

## SCIENCE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION of NYS (STANYS)

### Suffolk Section

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

### Minutes to Meeting: June 3, 2015

**Members Present:** Jean Kohn, Gary Vorwald, Matt Christiansen, Brian Vorwald, Ashley Bloch, Alice Veyvoda, Sr. Jane Fritz, Sonja Anderson, June Dawson, James Ripka, Ed McDaniels, Peter Gustella, Brian Knuffke, Sheilah Schumann, Angela Lukaszewski.

Meeting called to order at 7:20 pm.

#### Minutes of May 7, 2015

B. Vorwald for G. Cochrane

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

#### Treasurer's Report

A. Lukaszewski

Angela announced that the State Congress did very well financially, and was only \$50 over budget. Alice moved that the Suffolk Section ask the NYS Honor Society for a \$500 contribution to offset costs and have seed money for next year's State Science Congress; second by James. Motion passed unanimously.

Maria Brown requested that we provide a gratuity for the matre de and it was agreed that we would send her a sum for our gratitude.

**MOTION:** Brian moved that we order two new banners to reflect our updated science logo and to replace the SCSTA name with Suffolk Section; Second by Alice. Cost will be \$250 for the two banners. Discussion: Angela suggested that we postpone the vote until we determine our financial status. Brian recommended that we order this now so that we have it for next year's events. Motion passed unanimously.

Angela stated that we donated \$400 to the Long Island Science Congress to sponsor awards. Sheilah read three thank you notes that we received from students.

**MOTION:** Angela moved that we allocate \$500 for Sheilah to generate school addresses and email addresses so that we have a master distribution list; second by Brian. Discussion: SED will no longer provide mailing labels/data from the BEDS list. Our current list is 2 year's old, and we need an updated list for our fall mailings. Motion passed unanimously.

#### Committee Reports

##### A. Programs

A. Bloch

- Ashley suggested coordinating with the Tesla Science Center at Wardencllyfe, the group that is renovating Tesla's lab in Shoreham.
- Another program would be a scientist's view at the "Metropolitan Museum of Art: Full STEAM Ahead at the Met."

##### B. SciTech Conference (formerly MATEX)

J. Kohn/A. Bloch/M. Christiansen

Jean announced that the event will be an all day event, starting at 8:00 a.m. and end at 3:00 p.m. There will be two sessions with up to 8 workshops scheduled in each. The day will start with breakfast followed by a keynote speaker. Lunch will be provided. After lunch, the concept of an "unconference" will be presented and then begin a few minutes later. The formal program will end at approximately 2:15 p.m. and have time for

people to complete a survey and win door prizes. Paid participants will have first opportunity to visit vendors beginning at 3:00 p.m. Vendors will have an opportunity, if they choose, to be open during lunch.

The event will be held at the Hilton Long Island/Huntington in Melville on Monday, September 28. They are anticipating a large turnout, approximately 300 participants. The committee developed a price structure for tables and prepared a mailing to potential vendors.

David Knuffke has arranged for Paul Andersen, a nationally recognized Biology teacher to be the keynote speaker. Ashley stated that a number of people offered to present workshops and she would welcome suggestions for presenters. Ashley is going to put out a “call for presenters.”

The cost for the facility is \$6000-\$7000, without food and beverage. A deposit of \$3000 is due by mid-June. Jean has received a contract from the Hilton and will contact them to check on AV costs, electricity, lodging and WIFI.

A mailing is being sent out to all Suffolk Science teachers to save the date for the conference. The section is very excited about this program and would like to thank the committee for their hard work.

C. Newsletter

G.Vorwald

Summer newsletter should be distributed by late June , early July. Summer issue deadline is August 15.

D. Membership

S. Schumann

We have 256 members, which includes 201 paying members and 55 students. We have 40 members more than this time last year. Over the last several years, our lowest was 133 paid memberships in September 2012 and our high was 220 in April 2011.

E. Long Island Science Congress

A. Lukaszewski

Awards ceremony was held on May 18. The 2016 Long Island Science Congress will be held at St. Joseph’s College in Patchogue next Spring.

F. State Science Congress

G. Cochrane

- The State Congress was held on May 30, 2015 at Brookhaven National Lab. The event was a huge success with 36 high school projects and 16 middle school projects. Students were judged 3-4 times and toured the lab after the judging. An Awards Ceremony was held and medals, plaques, and monetary awards were given out. The Western Section will be taking over the running of the Congress next year.

G. Website

M. Christiansen

Matt has finished developing our new website and it was launched on May 19. It has been very well received and is very professional.

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. 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

Awards Dinner was held on Wednesday, May 20, 2015 at Villa Lombardi in Holbrook. Villa Lombardi's was a great venue and we hope to return there next year.

Next year, the date will be May 18 or 19.

J. Elections: Our elections have been completed and the entire slate was elected.

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

**Additional Topics:**

- a. NGSS update: there is a conference call on Thursday, June 4 with Will Jaacks of SED. Glen is very interested in learning about the status of standard writing which is scheduled for this summer.
- b. Nominations for candidates for the new DAL for Special Education were solicited. Only one candidate has been submitted, and it appears that our own Jean Kohn will be appointed to this position.
- c. Gary announced that he is coordinating a trip to Niagara Falls region August 19-22, 2015.
- d. Next year, we will have meetings on the first Thursday of each month; then go to alternating Wed/Thurs in the Spring. Proposed dates are September 3, October 1, November 12, December 3, February 3, March 3, April 6, May 5, June 1.

**Adjournment**

Motion: Alice moved to adjourn; second by Sr. Jane. Passed unanimously.  
Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 3, 2015