



**Minutes of the 9th
National Congress on
Science Education
Meeting
Indianapolis, IN
July 16-19, 2008**

Call to Order	The meeting was called to order by NSTA President, Page Keeley at 8:45 a.m. on Thursday, July 17, 2008
Report of the Credentialing Committee	<p>Page Keeley, NSTA President, announced that the Credentials Committee report included the following information regarding the 2008 NCSE attendees:</p> <p>Chapter Delegates – 40 Associated Group Delegates – 7 Chapter Alternates – 19 Associated Group Alternates – 6 Staff – 13 Total Number of Attendees – 133</p>
Adoption of Operating Policies	There were no revisions to the operating policies and they were approved as written.
Adoption of Agenda	The agenda was approved as presented.
Approval of Minutes	The minutes of the July 19-22, 2007 NCSE were reviewed and approved as submitted by the 2007 Congress Minutes Approval Committee. One correction was done by consensus: the minutes were incorrectly titled the 7 th NCSE, and they should have been the 8 th NCSE.

Requests for Additional Focus Groups	<p>There were no requests for additional focus groups. Following are the 2008 focus groups:</p> <p>Focus Group #1 Elementary Science in the K-12 System. <i>Leader- Julie Taylor; Facilitator – Kathy Renfrew</i></p> <p>Focus Group #2 21st Century Skills. <i>Leader – Ruth Ruud; Facilitator – Susan Van Gundy</i></p> <p>Focus Group #3 Teaching Science to Students of Poverty. <i>Leader – Gail Sinkule; Facilitator – Cherry Brewton</i></p> <p>Focus Group #4 Transforming Science Teacher Practice Through Professional Learning Communities. <i>Leader – Linda Atkinson; Facilitator – Laura Rutledge</i></p> <p>Focus Group #5 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Critical to America’s Prosperity. <i>Leader – Linda Lacy; Facilitator – Jim Puckett</i></p> <p>Focus Group #6 Bridging the Gap from Research to Practice and from Practice to Research. <i>Leader – Rick Duschl; Facilitator – Christine Royce</i></p>
Focus Group Resolutions	<p>The following resolutions arose from the focus groups.</p>
	<p><i>Proposed by the Massachusetts Association of Science Teachers (MAST)</i></p>
7/08CNG1	<p>Be it resolved that the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) work with Chapters, Affiliates, and Associated Groups to identify strategies for accessing the talents and expertise of retired science teachers in order to support and enhance science education, and that these strategies be shared with the attendees of the 2009 National Congress on Science Education (NCSE). Passed</p>
	<p><i>Focus Group #1-Elementary Science in the K-12 System</i></p>
7/08CNG2	<p>Be it resolved that the 2008 National Congress on Science Education supports the inclusion of science as part of AYP. Passed</p>
7/08CNG3	<p>Be it resolved that the National Congress on Science Education encourages the Chapters, Associated and Affiliated Groups to disseminate the NSTA position statement on Elementary School Science to state education agencies, colleges and universities that accredit administrators and pre-service teacher educators, and to all elementary administrators. Passed</p>
7/08CNG4	<p>Be it resolved that the National Congress on Science Education encourages Chapters, Associated and Affiliated Groups to identify high quality community resources (e.g. informal science institutions, science speakers) and share these collections with teachers in order to support relevant effective science instruction. Passed</p>
7/08CNG5	<p>Be it resolved that the National Congress on Science Education designate a focus group at the 2009 National Congress on Science Education to receive, compile, and develop resources into a dynamic toolkit for educators to become more effective advocates for science as a core subject at all elementary grade levels. Passed</p>
	<p><i>Focus Group #2-21st Century Skills</i></p>
7/08CNG6	<p>Be it resolved that the National Congress on Science Education 2009 include a focus group that blends inquiry and experiential learning into STEM and 21st Century Skills for Pre-Kindergarten -16 curricula. Passed</p>
7/08CNG7	<p>Be it resolved that the National Congress on Science Education 2008 encourage the</p>

	Chapter, Associated Groups and the Alliance of Affiliates to include conference strands that blend inquiry and experiential learning into STEM and 21 st Century Skills for Pre-Kindergarten-16 curricula. Passed
7/08CNG8	Be it resolved that the National Congress on Science Education encourages Chapters, Associated Groups and the Alliance of Affiliates to support both formal and informal educators of science by publicly advocating strategies to assist in the identification of valid science in popular media/materials to cultivate scientifically literate citizens. Passed
7/08CNG9	Be it resolved that the National Congress on Science Education advocate the selection of non print-based science curriculum materials that are current, global, and technologically accessible. Passed
7/08CNG10	Be it resolved that the Chapters, Associated Groups and the Alliance of Affiliates are encouraged to utilize interactive, collaborative technologies to promote current and highly effective resources for their members./ Passed
	<i>Focus Group #3- Teaching Science to Students of Poverty</i>
7/08CNG11	Be it resolved that the 2008 National Congress on Science Education recommends that NSTA develop a position statement addressing effective science teaching of students of poverty. Passed
7/08CNG12	Be it resolved that the 2008 National Congress on Science Education recommends that NSTA identify best practices in science education with regard to students of poverty and cite supporting research. Passed
7/08CNG13	Be it resolved that NSTA promote high quality professional learning opportunities that are focused on teaching science to students of poverty, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional and national conference strands • Publications • Webinars • Online courses • Elements of the Learning Center Passed
7/08CNG14	Be it resolved that the 2008 National Congress on Science Education encourages Chapters, Affiliates, and Associated Groups, to promote high quality professional learning opportunities that are focused on teaching science to students of poverty. Passed
	<i>Focus Group #4-Transforming Science Teacher Practice Through Professional Learning Communities</i>
7/08CNG15	Be it resolved that the National Congress on Science Education promotes Professional Learning Communities (PLC) as a model of high quality professional development to improve student achievement and support highly effective teaching practices in science. Passed
7/08CNG16	Be it resolved that the National Congress on Science Education encourages the Chapters, Affiliates and Associated Groups to actively promote Science Professional Learning Communities that are characterized by a shared vision, engaged collaboration, and collective responsibility. Passed
7/08CNG17	Be it resolved that NSTA consider revising and elaborating on science professional learning communities (PLCs) within the position statement on Professional Development. Passed

	<i>Focus Group #5-STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) –Critical to America’s Prosperity</i>
7/08CNG18	Be it resolved that NSTA develop a dedicated web page that lists existing STEM resources including pertinent STEM information, tool kits, funding sources, examples of ‘Best Practices,’ etc., starting with existing NSTA materials, that are accessible through a direct link on the NSTA homepage. Passed
7/08CNG19	Be it resolved that NSTA promotes the understanding of STEM literacy by advocating that science, technology, engineering, and mathematics are all taught in an integrated manner in K-16 science classrooms. Passed
7/08CNG20	Be it resolved that NSTA initiate a collaborative dialogue with the technology, engineering, and mathematics education groups to promote the teaching of K-16 STEM literacy in an integrated manner. Passed
7/08CNG21	Be it resolved that the 2008 National Congress on Science Education requests that the NSTA Board directs the NSTA Conference Committees to select a content strand with a focus on STEM Literacy at NSTA sponsored conferences. Passed
7/08CNG22	Be it resolved that the 2008 National Congress on Science Education highly recommends that Chapters and Associated Groups include strands with a focus on STEM literacy at state and local conferences. Failed.
7/08CNG23	Be it resolved that the 2008 National Congress on Science Education encourages Chapters, Associated Groups and Affiliates assist in the development of pre-service teacher programs focusing on STEM Literacy through local colleges and universities. Failed.
7/08CNG24	Be it resolved that the 2008 National Congress on Science Education recommends that Chapters, Associated Groups and affiliates actively seek participation in the development of local and state STEM literacy initiatives. Passed
7/08CNG25	Be it resolved that the 2008 National Congress on Science Education requests that the National Science Teachers Association investigate the feasibility of an online STEM specific certification program for teachers interested in further training. Passed
	<i>Focus Group #6-Bridging the Gap from Research to Practice and from Practice to Research</i>
7/08CNG26	Be it resolved that the 2008 National Congress on Science Education recommends that NSTA considers facilitating the partnering of education researchers and science education practitioners for the purpose of advancing our collective understanding of the relationship(s) between specific teacher professional development practices and student learning. Passed
7/08CNG27	Be it resolved that the 2008 National Congress on Science Education recommends that NSTA consider advancing the Science Anchors research agendas by facilitating the partnering of education researchers and education practitioners. Failed.
7/08CNG28	Be it resolved that the 2008 National Congress on Science Education recommend that NSTA considers facilitating the partnering of education researchers and education practitioners. Passed
7/08CNG29	Be it resolved that the 2008 National Congress on Science Education consider additional efficient and effective methods for the dissemination of the results of science education research to education practitioners. Passed
7/08CNG30	Be it resolved that the National Congress on Science Education request that NSTA provides

updates on the current status of the following prior resolutions

- 8/05CNG24 (8/05CCL22 and 8/05BOD18) Resolved to improve student learning NSRA will develop a plan to initiate and promote stronger collaboration among educational research affiliates to inform educational practitioners. Status reported as: “RAISE Grant.”
- 7/07CNBG09 (7/07CCL5 and 7/07BOD5) Resolved that the Congress on Science Education recommends that NSTA consider directing the Committee on Research to compile a series of talking points based on research data on the retention of teachers of science. Status reported as: “President to task research committee.” Passed.

<p>Summary Session: Announcement of 2009 NCSE Planning Committee</p>	<p>The following individuals were elected to serve on the 2009 NCSE Planning Committee: <i>NCSE Delegate Representatives</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ross Dinwiddie 2. Mike Hickey 3. Sheila Smith 4. Kathy Chandler (Alternate) <p><i>Council Representatives</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Craig Gabler 2. Kelly Price 3. Paul Keidel
<p>Summary Session: Resolutions</p>	<p>The Congress resolutions were discussed by both the Council and Board of Directors. Following are the resolutions directed to the attention on the NSTA with the final wording as passed/defeated by the Board:</p>
<p>7/08BOD5</p>	<p>Moved by Jean Tushie in response to 7/08CCL22 and 7/08CNG1) to refer 7/08CCL22 and 7/08CNG1 to the Retired Teachers Advisory Board. Motion passed</p>
<p>7/08BOD6</p>	<p>Moved by Vanessa Westbrook in response to 7/08CCL23 to recommend to the Board of Directors that the 2008 National Congress on Science Education recommends that NSTA develop a position statement addressing effective science teaching of students of poverty. Motion carried.</p>
<p>7/08BOD7</p>	<p>Moved by Vanessa Westbrook in response to 7/08CCL25 that NSTA promote high quality professional learning opportunities that are focused on research based best practices for teaching science to students of poverty, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional and national conference strands • Publications • Webinars • Online courses • Elements of the Learning Center <p>Amended motion passed</p>
<p>7/08BOD8</p>	<p>Moved by Vanessa Westbrook in response to 7/08CCL26 that NSTA consider revising and elaborating on science professional learning communities (PLCs) within the position statement on Professional Development. Motion failed</p>
<p>7/08BOD9</p>	<p>Moved by Susan German in response to 7/08CCL30 the NSTA Conference Committees to consider a content strand with a focus on STEM Literacy at NSTA sponsored conferences. Motion failed</p>
<p>7/08BOD10</p>	<p>Moved by Walter Smith that NSTA determine if “STEM literacy” means something different than “science literacy;” and if so, that NSTA develop a definition of STEM literacy for the Board’s consideration. Substitute motion passed.</p>
<p>Summary Session: Announcement of next year’s NCSE location</p>	<p>Pat Shane, NSTA President- Elect announced that the 2009 NCSE would be in Miami Florida in July 2009.</p>
<p>Adjourn</p>	<p>The 2008 Congress adjourned at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 19, 2008</p>