Minutes of January 5, 2013 OSTA Board of Directors Meeting

Meeting was called to order at 9:05 by Tina Rogers. Present at the meeting were: Toni Ivey, Joyce Cheatham, Tina Rogers, Beth Allan, Annette Huett, Jessica Hornberger, Jim Jenkins, Tim Laubach, Becky Hammock, Bethany Lorenz, Natalie Bowman, Suzanne Spradling, Bob Melton, and Ava Wilhelm. Absent members were: Jeff Patterson, Sally Fenska, Kay Gamble, Brandi Williams, and Michelle Smith.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Toni presented a spread sheet that she hoped would be the basis for our actual budget. $13,809 is our current balance. Toni made a motion to approve her report with the stipulation that there are some outstanding invoices with payments that will be coming in. Natalie seconded and the motion passed. There was discussion about a stipend for the treasurer (She has spent HOURS and HOURS on our budget) and what the job description should entail. The general consensus was that the executive committee would meet after the regular meeting to discuss that.

PRESIDENT ELECT’S REPORT: Joyce has been thinking ahead for our next fall conference. There was discussion about the date for said conference. We have to consider college football schedules, other state meetings, availability of vendors, SSMA, STAT, etc. It was suggested that we could set the dates 2 to 3 years in advance.

No division directors had reports. No district directors had reports.

SCEICNE MATTERS: Suzanne reported that Science Matters is looking at NGSS and still trying to decide what their role will be in promoting and implementing the new science standards.

COMMUNICATIONS: Bob reported that online membership is now being handled through Member Clicks. Members Only will be a part of the OSTA website and will be up and running soon. At the Metro consortium on Jan.4, there was discussion about how there will have to be a campaign to promote NGSS because they will have to be implemented into the C/3 rewrite. He asked officers to write a report advocating the importance of NGSS to be posted on our OSTA website. There will be an application process to be on the C/3 rewrite committees which will be open to ANYONE. Bob urge teachers to apply to have educators’ voices heard.

NOMINATIONS: Beth Allan will be chair for this committee. The Award committee chair is yet to be filled.

OLD BUSINESS: Conference evaluation has been posted. Responses were consistent from last year and were mostly positive. One idea given is that we have 2 to 3 events per year rather than just the one. Bob voiced concern about the low turnout vs. the amount of work put into the conference. Discussion: We need ideas!!! Do we have it on a regular school day? More advertising and earlier announcement of presenters? Discussion about awards: Breakfast? Ball room? Night time reception? Discussion about how to reach ALL science teachers.

ELECTION RESULTS: We have 2 new members, Jessica Hornberger for middle school and Tim Laubach for college. We also now have some constitutional changes and the new constitution is posted on our website. We are going from 6 regional directors to 4 at large. This will occur as members rotate out. The new provision for online voting is so that all OSTA members, not just those who attend the conference, may vote. The by-laws contain broad definitions of board responsibilities.

ONE OKLAHOMA REPORT: The meeting with Dr. McEver was in December. There was discussion about OSTA’s agreement with his report and how we can influence the passing of NGSS. All board members are urged to contact their State School Board members before their January meeting. Tina felt that we should post a position statement to be posted so that we have a starting point in our campaign. Bob suggested working on that through Base Camp. There was more discussion about how to be heard at the State School Board: Letters? Email? Attendance at their meeting? Beth is drafting a letter to Dr. McEver that can be used as the basis for our position letter. Toni suggested having the One Oklahoma people with us at the State School Board meeting IF we can get on their agenda.

NEW BUSINESS: ELECTRONIC JOURNAL Toni and Tim passed out a handout. Their idea is that our science journal would coincide with the Oklahoma Journal of School Mathematics. Tim discussed how our journal would be based on the models of other science publications. Beth suggested adding a K-12 teacher as an editor. Bob voiced the opinion that the e-journal would give us more credibility as a professional organization. Natalie added that being professionally active is part of the new teacher evaluation. Teachers can be motivated to provide articles for that reason. Toni said she is looking at the fall for our first possible “publication.” Tim urged members to review the math journals. Tina suggested posting discussion on Base Camp. Jim made the motion to accept the proposal for the e-journal. He said he believed it is a very positive thing. More discussion ensued: Would the e-journal be an actual tool that OSTA would provide to its members? Natalie made another motion to accept the journal proposal with an amendment to have a public school K-12 editor. Jessica seconded. There was more discussion about how the journal could also help grow new leadership. Tina called for a vote and the motion passed. Natalie “volunteered” to be the 3rd editor.

SPRING WORKSHOP: Natalie suggested a writing theme. Working with Oklahoma Writing Project is a possibility but they want their presenters to be paid. OSTA teachers would not be. Members discussed that there are lots of hurdles before this collaboration could come to fruition. Bob is the designated point man on this because he has already began discussion with the head of OWP. Other ideas: OSU STEM teacher institute? Forensic science institute? Beth was asked to contact the FSI about possible dates in April.

SCIENCE FAIR AWARDS: last year $400 was allocated. The silent auction funds were used for this. Joyce suggested recognizing awardees at the fall conference perhaps with their teachers. Suzanne volunteered to be on the science fair committee. Tina said she would be finding someone outside the board to be on the committee. Kay made certificates last year and has said that she would do it again. Joyce will be contacting Ramona to let her know that we will still be providing awards.

MEMBERSHIP FEES: Currently our fees are $10. State math organization is $20. General consensus was to table this discussion until next month.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15. The executive committee met afterwards.