Minutes for OSTA February 2013 Meeting

Meeting was called to order at 9:10. Members present: Tina Rogers. Toni Ivey, Joyce Cheatham, Annette Huett, Jessica Hornberger, Becky Hammock, Bethany Lorenz, Brandi Williams, Natalie Bowman, Bob Melton, Michelle Smith. Members absent: Ava Wilhelm, Beth Allan, Jim Jenkins, Tim Laubach, Kay Gamble, Sally Fenska, Suzanne Spradling, Jeff Patterson.

Tina asked if everyone had gotten a chance to review minutes of January meeting that was posted on Basecamp. Everyone had. Bethany made a motion to approve the minutes. Toni seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurer Report from Toni: Our balance is $12, 774. A few members have been added through Member Clicks. We still have some outstanding funds owed from school districts to pay for fall conference. (Moore is still one of them!)

Becky reported that people from the state department had come to her classroom to observe a new program call Gateway to Technology and is for junior high age students. They liked what they saw and are trying to get more funding for other schools to also use the program. She reports that other visitors have been scheduled to come and observe.

Bob’s report: He feels that we need an evolution OSTA statement along the same lines as our NGSS statement. The NGSS statement is posted on Basecamp and tells what NGSS is and why NGSS should be integrated with C3 standards. The NGSS statement can be used by others, sent to legislators, and used in C3 committee meetings. Tina asked for a motion to accept the NGSS statement. Joyce made a motion we accept it. Natalie seconded and the motion passed. The comment was made that several OSTA board members are on the C3 standards committee.

More Bob: Members Click is a work in progress and is not very user friendly---yet. Members can log in and set up their profile, sort of like Facebook. Bob also reported that the House Committee is meeting on Tuesday and the creation bill, 1674 will be addressed. There is also a bill in the Senate, 758. He urged board members to contact their legislators via email.

Science Fair Awards: Tina nominated Sue Hull to serve as chair of that committee. Joyce seconded it. Sue has graciously agreed to serve and Suzanne will also be on the committee with her.

Professional Development: Michelle asked what her job description is as chair of this committee. She will be helping with fall conference and gets to help with everything else as needed.

New Business: FSI at UCO wants us to pick dates for workshop. Possible dates would be April 20th (first choice) and April 27th (second choice). Our board meeting will be the date of the workshop. Cost would be $25 for members only, including lunch. Teachers also have the option of signing up for FSI and joining OSTA with it. Workshop is limited to 50 participants. Natalie made a motion that we do the FSI workshop. Jessica seconded and the motion passed.

Oklahoma Writing Project: Do we want to do a joint workshop with them? Some are concerned that OWP would end up costing US money. However--- Common Core integrates writing into science and social studies and so there is a need. Ideas that were discussed include: mini workshop at our fall conference, workshop in the summer, workshops on Saturdays, a one day spring workshop. General Consensus: Table it for now and get more information for OWP.

Electronic Journal: The work has begun. The title will be “Oklahoma School of Science.” The work is still in the development stages. We need guidelines for authors and ideas for recurring features. The goal is to have proposals submitted by September.

FALL CONFERENCE: A motion was made for free conference attendance for science fair winners and their teachers. It would be 4 teachers and 4 students. Students will present at the conference like they do at the science fair. Joyce made a motion to approve and Annette seconded. The motion passed.

A motion was made to have the fall conference on November 2. Natalie made a motion to approve. Becky seconded. The motion passed. We will use the WhiteBoard on BaseCamp for theme ideas and keynote speaker.

There was discussion about when to present the awards at fall conference. Dinner the night before? Full on breakfast with keynote speaker? Pearson has already volunteered to host! General consensus was to table this discussion for a later date when we have more information available.

Membership Fee: Discussion was started by asking, ”What benefits can we add to make it worth the fee?” Ideas: networking, field trips, discounts to OK museums, access to Basecamp. Toni made a motion to raise the membership fee to $15 and Natalie seconded. Members approved.

Job Descriptions: What is in our constitution are guidelines for district directors. We won’t be changing the constitution. Question was asked: What if a director moves from middle school to high school? Do they have to give up their position or do they finish their term? (no answer in the notes the secretary was given….) Jessica made a motion that we accept the guidelines. Brandi seconded. (Did the motion pass? Not in the notes given to the secretary.)

Discussion about treasurer’s job. It is an elected term. The description is in the constitution. But if we decide to make it a **paid** position we will have to change the constitution. We decided to put this discussion on the agenda for our March meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 11:22.