

**Minutes of the 6th Meeting of the  
National Congress on Science Education  
Minneapolis, MN  
August 4-7, 2005**

**Call to Order -** The meeting was called to order by NSTA Retiring President, Anne Tweed at 8:46 a.m. on Thursday, August 4, 2005.

**Report of the Credentialing Committee** Michael Padilla, NSTA President, reported the following information regarding the 2005 NCSE attendees:

Chapter Delegates – 37  
Assoc. Group Delegates -10  
Chapter Alternates - 10  
Assoc. Group Alternates - 6  
Total # of Registrants - 168

**Adoption of Operating Policies** There being no changes to the operating policies, they stand as submitted.

**Adoption of Agenda**

**8/05CNG1** Moved by Mary McClellan to approve the agenda. **Passed.**

**Approval of Minutes** There being no changes to the July 2004 minutes, they stand as submitted.

**Request for Additional Focus Groups** There were no request for additional focus groups. Following are the 2005 focus groups:

*The Challenge of the Evolution Debate*

Facilitator: Kenn Heydrick, President-Elect, Science Teachers Association of Texas  
Leader: Joyce Tugel, NSTA Director, Professional Development

*The Challenge of Reviving Elementary Science*

Facilitator: Vanessa Westbrook, Past President, Science Teachers Association of Texas  
Leader: Paul Drummond, President-Elect, Michigan Science Teachers Association

*The Challenge of Supporting First and Second Career New Teachers*

Facilitator: John Olson, President, Minnesota Science Teachers Association  
Leader: Bambi Bailey, Faculty Advisor, Midwestern State University Student Chapter

*The Challenge of Bridging the Achievement Gap*

Facilitator: Bobby Jeanpierre, NSTA Director, Multicultural/Equity in Science Education  
Leader: Deborah O’Gorman, President, Nevada State Science Teachers Association

*The Challenge of Assessment in 2007/08*

Facilitator: Nancy Bennett, Past President, New Jersey Science Teachers Association  
Leader: Mary Lightbody, Past President, Science Education Council of Ohio

*The Challenge of Using Research to Inform Instruction*

Facilitator: Jonathan Singer, Research Director, NSTA Board of Directors

Leader: Melody Orban, Association Contact, WI Elementary & Middle Level Science Teachers Assn.

**Focus Group Resolutions**      The following resolutions arose from the focus groups:

*Proposed by the Washington State Science Teacher's Association*

**8/05CNG2**      Be it resolved that the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) develop an electronic universal science safety student and parent contract that is content specific and translate that contract into the most common student languages found in science laboratory classes within the United States. **Passed.**

*Proposed by the Georgia Science Teachers Association*

**8/05CNG3**      Be it resolved that the National Congress on Science Education continues to support the salary structure(s) currently used in most states, but also encourages states, districts, and schools to explore differential pay systems that would support and retain more qualified individuals in the science education profession. **Passed.**

*Proposed by the Alabama Science Teachers Association*

**8/05CNG4**      Be it resolved that the National Congress on Science Education issue a commendation to Dr. Wendell G. Mohling in appreciation of his many years of distinguished service and his lifetime of accomplishments and dedication to science education. **Passed**

*Proposed by the Evolution Focus Group*

**8/05CNG5**      Be it resolved that the NSTA initiate joint action with all science and science education organizations to develop a public information campaign to support the teaching of evolution. **Passed.**

**8/05CNG6**      Be it resolved that NSTA provide a toolkit on the subject of evolution for use by teachers of science and other stakeholders. **Passed.**

**8/05CNG7**      Be it resolved that the NSTA explore the possibility of developing a toolkit on the subject of evolution for policymakers. **Passed**

**8/05CNG8**      Be it resolved that the NCSE encourages the CAAGS to provide professional development and resource identification in the nature of science and evolution to teachers of science via conferences, newsletters, electronic resources, etc. **Passed**

**8/05CNG9**      Be it resolved that the NCSE advocates that all teacher certification institutions require courses in the nature of science and evolution for all pre K-12 teachers of science. **Passed**

**8/05CNG10**      Be it resolved that The National Congress of Science Education advocates the teaching of evolution as an essential unifying concept in science that should be included in the K-12

science curricula. Teachers of science should be supported in the teaching of evolution and the strong body of scientific evidence supporting it, and not pressured to present nonscientific views. **Passed**

*Proposed by the Reviving Elementary Science Focus Group*

**8/05CNG11** Be it resolved that NSTA develop and disseminate a framework for creating and maintaining an elementary science coaching model which will be made available to CAAGs for state and local professional development. **Passed**

**8/05CNG12** Be it resolved that CAAGs of NSTA advocate for and design professional development opportunities that incorporate standards based science and research driven pedagogical strategies for elementary educators. **Passed**

**8/05CNG13** Be it resolved that NSTA develop an “Advocacy Toolkit” that promotes elementary science education at the local, district, and state level. **Passed**

**8/05CNG14** Be it resolved that NSTA provide and disseminate a compilation which includes the final outcome/status/ documentation (letters, papers, reports, etc) to include but not limited to the following resolutions which may be utilized by state CAAGs working with their legislatures, state education agencies, colleges/universities, and/or school districts in the promotion and development of quality science education at the elementary level:

Page	CNG	CCL	BOD	Status
3	7/00CNG-24	No Action	No Action	Letter from Ken
4	7/01CNG6	Council Agenda 2/02		
4	7/01CNG 8	No Action	No Action	Letter from Ken
7	7/02CNG16	7/02CCL15	7/02BOD15	In process
8	7/03CNG10	7/03CCL4	7/03BOD9	Cindy Workosky
9	7/03CNG19	No Action		Letter from Ken
10	7/03CNG21	No Action		Letter from Ken
12	7/04CNG9	No Action		

**Passed**

*Proposed by the Challenge of Supporting New and Second Career Teachers Focus Group*

**8/05CNG15** Be it resolved that NSTA expand their position statement called Science Teacher Preparation to include recommendations that (a) individuals making a transition from a previous career participate in a practicum teaching experience as a requirement before entering full time teaching; and (b) all new teachers be supported during their initial years by an ongoing mentoring program consistent with the national science education standards. **Passed**

**8/05CNG16** Be it resolved that NSTA support new teachers of science through the reorganization of current online resources into a condensed “starter package” to include:

1. list of applicable NSTA publications
2. selected articles from NSTA publications on topics such as lab safety, classroom management, inquiry based instruction, etc.
3. list of grants and requests for proposals

4. list of professional science organizations **Passed**

**8/05CNG17** Be it resolved that Congress advocates an accelerated expansion of the e-mentoring program to all districts. Consideration of retired science teachers in the pool of potential e-mentors is recommended. **Passed**

*Proposed by the Challenge of Bridging the Achievement Gap Focus Group*

**8/05CNG18** Be it resolved that NSTA establish an on-line resource for parents to promote high expectations in STEM careers for their children in order to contribute to closing the achievement gap. **Passed**

**8/05CNG19** Be it resolved that the NCSE supports that the definition of a highly qualified teacher of science be expanded to include:

1. knowledge of resources to provide access for diverse students to all aspects of the science curriculum
2. collaborative skills for working with specialists and support personnel in the professional learning community. **Passed.**

**8/05CNG20** Be it resolved that NSTA should establish a focus group to set guidelines that define attributes of a physical and emotionally safe and threat-free science learning environment which will contribute to closing the achievement gap. **Passed**

*Proposed by the Challenge of Assessment Focus Group*

**8/05CNG21** Be it resolved that C/AAGS promote appropriate and responsible use of statistical analysis of state assessments to foster understanding of student achievement by media and all stakeholders. **Passed**

**8/05CNG22** Be it resolved that C/AAGS promote positive aspects of state assessments as opportunities to improve science education and student LEARNING (i.e. development of individual professional development plans, curriculum development/ adjustment, pacing and timing of content delivery, and effective instructional strategies.) **Passed**

**8/05CNG23** Be it resolved that NSTA will join with C/AAGS in contacting national and state educational officials to encourage the adoption and use of testing structures that encourage innovative and effective science programs and instruction. **Passed**

*Proposed by the Challenge of Using Research to Inform Instruction Focus Group*

**8/05CNG24** Be it resolved to improve student learning, NSTA will develop a plan to initiate and promote stronger collaboration among educational research affiliates to inform educational practitioners. **Passed**

**8/05CNG25** Be it resolved that NSTA is to develop research expertise and practice among teachers of science (Strategic Goal 4, Objective 4.2) by a variety of means which may include (but not limited to):

1. Research-based, application materials in each journal
2. An e-mail based tool for accessing research by topic and researcher
3. Discussion board on current research topics. **Passed.**

**8/05CNG26** Be it resolved that CAAG's will promote the dissemination of relevant science educational research (Strategic Goal 4, Objective 4.4) through state and local conferences, publications and promotion of action research collaborations. **Passed.**

**8/05CNG27** Be it resolved to implement Strategic Goal #4 in a timely manner, the NSTA Position Statement, The Role of Research in Science Teaching, 1990, will be given highest priority for revision. **Passed**

**2006 Planning Committee**

The following individuals were elected to serve on the 2006 Congress Planning Committee:

**Congress**

- 1) Kenn Heydrick, STAT
- 2) Almetta Hall, DCSEA
- 3) Laura Rutledge, MDSTA

**NSTA Council**

- 4) Jean Tushie, District IX Director
- 5) Susan Whitsett, District XII Director
- 6) Mary McDougall, District XVIII Director

**Summary Session**

The Congress resolutions were discussed by both the Council and Board of Directors. Following are the resolutions with the final wording as passed/defeated by the Board:

**8/05BOD5** Moved by Steve Long in response to 8/05CCL4 to refer resolution 8/05CNG1 (NSTA develop an electronic universal science safety student and parent contract that is content specific and translate that contract into the most common student languages found in science laboratory classes within the United States) to the NSTA Science Safety Advisory Board. **Motion carried.**

**8/05BOD6** Moved by Joyce Tugel in response to 8/05CCL5 & 8/05CNG5 that NSTA initiate joint action with science and science education organizations to develop a public information campaign to support the teaching of evolution. **Motion carried.**

**8/05BOD7** Moved by Joyce Tugel in response to 8/05CCL6 & 8/05CNG6 that NSTA provide a toolkit on the subject of evolution for use by teachers of science and other stakeholders. **Motion carried.**

**8/05BOD8** Moved by Joyce Tugel in response to 8/05CCL7 & 8/05CNG7 that NSTA provide a toolkit on the subject of evolution for policymakers. **Motion carried.**

**8/05BOD9** Moved by Richard Hogen in response to 8/05CCL8 to refer resolution 8/05CNG11(that NSTA develop and disseminate a framework for creating and maintaining an elementary science coaching model which will be made available to CAAGs for state and local professional development) to the Preschool/Elementary standing committee. **Motion carried.**

**8/05BOD10** Moved by Rich Hogen in response to 8/05CCL10 & 8/05CNG13 that NSTA develop an "Advocacy Toolkit" that promotes elementary science education at the local, district, and state level. **Motion carried.**

**8/05BOD11** Moved by Richard Hogen in response to 8/05CCL21 & 8/05CNG14 that staff provides the CAAGS with a detailed report and supporting documents of resolutions addressed at congress; and provide guidelines for using the report. **Motion carried.**

**8/05BOD12** Moved by Herb Brunkhorst in response to 8/05CCL12 to refer the modified resolution 8/05CNG15 (NSTA recommends that individuals making a transition from a previous career participate in a practicum teaching experience as a requirement before entering full-time teaching to the Preservice Teacher Education Committee. **Motion carried.**

**8/05BOD13** Moved by Richard Hogen in response to 8/05CCL13 to refer the modified resolution 8/05CNG15 (NSTA recommends that all new teachers be supported during their initial years by an ongoing mentoring program consistent with the national science education standards) to the appropriate committees. **Motion carried.**

**8/05BOD14** Moved by Joyce Tugel in response to 8/05CCL15 & 8/05CNG16 that NSTA support new teachers of science through the reorganization of current online resources into a condensed “starter package” to include materials such as:

1. list of applicable NSTA publications
2. selected articles from NSTA publications on topics such as lab safety, classroom management, inquiry based instruction, etc.
3. list of grants and requests for proposals
4. list of professional science organizations **Motion carried.**

**8/05BOD15** Moved by Joyce Tugel in response to 8/05CCL16 & 8/05CNG18 that NSTA establish resources that promote high expectations in STEM careers for parents of underserved students in order to contribute to closing the achievement gap. **Motion carried.**

**8/05BOD16** Moved by Bobby Jeanpierre in response to 8/05CCL18 to refer resolution 8/05CNG20 (NSTA establish a focus group to set guidelines that define attributes of a physical and emotionally safe and threat-free science learning environment which will contribute to closing the achievement gap) to the Multicultural/Education committee. **Motion carried.**

**8/05BOD17** Moved by Linda Froschauer in response to 8/05CCL20 & 8/05CNG23 that NSTA will collaborate with C/AAGS requesting assistance in contacting national and state educational officials to encourage the adoption of assessments that promote innovative and effective science instruction. **Motion carried.**

**8/05BOD18** Moved by Jonathan Singer in response to 8/05CCL22 & 8/05CNG24 to improve student learning, NSTA will develop a plan to initiate and promote stronger collaboration among organizations engaged in educational research to inform educational practitioners. **Motion carried.**

**8/05BOD19** Moved by Rich Hogen in response to 8/05CCL23 & 8/05CNG25 that NSTA develop research expertise and practice among teachers of science (Strategic Goal 4, Objective 4.2) by a variety of means which may include:

1. Research-based, application materials in each journal
2. An e-based tool for accessing research by topic and researcher
3. Discussion board on current research topics. **Motion carried.**

**8/05BOD20** Moved by Jonathan Singer in response to 8/05CCL24 & 8/05CNG27 to implement Strategic Goal #4 in a timely manner, the NSTA Position Statement, The Role of Research in Science Teaching, 1990, will be added to the queue. **Motion carried.**