

## SCIENCE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION of NYS (STANYS)

### Suffolk Section

Executive Committee Meeting  
BOCES, 507 Deer Park Road, Dix Hills, NY 11746

### Minutes to Meeting: February 4, 2015

**Members Present:** Glen Cochrane, Jean Kohn, Joe Malave, Gary Vorwald, Peter Guastella, James Ripka, Matt Christianson, David Knuffke, Sr. Jane Fritz, Brian Vorwald, Ed McDaniels

Meeting called to order at 7:25 pm.

#### Minutes of December 4, 2014

G. Cochrane

James moved to accept the December minutes as amended. Jean seconded. Minutes were accepted unanimously.

#### Treasurer's Report

A. Lukaszewski

Glen distributed the treasurer's report. January dinner cost \$360 and \$500 to Smithtown Post Office for mailing the Conference program. There was a question about which budget line is used for the donation for an award given in our name at the Long Island Science Congress.

#### Committee Reports

##### A. Programs

- American Museum of Natural History trip is planned for Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>. So far, 10 people have signed up for the event through Eventbrite. All teachers who register online will get professional development credit and clues to the hunt. The program will run from 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

##### B. MATEX

J. Kohn/A. Bloch/M. Christianson

The committee plans to get together to develop a survey and a plan for next fall.

##### C. Newsletter

G. Vorwald

Winter newsletter is posted on the website and was published in mid-January.

##### D. Membership

S. Schumann

- Total membership is 228 with 179 voting members. We are still the largest section in the state.

##### E. Long Island Science Congress

A. Lukaszewski

The Long Island Science Congress will be held at the Cradle of Aviation Museum. The event will be held on March 19-20, 2015. They anticipate having the same number of projects as last year. One change this year is that they will hold 3 rounds of judging.

##### F. State Science Congress

G. Cochrane

- The date this year will be May 30, 2015 at Brookhaven National Lab. Funding for the state congress continues to be a concern. Long Island Science Congress reduced their contribution from \$5000 to \$4000. Barbara Poseluzny, representing the NYS Science Honor Society, offered to contribute \$2000 to the state congress. Glen announced his concern about the funding and may need to go to the STANYS Board of Directors to request funding.

**G. Website**

M. Torre

David Knuffke reviewed the website and feels that it would not be difficult to move to a more modern platform. However, it would take a lot of work and time.

**H. Spring Conference**

J. Malave/J. Ripka

The conference will be held on Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at Brookhaven National Lab. Dr. Krause, a vertebrate paleontologist from Stony Brook University will be our keynote speaker and will present his latest research on discoveries from the Cretaceous of Madagascar. The Conference Brochure is ready and will be bulk mailed this week to all Suffolk County science teachers and all elementary and secondary principals. The conference was first announced in the newsletter and through emails to Suffolk STANYS members and Department Chairpersons. At this time, 9 people have registered. Joe asked the Board to promote the event. Members volunteered to send an electronic message to the science listserves, Science Matters, and our Nassau and Suffolk science teachers.

Two vendors, Pierson and Vista Teach (Lego Robotics), are interested in attending.

**I. Awards Dinner/District Membership**

M. Brown/B. Vorwald

Awards Dinner will be on Wednesday, May 20, 2015 at Villa Lombardi in Holbrook. We have 24 districts that have already joined as district members. A mailing was sent to all principals and science supervisors recently. High School principals and supervisors received a letter for student award nominations as well as teacher nominations. Checks were received from Eastport/South Manor and Brentwood. Hauppauge is in the process of registering.

**Additional Topics:**

- a. C Division Science Olympiad was held at Brentwood High School on Saturday, January 30. Several of our Suffolk Board members were a great help. There were 49 teams from 26 schools participated in 24 events. Ward Melville HS, Half Hollow Hills East, and Islip HS placed 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>, respectively. Newsday and News 12 provided great press.
- b. The Strategic Plan for Science was adopted by the Board of Regents in January.
- c. STANYS will participate in a conference call this week, and a progressive dialogue will take place this Spring.

**Adjournment**

Motion: Ed moved to adjourn; second by Jean. Passed unanimously.  
Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Next Meeting:  
Thursday, March 5, 2015