

# ANNUAL CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

The weather was perfect, the atmosphere dynamic, and the learning opportunities immense at the NSBA 2023 Annual Conference and Exposition, held in Orlando in April. Attendees, including sponsors, exhibitors, speakers, and guests, heard inspiring and informative presentations, learned about new and different ways to address educational issues, and discovered how national education trends are shaping their districts, communities, and students. One of the most important features was the opportunity to network face-to-face with peers. From student board members to leaders with years of experience, there were numerous opportunities to learn, share, and be inspired. Mark your calendar for the NSBA 2024 Annual Conference in New Orleans, April 6-8!

PHOTOS COURTESY OF LIFETOUCH



Students from Florida's Orange County Public Schools' Freedom High School performed the National Anthem and made the presentation of colors on Saturday.



Florida's St. Cloud High School Unified Cheer, representing Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools, helped open Saturday's general session.



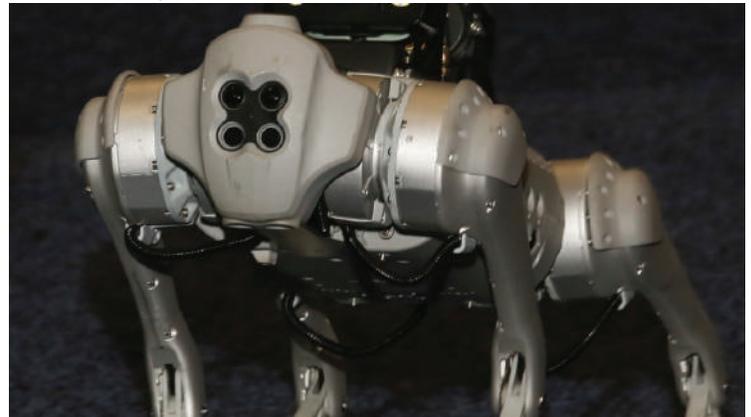
NSBA 2022-23 President Frank Henderson helps get the annual Delegate Assembly convening underway.



Participants confer during Delegate Assembly, where votes were cast this year to adopt resolutions and amendments to NSBA's Constitution & Bylaws and elect NSBA board members and officers.



Representatives with U.S. Army Education Outreach were among the exhibitors and event sponsors who supported Annual Conference.



This four-legged robot from Stokes Education made its way around the Exhibition Hall floor.



Participants in Friday's experiential learning opportunity, provided by Orange County Public Schools, visited Audubon Park K-8 and Hungerford Elementary School. Both schools are given the autonomy to put innovative ideas into practice.



A brave conference attendee greets a Kenyan sand boa from the reptile collection at Audubon Park School. Environmental sustainability is a cornerstone of instruction at the school.



Decreasing stress and increasing clarity was the goal of the SKY Schools-sponsored deep breathing exercise that opened Day 1 of the conference. A local high school student led conference attendees in the breathing exercise.



Give these folks an 'A' for participation. They embraced the breathing exercise and looked totally relaxed and focused.



In his final address as NSBA president, Frank Henderson said that his passion for the work of NSBA and advancing public education "is even greater now than it was a year ago."



Pans of Steel brought liltin' calypso vibes to Sunday's general session. The band is composed of students from Washington's Puyallup School District.



NSBA Executive Director John Heim and Deputy Executive Director Verjeana McCotter-Jacobs share a smile during the announcement of NSBA's upcoming leadership change.



Heim discussed school leadership and the relationships between school boards and their superintendents with AASA 2022-23 President Shari L. Camhi at a Master Class session.



During the site visit to Audubon Park K-8, attendees learn about the raised vegetable gardens that students tend.



The NSBA Exhibit Hall was a whirl of activity and information, courtesy of conference exhibitors. NSBA's Main Campus booth offered complimentary headshots, presentations, gifts, and more!



Hungerford Elementary students served as guides during the site visit to the school that features a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, AVIATION, and Mathematics) program.



An art showcase, curated by SKY Schools, featured a mural painted during the conference by Orange County Public Schools students. The mural's theme: "A Perfect Day at School."



Representing New York's Freeport Public Schools, the Freeport High School Select Chorale, under the direction of Monique Campbell Retzlaff, performed on Monday.



Actress Janelle James of the hit ABC TV show "Abbott Elementary" was Saturday's keynote speaker. She recalled loving books and reading while growing up and that her best friend in school was the librarian.



During her first speech as NSBA president, Kristi Swett reminded school leaders that, "We are a circle of people who care about excellence and equity for every student, every classroom, every day."



Sonya Whitaker, Illinois' Dolton School District 148 deputy superintendent, implored guests at the Council of Urban Boards of Education luncheon to, "Stay ready and maintain your commitment to fight the good fight for children."



Ensuring that schools are safe places for students and families was among the messages delivered by 2019 National Teacher of the Year Rodney Robinson during the National Black Council of School Board Members luncheon.



Frank Wain, an award-winning Sicangu Lakota Hip Hop performer and music producer from the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota, was the National American Indian and Alaska Native Council of School Board Members luncheon speaker.



Sunday's keynote speaker was Jenna Bush Hager, a co-host on NBC's "Today" show and the founder of the "Read With Jenna" book club. A former teacher, Hager said she learned firsthand that "Kids can do anything we expect of them."



Former Lt. Colonel Consuelo Castillo Kickbusch, an Army veteran and mentoring advocate, shared lessons of resilience, values, and pride during the National Hispanic Council of School Board Members breakfast.



New York's Buffalo Public Schools board member Kathy Evans-Brown accepted the Magna Award Grand Prize in the over 20,000 enrollment category at Sunday's General Session.



Kansas' Lawrence Public Schools board president Shannon Kimball accepted the 5,000 to 10,000 enrollment category Magna Award Grand Prize.



New York's Windsor Central School District board president Peter Nowacki accepted the under 5,000 Magna Award Grand Prize.



Monday's keynote speaker, Adam Cheyer, artificial intelligence pioneer and co-founder of Siri, emphasized the vital role of educators in a world constantly evolving with technology.