

SCIENCE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION of NYS (STANYS)

Suffolk Section

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

Minutes to Meeting: May 7, 2015

Members Present: Jean Kohn, Joe Malave, Gary Vorwald, Matt Christiansen, Brian Vorwald, Ashley Bloch, Alice Veyvoda, Sr. Jane Fritz, David Knuffke, Sheilah Schumann

Meeting called to order at 7:33 pm.

Minutes of April 1, 2015

B. Vorwald for G. Cochrane

Joe moved to accept the minutes as amended. Ashley seconded. Minutes were accepted unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report

A. Lukaszewski

Angela was not present, but sent a report on the receipts and expenses from the conference. Receipts were \$6666.51 and expenses were \$1917.03. There are still a few outstanding checks from some districts that sent in purchase orders.

Committee Reports

A. Programs

A. Bloch

- See H: Spring Conference
- Ashley suggested coordinating with the Tesla Science Center at Wardencllyffe, the group that is renovating Tesla’s lab in Shoreham. They have weekly clean-ups. We might be able to include a visit to a winery with the event.
- Another program would be a scientist’s view at the “Metropolitan Museum of Art: Full STEAM Ahead at the Met.”

B. MATEX

J. Kohn/A. Bloch/M. Christiansen.

Jean stated that the committee met and decided on the format of the event. It will be a combination conference and materials fair, with an “unconference.” Proposed date is Friday, October 2. They investigated a number of possible sites with associated costs. They recommended the Courtyard Marriot in Holbrook. It is a central location and right off the Long Island Expressway.

MOTION: Sheilah moved that we confirm the date and contract with the Courtyard Marriot for this event. Second by David Knuffke. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Newsletter

G.Vorwald

Deadline for Spring/Summer issue is May 15. Gary asked that people send their articles as soon as possible. Goal is to have an issue before the end of school year. Need photos of Spring Conference and State Science Congress.

D. Membership

S. Schumann

We have 260 members, which includes 205 paying members and 55 students. This is an increase of 29 since April. Our section qualifies for 3 directors. We have the largest section in the state. Our Spring Conference brought in over 20 new members.

E. Long Island Science Congress

A. Lukaszewski

The Long Island Science Congress was held at the Cradle of Aviation Museum on April 21-22, 2015. The Awards ceremony will take place on May 18. Based on the rubric, they selected 40 projects to advance to the state congress. This includes 25 senior high school and 15 middle school projects.

F. State Science Congress

G. Cochrane/B. Vorwald

- The date this year will be May 30, 2015 at Brookhaven National Lab. Forms are online, and waiting for local science congresses to identify their students. There have been some requests from parents to have their children present on Friday due to religious reasons. Mel Morris will make arrangements. It is unsure whether the NYS Honor Society will be able to support the Congress as expected. Local science fairs have selected student finalists and registration has started. The cost for each student who participates is \$100 which is contributed by the local science fairs.
- Brian announced that there was no discussion about next year's State Science Congress at the May Board meeting. He stated that Western Section has indicated interest in hosting, but there was no announcement.

G. Website

M. Christiansen

Matt has volunteered to work on a new website. He has requested new Bios from our board members. He is revising the site and hopes to launch it by the end of the school year.

H. Spring Conference

J. Malave/J. Ripka

For Joe proposed a date for next year, Friday, March 18 at Brookhaven National Lab. Dr. Inglis, an astronomy professor from Suffolk Community College, will be one of our speakers. He asked for suggestions for a keynote speaker. An alternate date would be Friday, April 1.

The conference was a success in all ways. It had great attendance, the workshops were well received, and it was a financial success. The implementation of acceptance of purchase orders made a huge difference. Joe will have a meeting of the conference committee this summer.

I. Awards Dinner/District Membership

M. Brown/B. Vorwald

The annual Awards Dinner will be on Wednesday, May 20, 2015 at Villa Lombardi in Holbrook. We have 35 schools representing 31 districts that have joined as district members. Plans are underway and plaques have been ordered. The Awards selection committee met and reviewed applications for the teacher awards. The winners of the teacher's awards are: High School: Wayne Mennecke from Islip HS; Middle School: Rochelle Petrie from James Wilson Young MS in Bayport-Bluepoint, and Elementary: Susan Rosner from Burr Intermediate School in Commack. This will be our 40th Awards Dinner.

Brian brought up the question of whether candidates should be eligible to win the teacher award more than one time. There is no policy currently.

MOTION: Jean moved that "an applicant is not eligible to receive the teacher award if they have received the award within the past 10 years." Second by Ashley. Motion passed unanimously.

There are two service awards for our section: the STANYS Service Award, and the Suffolk STANYS Service Award.

MOTION: Gary nominated Joe Malave for the Suffolk STANYS Service Award for his outstanding contributions this year to our programs and Spring Conference. Second by Sheilah Schumann. Dave Knuffke nominated Matt Christiansen for the STANYS Service Award for his efforts in developing our new website. Second by Sr. Jane Fritz. Both motions passed unanimously.

Additional Topics/New Business:

- a. We received a thank you letter from Dr. Krause for the donation to the Ankizy Fund that was collected at our Spring Conference.
- b. Elections are in process electronically. End May 15. Ballotbin is being used and it is secure but not seamless.
Candidates:
Glen Cochrane – Chairperson
Ashley Bloch – Vice President for Program
Sheilah Schumann – Vice President for Membership
Angela Lukaszewski – Treasurer
Gary Vorwald – Secretary
Angela Lukaszewski – Section Director
Matt Christiansen – Section Director
Gary Vorwald – Section Director
- c. NGSS update: STANYS subject teams met in Schenectady to submit and discuss proposals for New York Standards. These were discussed at the DAL/SAR workshop on May 2. These will be submitted to the State Education Department. New NYS Standards are expected to be developed during the summer, and a draft made available to the field next fall.
- d. DAL/SAR workshop 5/2 and BOD 5/3. Report from those that attended: David reported that the Living Environment meeting went very well. He would have liked more time to review the work that was done. Ashley reported that the Intermediate group was nervous about the emphasis on elementary science. Jean sat in with the elementary group, and they will be responsible for the foundational skills.
- e. Board Meeting: Brian reported that the Board approved the creation of a Director at Large for Special Education and ELL. Nominees for the position were sent to the Executive Board, and the Board will consider appointing the DAL until an election can be held. Jean Kohn is a candidate for the position. The board was very supportive of the position.

A Special Director was created who is the chair of the Financial Initiative Committee. Fran Hess was appointed to the position. Other special directors were appointed at the meeting.
- f. Gary announced that he is coordinating a trip to Niagara Falls region in August, 2015. More details will be forthcoming.
- g. We will develop a meeting calendar at the next meeting. Bring your calendars.

Adjournment

Motion: Alice moved to adjourn; second by Sr. Jane. Passed unanimously.
Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 3, 2015