



March 12, 2020

Dear PSBA Member,

I would like to update you on the steps PSBA is taking in relation to COVID-19 and our upcoming programs and events. We continue to monitor the recommendations from our state Department of Health and the CDC and are concerned that the COVID-19 outbreak has now been labeled a pandemic occurrence by the World Health Organization. We are also cognizant that any gathering hosted by PSBA has the potential to impact numerous school districts. While we believe that the chances of a PSBA event or meeting exposing school directors, superintendents or other educational staff to COVID-19 are minimal, we want to err on the side of caution.

In consultation with the PSBA executive committee, we are converting the upcoming sessions of our Sectional Meetings, Spring Legal Roundup, task force meetings and other committee meetings to a virtual platform. Details will be sent out soon to all registered participants. The PSBA Governing Board meeting in March is also being switched to an online platform, in order to minimize travel and potential exposure for our board members.

In addition, after discussions with our partners, we are delaying the upcoming Advocacy Day, scheduled for March 23 in Harrisburg. We have close to 300 education advocates registered. We believe that it is our responsibility to ensure that these education leaders are not exposed to COVID-19 – which would potentially cause many districts to close. We are rescheduling our Advocacy Day for Monday, May 11, in hopes that the current threat of a pandemic event has passed by that point.

PSBA will also be cancelling the upcoming Focused Foundation conference, scheduled jointly with AIA Pennsylvania for March 31 and April 1. We are disappointed that we must take this action and cancel a conference that was very well received by our members and the architectural community. We hope to be able to reschedule this gathering in the future.

Finally, the PSBA staff will be rescheduling local meetings and outreach appointments with local boards and district staff that were to occur now through April 4. Out of an abundance of caution, we are restricting staff travel in order to protect our team and to avoid the potential for carrying COVID-19 from district to district as our staff meet with local school directors. PSBA will review this temporary travel restriction prior to April 4 and determine whether or not to continue it after that time.

PSBA is prepared to continue serving its members via our online channels, phone and other technologies. We have made investments over the past several years, converting to online and digital technology in order to be able to serve our members across Pennsylvania from any work location. We will continue to provide support, information and services to all PSBA members without interruption.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nathan Mains', with a long, sweeping underline.

Sincerely,
Nathan Mains
PSBA CEO