

Minutes of the Fourth Meeting of the National Congress on Science Education July 16-20, 2003 ~ Plymouth, Massachusetts

Thursday, July 17, 2003

9:00-9:50 am ~ Congress General Session

- **Introductions – Carolyn Randolph, NSTA Former President**
- **Orientation – Carolyn Randolph**
- **Motion Matrix Review – Gerry Wheeler, NSTA Executive Director**
- **Report from Credentialing Committee – John Penick, NSTA President**
 - 45 Chapter Delegates
 - 10 Associated Group Delegates
 - 21 Chapter Alternate Delegates
 - 7 Associated Group Alternate Delegates
 - 52 Registrants/Council/Board/Staff
 - **135 Total Attendees ~ Congress**
- **Passed**
 - Adoption of Credentials Report – Carolyn Randolph
 - Adoption of Operating policies – Carolyn Randolph
 - Adoption of Agenda – Carolyn Randolph
- **Acknowledgement of Resolutions from Chapters and Associated Groups – Carolyn Randolph**
- **There were NO requests for Additional Focus Groups**
- **Instructions for Focus Groups – Jean May-Brett, District Director**
- **Evaluation Procedures – Ken Rosenbaum, NSTA Field Coordinator**

10:00-12:00 noon ~ Meetings of Focus Groups

- **The Many Facets of Assessment**
 - Facilitator: Linda Crow
 - Leader: Jean May-Brett
- **Science Education In Our Ever-Shrinking World**
 - Facilitator: Hector Ibarra
 - Leader: Lionel Sandner
- **How Can Technology Enhance Teaching/Learning**
 - Facilitator: Cheryl Cronbaugh
 - Leader: Dan Forbes
- **What Is Our Content Domain?**
 - Facilitator: Herbert Brunkhorst
 - Leader: Chris Royce
- **Science For All! All For Science!**
 - Facilitator: Eric Pyle
 - Leader: Sami Kahn
- **What Is A Highly Qualified Teacher?**
 - Facilitator: Joyce Gleason
 - Leader: Cheryl Mason

12:00 noon-1:30 pm

Working Lunch ~ Legislative Update

Jodi Peterson, NSTA Director of Legislative Affairs

1:30-4:30 pm

Focus Groups Continued

4:30-5:00

Final Resolution Formalization (went until 7:00 pm)

Friday, July 18

9:00-12:00 noon ~ Congress General Session

- **Voting on Resolutions**
- **Election of Planning Committee**

Resolutions

7/03CNG1

PROPOSED BY THE SCIENCE TEACHERS OF MISSOURI

- **BE IT RESOLVED that the Chapters and Associated Groups (C/AGs) and the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) collaborate to formulate and implement effective membership recruitment and retention programs. Passed**

7/03CNG2

PROPOSED BY THE SCIENCE TEACHERS OF MISSOURI

- **BE IT RESOLVED that a comprehensive implications statement be developed and shared with the science education community and the general public. Failed**

7/03CNG3

PROPOSED BY THE SCIENCE TEACHERS OF MISSOURI

- **BE IT RESOLVED that the science education community work together to demonstrate the importance of scientific literacy for all Americans to the U.S. House and Senate members as well as to the U.S President and his administration. Passed**

7/03CNG4

PROPOSED BY THE SCIENCE TEACHERS OF MISSOURI

- **BE IT RESOLVED that the Chapters and Associated Groups (C/AAGs) and Affiliated Groups of the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) enhance their efforts to formulate alliances with other scientific and science education professional organizations to present a strong unified front when discussing science education issues, especially the enactment of the “No Child Left Behind” legislation. Passed**

7/03CNG5

PROPOSED BY THE SCIENCE TEACHERS OF MISSOURI

- **BE IT RESOLVED that the Chapters, Affiliated and Associated Groups (C/AAGs) and the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) further enhance the relationships between and among the groups for the mutual benefit of all concerned. Passed**

7/03CNG6

PROPOSED BY THE SCIENCE TEACHERS OF MISSOURI

- **BE IT RESOLVED** that the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) reestablish an actuarially sound Life Membership program. Failed

7/03CNG7

PROPOSED BY THE SCIENCE TEACHERS OF MISSOURI

- **BE IT RESOLVED** that a fund raising effort similar to “City Science” be developed and implemented. Failed

7/03CNG8

PROPOSED BY THE NATIONAL MARINE EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION

- **BE IT RESOLVED** that the NSTA Board approve the development of a position paper on Marine and Aquatic Education similar to those developed for Environmental Education and Aerospace Education. Passed

7/03CNG9

PROPOSED BY THE MINNESOTA SCIENCE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

- **BE IT RESOLVED** that NSTA develop an equitable revenue sharing with the local C/AAG when a regional/national conference is held in lieu of the local C/AAG’s fall/spring conference, one based on a formula and/or past revenue. Withdrawn

7/03CNG10

PROPOSED BY THE MINNESOTA SCIENCE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

- **BE IT RESOLVED** that NSTA develop a white paper on science teacher requirements, both pre-service and those making a transition from another profession in science, that includes a recommendation that they have research experience in science and laboratory safety training/education. Passed

7/03CNG11

PROPOSED BY THE FOCUS GROUP “HOW CAN TECHNOLOGY ENHANCE TEACHING/LEARNING?”

- **BE IT RESOLVED** that NSTA provide a presence at the National Association of Elementary School Principals convention by having an exhibit and session(s) to promote the use of science as a vehicle to increase proficiency in Language Arts and Math. Passed

7/03CNG12

PROPOSED BY THE FOCUS GROUP “HOW CAN TECHNOLOGY ENHANCE TEACHING/LEARNING?”

- **BE IT RESOLVED** that NSTA provide professional development resources, opportunities, and assistance in technology – utilizing NSTA Reports, BaP, NSTA Express, Science Objects, and the NSTA webpage, etc. and also, disseminate this resource to Chapters, Affiliated and Associated Groups for inclusion in web pages and newsletters. Passed

7/03CNG13

PROPOSED BY THE FOCUS GROUP “HOW CAN TECHNOLOGY ENHANCE TEACHING/LEARNING?” FOR THE CONSIDERATION BY PLANNING COMMITTEE

- **BE IT RESOLVED that NSTA bring the NSTA Webmaster to the summer congress for presentation to and open sharing with summer attendees. Passed**

7/03CNG14

PROPOSED BY THE FOCUS GROUP “SCIENCE IN A SHRINKING WORLD” AS A POSITION STATEMENT

- **BE IT RESOLVED that the NCSE advocates international collaboration and partnerships to expand our professional resource base of new ideas and innovations in practice for the enhancement of student learning. Passed**

7/03CNG15

PROPOSED BY THE FOCUS GROUP “SCIENCE IN A SHRINKING WORLD” AS A MESSAGE TO THE C/AAGs

BE IT RESOLVED that Chapters, Affiliated and Associated Groups be encouraged to develop international partnerships with other science organizations. Passed

7/03CNG16

PROPOSED BY THE FOCUS GROUP “SCIENCE IN A SHRINKING WORLD” FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL AND BOARD

- **BE IT RESOLVED that NSTA dedicate a thematic issue on International Education for each of the four journals. Passed**

7/03CNG17

PROPOSED BY THE FOCUS GROUP “SCIENCE IN A SHRINKING WORLD” FOR THE CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL AND BOARD

- **BE IT RESOLVED that NSTA establish an ad hoc committee on international collaboration. Passed**

7/03CNG18

PROPOSED BY THE FOCUS GROUP “SCIENCE IN A SHRINKING WORLD” FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL AND BOARD

- **BE IT RESOLVED that a portion of the NSTA web site be dedicated to facilitating communication and collaboration among science educators on an international scale. Passed**

7/03CNG19

PROPOSED BY THE FOCUS GROUP “WHAT IS OUR CONTENT DOMAIN?” AS A MESSAGE TO THE C/AAGs

- **BE IT RESOLVED that that the NCSE encourage all C/AAGs to work with state and local professional associations representing core curricula to develop strategies for cross-curricular teaching which strengthen instruction in core academic subjects as identified as a need per NCLB. Passed**

7/03CNG20

**PROPOSED BY THE FOCUS GROUP “WHAT IS OUR CONTENT DOMAIN?” FOR
CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL AND BOARD**

- **BE IT RESOLVED** that the NCSE encourage the NSTA Board to investigate ways to strengthen the preparation and continued professional development of K-20 teachers of science in the areas of the History and Nature of Science. Passed

7/03CNG21

**PROPOSED BY THE FOCUS GROUP “THE MANY FACETS OF ASSESSMENT” AS
A MESSAGE TO THE C/AGs**

- **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Chapters, Associated and Affiliated Groups of NSTA support quality assessment for all students to promote science instruction at the elementary school level. Passed

7/03CNG22

**PROPOSED BY THE FOCUS GROUP “THE MANY FACETS OF ASSESSMENT” AS
A MESSAGE TO THE C/AGs**

- **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Chapters, Associated and Affiliated Groups of NSTA actively promote formative assessment as an essential component of appropriate science instruction. Passed

7/03CNG23

**PROPOSED BY THE FOCUS GROUP “THE MANY FACETS OF ASSESSMENT” AS
A MESSAGE TO THE C/AGs**

- **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Chapters, Associated and Affiliated Groups of NSTA encourage and promote the use of a variety of writing tasks as assessment tools in science for all students. Passed

7/03CNG24

**PROPOSED BY THE FOCUS GROUP “SCIENCE FOR ALL! ALL FOR SCIENCE!”
AS A POSITION STATEMENT**

- **BE IT RESOLVED** that the following be a Position Statement: The NCSE recognizes that teachers have a professional commitment to providing quality science education for all students, requiring an understanding of the special needs and culture of each child. Science educators must embrace and welcome all students, regardless of disability, gender, race, language, sexual orientation, class, ethnicity, or religion, as they bring unique viewpoints and approaches to our ever-expanding field. “Disability” serves as a paradigm for diversity equity, and represents a critical issue in science pedagogy, which can be applied to the benefit of all students. It is anticipated that lessons learned from a focus on disability equity will be applied to the larger challenge of equity in science education. Passed

7/03CNG25

**PROPOSED BY THE FOCUS GROUP “SCIENCE FOR ALL! ALL FOR SCIENCE!”
AS A MESSAGE TO THE C/AAGs**

- **BE IT RESOLVED** that the NCSE support pre-service programs and an

education workforce that do not exclude individuals with disabilities who are competent and qualified. Passed

7/03CNG26

**PROPOSED BY THE FOCUS GROUP "SCIENCE FOR ALL! ALL FOR SCIENCE!"
AS A MESSAGE TO THE C/AAGs AND THE BOARD**

- **BE IT RESOLVED that the C/AAGs of NSTA accept for study their state's response to people with disabilities by submitting to NSTA via Extranet anecdotal information reflecting the participation of individuals with disabilities in pre-service programs and the education workforce by January 30, 2004. Passed**

7/03CNG27

**PROPOSED BY THE FOCUS GROUP "SCIENCE FOR ALL! ALL FOR SCIENCE!"
AS A MESSAGE TO THE C/AAGs**

- **BE IT RESOLVED that NCSE as a message to the C/AAGs to encourage Chapter, Affiliated and Associated Groups to include a link on their websites to SESD (Science Education for Students With Disabilities) for student-based accommodations. Passed**

7/03CNG28

**PROPOSED BY THE FOCUS GROUP "SCIENCE FOR ALL! ALL FOR SCIENCE!"
FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL AND BOARD**

- **BE IT RESOLVED that NSTA should provide on-line classes on teaching students with special learning needs, as well as, strands for credit at the regional and national conferences. Passed**

7/03CNG29

**PROPOSED BY THE FOCUS GROUP "SCIENCE FOR ALL! ALL FOR SCIENCE!"
AS A POSITION STATEMENT**

- **BE IT RESOLVED That The Following Be A Position Statement: That NSTA continues to develop partnerships and collaborations within and outside of NSTA to develop models that will assist teachers of science in meeting the diversity of students with special learning needs. Failed**

7/03CNG30

**PROPOSED BY THE FOCUS GROUP "SCIENCE FOR ALL! ALL FOR SCIENCE!"
AS A POSITION STATEMENT**

- **BE IT RESOLVED That The Following Be A Position Statement: It is recommended that there is professional development for pre-service and in-service teachers of science, science teacher mentors, and science teacher educators. This professional development might include, but is not limited to, coursework, mentoring, and information exchange through interpersonal, inter-organizational, print, and electronic means. Some recommended avenues include:
 - **Workshops, Classroom observation, Print resources, Electronic resources and Partnerships with research/educational institutions, informal science education organizations, and professional development grantors. Failed****

7/03CNG31

**PROPOSED BY THE FOCUS GROUP "SCIENCE FOR ALL! ALL FOR SCIENCE!"
FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE COUNCIL AND BOARD**

- **BE IT RESOLVED** that NSTA communicate with the Job Accommodation Network at West Virginia University (International Center For Disability Information) about how to support best practices in science education. Passed

7/03CNG32

**PROPOSED BY THE FOCUS GROUP "HIGHLY-QUALIFIED TEACHERS" FOR
CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL AND BOARD**

- **BE IT RESOLVED** that because of the NCLB definitions for Highly Qualified Teachers, a new NSTA position statement be written on the standards for Science Teacher Preparation by January 2004. Withdrawn

7/03CNG33

PROPOSED BY THE FOCUS GROUP "HIGHLY-QUALIFIED TEACHERS"

- **BE IT RESOLVED** that because of the NCLB definitions for Highly Qualified Teachers, a new NSTA position statement be written on the standards for Science Teacher Professionalism. Passed

7/03CNG34

**PROPOSED BY THE FOCUS GROUP "HIGHLY-QUALIFIED TEACHERS" AS A
MESSAGE TO THE C/AAGS**

- **BE IT RESOLVED** that in compliance with the NCLB section 9101(23)(c)(ii) that states Departments of Education should recognize successful science teaching experience to meet the highly qualified teacher status in that state. Failed

7/03CNG35

**PROPOSED BY THE FOCUS GROUP "HIGHLY-QUALIFIED TEACHERS" FOR
CONSIDERATION BY THE BOARD AND COUNCIL**

- **BE IT RESOLVED** that NSTA create an e-blast to all NSTA members requesting anecdotal data to be compiled by NSTA and sent to the C/AAGs to be used in state and national lobbying efforts. Passed

7/03CNG36

**PROPOSED BY THE FOCUS GROUP "HIGHLY-QUALIFIED TEACHERS" FOR
CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL AND BOARD**

- **BE IT RESOLVED** that NSTA provide guidance in the form of materials and/or workshops to C/AAG leaders to assist in influencing policy-makers at the state and local levels. Passed

7/03CNG37

**PROPOSED BY THE FOCUS GROUP "HIGHLY-QUALIFIED TEACHERS" FOR
CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL AND BOARD**

- **BE IT RESOLVED** that NSTA change the wording associated with the NSTA conventions to reflect the new law such as: NSTA Professional

Development Institute (instead of convention) or field study rather than tour. Passed

7/03CNG38

PROPOSED BY THE FOCUS GROUP “HIGHLY-QUALIFIED TEACHERS” FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL AND BOARD

- **BE IT RESOLVED that NSTA promote personal mentoring processes in content/curriculum professional development for beginning and transitional science educators. Passed**

7/03CNG39

PROPOSED BY THE FOCUS GROUP “HIGHLY-QUALIFIED TEACHERS” FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL AND BOARD

- **BE IT RESOLVED that NSTA solicit funds for scholarships, loans and grants for teacher education, which would be waived for years of service. Passed**

7/03CNG40

PROPOSED BY THE FOCUS GROUP “HIGHLY-QUALIFIED TEACHERS” FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL AND BOARD

- **BE IT RESOLVED that NSTA recommend that pre-service institutions establish co-op programs for teacher education students. Failed**

7/03CNG41

PROPOSED BY THE FOCUS GROUP “HIGHLY-QUALIFIED TEACHERS” AS A MESSAGE TO THE C/AAGS

- **BE IT RESOLVED that C/AAGs increase promotion of future teachers organizations in high schools and colleges. Passed**

7/03CNG42

PROPOSED BY THE FOCUS GROUP “HIGHLY-QUALIFIED TEACHERS” FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL AND BOARD

- **BE IT RESOLVED that NSTA recommends the adoption of procedures such as: A) flexible schedules for teachers working on advanced degrees, further certification and other academic growth. B) Part-time or half-day schedules for post-retirement highly qualified teachers. C) National recognition for NSTA members with 20 or more years as a classroom teacher. Passed**

Numbers 4, 5 & 15 were amended to say “Chapters, Affiliated and Associated Groups” when referring to the C/AAGs

Nominations for 2004 Planning Committee:

Dr. Lloyd Barrow

Gail Hall

Ruth Woodall

Robin Curtis

Debbie Gorman

Jack Cooper

**Sharla Dowding
Tiah McKinney
Paul Drummond
Cheryl Cronbaugh
Debbie Ozekowski
Dick Simon**

2004 Planning Committee:

Council

**David White
Melody Orban
Lynn Young**

Congress

**Jack Cooper
Tiah McKinney
Cheryl Cronbaugh**

1:30-4:30 pm ~ Congress Workshops Sessions I & II

Saturday, July 19

9:00-10:30 am ~ Congress Workshop Session III

9:00-11:00 am ~ Board Meeting

11:00-12:00 noon ~ Congress/Council/ Board Summary Session

- **Meeting called to Order – Carolyn Randolph**
- **Reading of Resolutions to Congress – John Penick**
 - **Each Resolution was read and actions taken by Council and Board in their respective meetings were explained to Congress. The rationales of the Council/Board actions were also explained.**
 - **The Congress was informed that the Minutes and Matrix (describing each resolution, the action taken and rationale for the action) would be sent to all Chapters and Associated Groups.**
 - **Congress participants were reminded to return their evaluation forms for next years Planning Committee.**

Adjournment