

NCSTA Full Board Meeting Minutes

Date: September 6, 2025

Meeting Format: Face-To-Face @ Meredith

Members Present: Brian Whitson, Mary Ellen Durham, Carrie Jones, Brad Rhew, Brad Woodard, Manley Midgett, Angela Adams, Jill Francis, Carol Maidon, Cliff Hudson, Tom Savage, Kelly McDermott, Lottie Peppers, Adrienne Evans, Jennifer Redfearn, Joette Midgett, Carrie Fugle, Dearing Blackmann, Michelle Hafey, Emily Cayton and Dorothy Holley

Quorum was established for this meeting with 7 out of 8 District Directors and all Executive Board members present.

Meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by President Adrienne Evans.

The meeting agenda was approved and Angela Adams motioning this with Lottie Peppers seconding this.

Consent Agenda: Minutes were approved from the April 10th full board meeting on Zoom.

Treasurer's Report (Carol Maidon)

Carol presented the Treasurer's Report which was sent out to the board

She mentioned that we are way ahead of last year in current funds due to vendors registering and some teachers. Higher registration numbers at this point compared to last year. Maybe the brightly colored registration flyers helped to attract more people earlier

Operations Report (Joette Midgett)

- Sponsorships, money is tight we may not exceed last year (over \$20,000)
- The Burroughs-Wellcome grant is in jeopardy this year
- 44 Booths
- 41 Vendors
- (Each have paid already)
- 96 registrations as of today as compared to 65 last year to date.
- The impact of federal money could trickle down to our PDI
- We have 8 students registered so far. This does not help our bottom line but it helps our mission of nurturing and helping future teachers
- 2 Gold Sponsors Department of Health & Human Services and Stiles
- 1 Silver Sponsorship \$2500 through Plasma Games
- 3 Bronze Sponsorships totaling \$1500
- New Vendor in NewsEla
- Carolina Biological sponsoring the plaques and Keynote
- National Geographic Explorer is one of our Keynotes
- Schedule is on the website, Sched App again this year

- Burroughs-Wellcome Grant we ask in April get word in May for PDI in November, this is the schedule for that.
- Federal Grant \$ some research has been cut so less money to help out

Action Items

#1 Different Association computer software: Member Leap, there is a link on the Agenda for its information; we need to change our computer website software, our support company is retiring at the end of the year, software is now obsolete. Nathan Eubanks is our tech support currently. Math is in the same situation. Math and Science Associations share Host Tech, the monthly expense disappears with Member Leap

We can build our website from the ground up, not hard but will take time, we cannot touch this until after the PDI.

2 Votes will be needed

- Need to accept as our software and the money needed to start this process.
- Executive Committee need to adopt the software, need a second since coming from Carol Maidon

Motion #1 from Carol Maidon to adopt a software called Member Leap, an association management system. Motion passes

Discussion: Math target date will be December 31st

This would be Cloud Based, truly the best package as it is Feature Rich, pricing is based on number of members in NCSTA, the subscription would be paid online by Quickbooks every month. We would get rid of IContact the \$50-\$60 per month, possibly do the Newsletter without Canva

Motion #2 from the Executive Committee to approve a budget amendment for the expenditure of \$5,000 to initiate the use of software called Member Leap an association management system. This passes.

Motion #3 to approve the 2026 PDI Theme & Strands

Strands are as follows: Connecting Scientific Concept AI's role #1, Connecting The Disciplines #2, Developing a Personal Connection to Science #3, Using Assessment to Connect Effective Tracking & Learning #4

Theme is Connections In Science Education

Discussion: Widen Strand 1 as a suggestion, Connecting Science and Technology

Remember last year strand has to be scrapped by DEI State Agencies cannot support workshops, sessions, keynotes, etc

Suggestion: Teachers teaching ALL students, this is our mission, use the right wording

Avoid having to change

We are locked in if things are printed

Sched for Presentation, where does it fit (Elem., Middle or High School/other)
Formative Assessments in there, relevance to students?
Strand #2 lose this one, just a suggestion
Emerging TEchnologies-best way to address this, some volunteers needed to be on a committee to address this, one volunteer is Lottie Peppers
PDI Committee should approve the Graphic for the 2026 PDI before the Save The Date Cards are printed as has been done previously

Board voted to table this motion for further discussion at the next meeting.

Email from NCSTA last night regarding tense situation because of the Federal budget, how this might affect PDI and Professional Development funds. Title 2A Senate to keep 2025 levels, House wants to cut; Title 1 funds can be used to help; Literacy Workshop

Motion from the Grants Committee to approve an increase in the funding by \$200-Dorothy Holley. motion passes

Emily Cayton, promoted Reality Check and Share-A-Thons, she is bringing 8 to PDI, she has emailed 9 different people to try to get folks from UNC-Asheville and Appalachian State, the contact there is Marta Toran

It was mentioned that schools are seeing a drop in student teachers
Carrie Fugle asked about sessions for these teachers.

Kristin Kane shared a Legislative Report with us through email as she could not be present at the meeting

Share-A-Thons

- Middle & High School changes, instead of designated 1 or 2 hour shifts, have it Thursday afternoon, tables as many as possible, share lessons, possible ½ day, QR codes if needed, not the best choice, do not want to have any overlap with Registrations, could have table tents with course and subject on it 40 tables for 80 presenters we have space for, free resources for attendees, last year paper copies on the tables ran out. Benton will set these tables up, possible idea that the counties Teacher Of The Years could present; brainstorm ways to get people to present, lessons, strategies, mentioned in the Reflector newsletter. Our website has a Share-A-Thon page, it was noted that last year, not enough presenters and some cancellations. Idea of rebranding Science Drop-Ins by Lottie Peppers.

Reflector (Mary Ellen Durham)

- 1 featured article was extremely popular–Rising Star (those with 1-3 years of teaching experience), contact those principals of these teachers; one such article told the story about at Heritage High School at an assembly where the alternate licensure teacher was recognized
- Highlight veteran teachers

- Have Photos of every county represented at PDI; include Keynote and General Session presenters; coordinate times for districts to take their pictures
- Dearing has access to print a county-by-county map

Motion to break for Lunch, be back in 30 minutes

Dorothy Holley was highlighted after lunch with her work as an Einstein Fellow with DC Fulbright Teachers and her summer in Senegal, she is truly a Global Educator

Awards/Nominations (Jennifer Redfearn)

- Information to get plaques and notify winners
- Need a transporter of the plaques to PDI
- We had the most award nominations ever, it helps with reaching out to principals to see if they have a deserving teacher, District Directors helped out with this in the Spring at events like Science Olympiad and Envirothon, use of Contact List was key as well as emails by District Directors, thanks for doing this. Teachers featured in the Reflector, their principals are notified, this is effective PR
- With the Contact List, let Joette know if there are bounces when people move schools, switch states, etc. Manley and Joette have updated the list 4 times

PDI Update (Tom Savage)

- Spin-A-Wheel –Jill Francis, Teresa Cowan has purchased prizes, some vendors donate to this effort
- Extravaganzas, set up times during PDI; again vendors donate door prizes
- Microphone to be used for these
- 4 piece band playing before the Awards Ceremony; 5:15-6:00 time frame, entertainment, \$250 price for this
- Need 14 projectors, Michelle can bring two, we had a good number of these last year
- Brian can bring 5-6, make sure these projectors are HDMI compatible
- Gifts for Keynote Speakers
- Sign up sheet for Tote Bag stuffing
- Need volunteers for Registration Desk signups
- NCSTA Booth volunteer signups, location to be outside Exhibit Hall as it was last year
- Signs-we are trying to keep costs low; Meredith prints for \$8 per sign, these are real estate type signs, these are corrugated to be put on an easel

District Directors Report

District 1 (Kelly) STEM Expo in Greenville is free on September 27th from 10am-2pm, NC Science Engineering Fair to be held in February

District 2 (Michelle) Science Olympiad registration upcoming, CSTEM Conference was maxed out; Onslow County STEM Grant Final Part was awarded to a middle school teacher

District 3 (Lottie) 2 Wake County finalists for Presidential Awards

District 8 (Jill) WCU STEM Outreach Day with NCCAT

Goals/Membership (Cliff Hudson)

Attending conferences create positive impacts

NCSTA Reps attended and had booths at NCTIES Conference and the Middle School Conference

Finance Committee (Carol Maidon)

This committee meets during the 1st of January, so get your needs in by the middle of December

Reflector Newsletter (Mary Ellen Durham)

-Winter Edition will feature Science classroom activities, try to get 2 articles for each district

-3 issues have been sent out thus far this calendar year, the Fall Edition will push the PDI

-Lisa Pope from Environmental Center has generated several recurring submissions

-Shout Outs to Kristin Kane, Brad Rhew and Lindsey Stalls for submitting articles and stuff

Wednesday night meeting at PDI will be at 7:15 in Presidential Suite like last year, bring notepad

Food Minimum includes Lunch & Learn Workshops along with the reception, breakfast, as well as the Benton-served lunch items right outside of the Exhibit Hall, traffic is good for the exhibitors

4 Thursday Lunch & Learn Workshops along with 1 Dairy Alliance lunch for up to 100 people; could be free lunches for 200 people

Cliff Hudson reports that the reception menu is already planned

Grants (Dorothy Holley)

Motion: Increase Study Grants Budget by \$200

- Have spent \$934 to date
- Motion passes

Trust Fund (Manley Midgett)

Just received a donation, now up to \$113,600; this is our association's rainy day fund which we don't touch unless emergency situation

Legislative Update (Kristin Kane)

She shared updates on a link in the Agenda

Sponsorships can be from local businesses, banks, etc.

NSTA Liaison (Carrie Jones) April Reorganization of Leadership

Next meeting at PDI Benton Winston-Salem November 5th at 7:15 p.m..

Meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m..

Respectfully submitted by NCSTA Secretary, Brad Woodard