter advised the NSBA Board that NSBA was running out of time to correct its course and rebuild a culture of trust and transparency that was necessary for not just its success but for its survival. MTSBA also advised that “MTSBA’s renewal of membership should not be construed as an endorsement of or even an acquiescence to NSBA’s past conduct. It signifies an investment in NSBA’s future, in our hope that NSBA can make the changes necessary to succeed and regain broad trust of its member state school boards associations.” Despite this warning and subsequent actions taken by MTSBA in August of 2021 to successfully change NSBA’s Constitution in a manner that was supported by nearly 90% of the NSBA Delegates, NSBA’s leadership continues to persist in ineffective behaviors that negatively impact state school boards associations, member public school districts, and the children served by our K-12 public schools as is evidenced by the recent letter authored by the Interim CEO and the President of NSBA to the Biden Administration.

For Further Information: A comprehensive background and rationale for the motion, as well as the specific wording of the resolution itself is attached to this Executive Summary for those interested in further details. As a state association that first joined NSBA in 1950, over 70 years ago, this decision was made solemnly, judiciously, and with the unanimous approval of the MTSBA Board of Directors.