

NCSTA Full Board Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, April 10, 2025

Format: Zoom

Members Present: Adrienne Evans, Mary Ellen Durham, Carol Maidon, Joette Midgett, Kelli McDermott, Cliff Hudson, Joette Midgett, Jill Francis, Manley Midgett, Carrie Jones, Angela Adams, Gina Barrier, Melaine Rickard, Gavin Fradel, Lottie Peppers, Brad Rhew, Michelle Hafey, Jennifer Redfern, Dorothy Holley and Brad Woodard

Meeting called to order at 6:05 p.m.

Welcome & Introductions

- Kelli McDermott District 1 (Ceremonial Vote to come)

\*\*Quorum Established

Brad Rhew moves to approve the agenda with Mary Ellen Durham seconded

Meeting Minutes from the January meeting were approved through the consent agenda

Treasurer's Report (Carol Maidon)

This was sent out via email for your review

- Net income is currently in the negative due to the time of year with no PDI income, we are spending more than we are taking in

Operations Report (Joette Midgett)

- PDI planning is going well
- 13 booths so far, we are ahead of schedule
- American Book Company has promised lanyard and \$1500 bronze sponsorship
- Middle School and NCTIES Conference attendee list shared as before
- Speaker for Carolina Biological

Action Items

- 1) Kelli McDermott District 1 Director (out of room for vote)  
She teaches at South Central High School, she was approved as District 1 Director, motion carried unanimously
- 2) Mary Ellen Durham, Ad Hoc Vi Hunsucker Committee Motions 1st, she thanks her committee (Brad Woodard, Cliff Hudson and Manley Midgett) as well as Joette with her research historical background. Vi Hunsucker Founding President did many things to expand this organization
  - Language- the candidate goes above and beyond the call of duty. Language has become not as clear for credentials, we need to gather information from our

stakeholders to clarify, written statement goes into the policies of who, when, the selection process

#### MOTION #1

1. The Vi Hunsucker Award Ad hoc committee moves that Section VII 4 Awards of the NCSTA Handbook be changed to read as follows:

The Vi Hunsucker Outstanding Science Educator of North Carolina Award is named in honor of NCSTA Founder and First President, Violet (Vi) D. Hunsucker. Vi Hunsucker helped start the organization in 1969 and continued to provide leadership as it grew and expanded. This award recognizes long-term commitment and loyalty to the North Carolina Science Teachers Association, as well as accomplishments beyond one's employment duties, that advance, stimulate, extend, and improve the teaching and learning of science within the state. This award may honor formal science teachers, elementary teachers engaged in science instruction, informal science educators, or patrons of /or ambassadors for NCSTA who have made significant contributions to NCSTA and have provided excellence in science education at all grade levels in North Carolina.

When given, the winner of the Vi Hunsucker Outstanding Science Educator of North Carolina Award is to be presented with an award at the annual conference (PDI). The Awards Committee does not disclose the identity of the Vi Hunsucker honoree until the presentation at the PDI awards ceremony.

This honor is not a yearly award. It recognizes an exceptional NCSTA member who has demonstrated long-term commitment to the Association and advancement of science teaching and learning in the state of North Carolina.

If nominations are received for this honor, a special Ad Hoc committee composed of the Awards chair, a sitting NCSTA Board member, and a past Vi Hunsucker Awardee will formed to review and assess the nominations and supporting documentation for the Vi Hunsucker Outstanding Science Educator of North Carolina Award to determine if the criteria is met and the award is warranted.

To maintain relevancy and clarity, periodic assessments will be made to determine whether or not an ad hoc committee formation is necessary to review the existing criteria and selection process for the NCSTA Vi Hunsucker Award.

The website should be updated to be in agreement with this policy.

MOTION #2. The Vi Hunsucker Award Ad hoc committee moves that the NCSTA Board approve the following nomination and selection process for the Vi Hunsucker Outstanding Science Educator of North Carolina Award.

A separate page will be placed on the NCSTA website regarding the Vi Award.

(Draft of this link) <https://www.ncsta.org/awards/Vi-Hunsucker-Award/>

An option for the nominator to download a document that address the eligibility and evidence requirements for the award.

A nomination form will be on the website that allows for the nominee to submit

information and evidence for each of the 4 award criteria that supports the individual being considered for the Vi.

Endorsement letter(s) will be emailed to the Awards Chair.

When nominations for the Vi are received and the Awards Chair deems the nominee has sufficient evidence to meet criteria #1, Long term loyalty and commitment to NCSTA, the Chair of the Awards committee forms an ad hoc group composed of the Chair, a sitting Board member and a former Vi winner to use the scoring matrix for the Vi Hunsucker Award to assess the evidence submitted on the nominee's behalf. Based on this assessment, this Ad Hoc committee determines if the individual qualifies for the award. The Vi Award is not given yearly, but only if a nominee meets/surpasses the Criteria.

Discussion.....

- Directed towards identifying the selection process
- 12 years or more, extremely important
- Will be a separate page on the website
- Identifies list of evidence
- Way for endorsement letters
- Matrix linked on our agenda

Since this comes from a committee, there is no need for a second. Motions carry.

3) Brad Rhew Motion..... Revised Strand for PDI

**Nobody wins unless everyone wins! STEM for all!**

Educators are invited to share lessons and strategies for creating science classrooms to encourage all students to excel in STEM. Participants will enhance their skills in best practices in STEM education, building a sense of belonging, incorporating various perspectives, and mentoring ALL students through evidence-based practices.

The Executive Board at its meeting reviewed strands and words being used in political flagged at district level, federal \$ Promote in ways not to get flagged, use STEM for All, use different verbage

UPDATE....DHHS \$3500 Sponsorship on go

Carol moves adoption of this motion, no second needed since coming from Executive Board

Motion to change the name of committee to Science For All Committee, vote passes

4) Approval of Grant Submission

Dorothy Holley \$1,000 Grant Classroom Connect, email sent

Project Information Included, linked to the agenda-Grant Summary given

Vote passes

- 5) Another cycle of upcoming Curriculum Grant \$1500 and \$1,000 Study Grants, put together, done before being proactive. Motion: Allow flexibility between two grants to go in either direction (Carol made motion and Cliff 2nd)

## Constitution & By-Laws Motions

### **1. The Constitution and Bylaws Committee moves to change the term Ad Hoc Committees to Other Committees (in our Policies).**

Rational: These are not Ad Hoc Committees in that they are not temporary and will not disband once a specific task is completed.

## **Policies**

### III.C. Ad Hoc Committees.

1. Teacher Services and Recognition.
  - a. Awards
  - b. Grants – Study Grants and Innovative Curriculum Grants.
2. History and Records.
3. Diversity and Equity
4. Non-Public Schools.
5. Student Competitions.
6. Communications.
7. Trust Fund. As of 9/22/2012, the Trust Fund is named ‘The Paul H Taylor NCSTA Trust Fund”
8. Legislative.
9. Science Matters.
10. Pre-Service Teachers & University Liaison.

Changes:
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### III.C. ~~Ad Hoc Committees.~~ [add: Other Committees]

1. Teacher Services and Recognition.
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Will Read as Follows:
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III.C. Other Committees

1. Teacher Services and Recognition.
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**1. The Constitution and Bylaws Committee moves to add Non-Formal Science to the list of Other Committees and remove Science Matters (in our Policies).**

Rational: Non-Formal Science has been a part of our Board for many years and Science Matters was an NSTA initiative that no longer exists.

**Policies**

See above III.C. Other Committees

Changes:
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III.C. Other Committees.

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9. ~~Science Matters.~~ [add: Non-Formal Science]
10. Pre-Service Teachers & University Liaison.

Will Read as Follows:

### III.C. Ad Hoc Committees.

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### 1. The Constitution and Bylaws Committee moves that Other Committees also receive free membership while serving on the Board as well as the Board of Directors and Standing Committees Chairs (in our Policies).

Rational: This would provide equitability for everyone serving on the Board.

#### Policies

1.B.1. Board of Directors and Standing Committee Chairpersons. Board members and standing Committee Chairpersons will receive free membership to NCSTA for the duration of their service on the Board. (1/27/90) (Rev 10/9/98)

Changes:

1.B.1. Board of Directors and [add: ,] Standing Committee Chairpersons [add: and Other Committee Chairpersons]. Board members ~~and~~ [add: ,] standing Committee Chairpersons

[add: and Other Committees Chairpersons] will receive free membership to NCSTA for the duration of their service on the Board. (1/27/90) (Rev 10/9/98)

Discussion....

- Editorial change Science Matters was with NSTA as its initiative and it is no more
- Non-Formal also an editorial change it had not been listed but will be added back
- The Vi Hunsucker Award is a perfect example of an Ad Hoc Committee as opposed to a standing committee, the former is a temporary committee while the latter has been on the books for some time
- President has flexibility over committees except ones listed in our By-Laws
- Will go to membership
- Article 10 Section 1 Shall include but not limited to wording

Discussion Items

Awards (Jennifer Redfern)

- Great job getting award nominations, all in for Districts 1, 3 and 5
- Very much a team effort
- Fullest slate of nominations at this point in quite some time
- 1 in today
- Cliff Hudson is working on one in District 1
- District 7-Three will be coming in shortly
- Contact lists from County has helped a great deal
- March was a big push

Nominations (Melaine Rickard)

- For Nominations we need bio and photo for those seeking board positions which this year are even districts, Secretary and President-Elect
- One person has inquired about this and will get back to us
- Angela Adams-District 4, District 2 may have 2-3 interested, one each for Districts 6 and 8 interested candidates

New Website

- Our contact help is retiring, brought before Executive Board on April 3rd, shopping for new website AMS (Association Management System): Possibilities include: Wild Apricot and Member Link; need system to do PDI, Membership, Vendors, Elections, will need to discuss this at our September meeting; input needed but no committee for this, demos can be downloaded for researching this; possible fees \$340 per month, no Host Tech, replace I Contact, save \$, it could send out our Newsletter; Wild Apricot does not have this

### PDI Updates (Tom Savage)

- National Geographic Semi-sponsored by Carolina Biological; Science Is Phenomenal-our Theme; back up speaker
- RTI Curriculum on Vaccines-Middle School; “Raven The Science Maven” Friday speaker, Burroughs-Wellcome to sponsor her or conference events
- B-Wellcome: new cycle starts in September, what likely to approve, possible shift of focus to RTI (Vaccine Development)
- July meeting approves our PDI presenters, likely lots of proposals
- PDI Jobs List, names in places to fill gaps (Share-A-Thon: Jill Francis name is down twice, no one should have to double up; Elem: Brad Rhew and Angela Adams, Carrie Jones PDI Evaluation, Cliff- Sessions, Mary Ellen Durham and Brad Woodard (signs and registration booth as always), NCSTA Booth Coordinator needed, outside Exhibit Hall
- Exhibit Hall likely to be full again; trickle down of funding may affect nonprofits
- Will need to coordinate give-aways, Spin-A-Wheel, photo booth, stuffing bags, etc.
- Hospitality-Adrienne Evans, Food-Cliff, Grant-A-Wish: Tom Savage assisted by Brad Woodard, Spin-A-Wheel: Jill Francis, others will help
- Ceremonies & General Sessions-Carol Maidon; all will help with stuffing tote bags
- Spin-A-Wheel to be done every 15 minutes during breaks; continue the Exhibit Hall Extravaganza
- No Competing Sessions with Awards or General Sessions; allow for Exhibit Hall viewing time
- Kelli McDermott: Tote Bag Stuffing Coordinator
- Sandra Weitzel: Counter Coordinator (numbers in sessions) she did this last year
- Presenters need HDMI connectivity, 14 last year, thanks to our helpers from last year

### District Reports

- Districts 1-5 and 7-8 shared information and events happening in their District

### Goals & Membership (Cliff Hudson)

- Discussed how our presence at NCTIES and the Middle School Conference helped increase membership, we had a booth at both of these
- Promote Our Conference all year through
- Talk to our Vendors and Exhibitors about us
- Workshops on August 2nd and August 8th at ECU

### Reflector Newsletter (Mary Ellen Durham)

- Winter edition was excellent; every district was highlighted; we got nominations likely as the result of this newsletter being shared across the state
- Next episode in May/June



#### Trust Fund (Manley Midgett)

- Sitting at \$100,000 (Back-up account, only once we had to go into this)

#### Legislative (Kristen Kane)

- Links were provided from February 28th and March 28th

#### DPI Liason (Gavin Fradel)

- SEP's Available on Canvas Hub, presentations are uploaded
- Links to new standards
- Keely Formative Assessment Probes

#### Miscellaneous

- Emily Cayton brought 18 student teachers to PDI with the special incentive of pre-registering with membership for 30 day period for PDI, continue that.
- Carol mentioned in light of DEI situations, we need to take down position statement regarding this
- NSTA Philadelphia Carrie Jones went
- NCSELA Brad Rhew mentioned Spring Summit in April

Motion to Adjourn @ 7:58 Angela Adams motioned and Carol Maidon seconded

Awards and Nominations-Check your emails!!!

Next meeting is September 6th, 2025 in person at Meredith College.

Respectfully submitted by Brad Woodard, NCSTA Secretary