OSTA MINUTES FOR MARCH 29, 2014

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ava Wilhelm, Bethany Lorenz, Joyce Cheatham, Tina Rogers, Deborah Hill, Tim Laubauch, Mark Rauch, Tiffany Neill, Suzanne Spradling, Travis Hurst, Bob Melton.

Meeting was called to order at 9:05. Minutes were posted on Base Camp. Bethany made a motion to accept the minutes and Deborah seconded. The minutes were approved.

No Treasurer Report! Kim Terrel, our new treasurer resigned, citing too many other responsibilities. This position is now open. Bethany is serving as interim treasurer.

College Report: Tim will be sending out a message asking for students to present poster projects at the fall conference. He will be sending this message at the end of spring semester. He wants to engage more pre-service teachers by giving them more prep time. He hopes to have at least 20 and would like to make it a competitive event between the universities. Bethany interjected that this would also be a great opportunity for districts to look at prospective teachers.

State Science Director Report: Tiffany reports that the new science standards passed with a unanimous vote of the State Board of Education. She says it was almost a “love fest” for science and was a very positive event. The next step is for the standards to go to the legislature and go through the rule setting. This is not a given because of HB 3399, which gives legislators the power to revoke standards at any time. It has not passed and is going through MANY revisions. The survival of the science standards will be dependent upon the grass roots efforts of science teachers. She urged the board to contact their legislators and other science teachers to get them to also make contact. There was much discussion around the table about HB 3399 and other bills floating around the capitol. The bottom line is that HB 3399 is not good for education and has a real potential for causing problems. Tim suggested we draft a letter and post it on Base Camp for all members to use when contacting their legislators. Bob volunteered to do this. Tiffany then explained the process by which the standards were revised because of public comments. The biggest changes were in chemistry. She showed us a great letter from the superintendent of Bixby Schools that truly supports the standards and the process by which they were written. The letter will be sent to all the legislators. Vision 20/20 will be the 15th, 16th, and 17th of July. Sam Shaw from “one of the Dakotas” is going to be here to do workshops to help teachers learn to teach around the 3 dimensions. The 2nd round of OKSci Leadership applications will be going out soon because they got more funding. She also talked about MSP mini grants and “Teach Like Me”, a program to grow new teachers into the profession. There was more discussion about the legislative session and other bills related to education. Tiffany explained what actually constitutes a standard and what would be going through the rule setting.

Science Matters Report: Suzanne reports that Science Matters has $9000+ for professional development for OK teachers. She needs ideas on how to use it. Through her webinars she has learned that OK is in very good shape as far as our standards go. Right now there is no time limit on using the PD money. Tiffany asked about a possible partnership between SDE and Science Matters to address science safety. Science safety is not part of the new standards. Suzanne will check into the cost of bringing in a consultant and the cost of building/writing safety guidelines (not standards). Connecticut is the only state that has formally adopted safety standards.

Membership: Travis is concerned about our numbers. The number of people NOT renewing is greatly outweighing those joining for the first time.

Communications: Bob reports that we have had 100,000 hits on our website! We are averaging about 100 a day on the site. This time of year is very active because of the legislature. Bob also reports that our Twitter feeds are growing, as is our “likes” on Face Book. He is ready to post requests for nominees for offices and will be posting an October 1st deadline. Deborah suggested a new award for a teacher that has “broken the mold.” Pioneer in science? The awards committee will discuss this. Bob represented OSTA on Channel 4 during a segment about HB 1674. Go Bob!

Awards: Suzanne would like the actual nominations to be more uniform. The nomination form format is very confusing. Deborah and Ava volunteered to be on the committee. Joyce will ask Kay if she would like to be on it as well. Tina volunteered to simplify the nomination and award report for the awards committee.

Nominations: It is NOT too early to start recruiting! We now have 3 positions open: Middle School director, treasurer, and student director. Bethany is currently our interim treasurer but we need a permanent one. Tim will work on getting the student director position filled. Tina asked for the board for names for the middle school director position.

Professional Development: Michelle was absent but she has asked Joyce to clarify just what it is that the professional development chair should be doing. Right now she will be working with Suzanne on the safety guidelines workshop.

Finance/Budget: Kim has resigned as treasurer. We need names of qualified person to take her place. Kay Emde is at the top of the list. Tim knows a career tech teacher who might also be interested.

Constitution: Joyce asked Bob to have a report on the constitution ready for our April meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

OJSS: Tim says we have 6 articles for our first issue but they have to be reviewed. He asked for volunteer reviewers. Mark suggested a session in the fall called “How to Add Published Author to Your Resume.” Suzanne suggested there should be a permanent link on our website for the OJSS.

OESE Field Trip: Bob reports that as of this meeting there are NO applicants for the field trip. It is an evolution field trip in the Tulsa area. The cost is $90 and it is April 26-27. They need 10 people. Bob really talked it up, calling the Tulsa area pretty “fossilipherous.”

OSSEF Awardees: Kay gave four $100 checks to well-deserving students. We will get a full report at our next meeting.

Executive Task Force Committee: There is not a lot of precedent from other states for us to follow. The committee has done some research and is working on guidelines. Bob expects it to be ready by the end of the year.

NEW BUSINESS

Conference: The date is November 1st and it is a GO! Bethany will check with OERB about the reception for October 31. Last year’s conference cost $45 a person. Do we need to reconsider this? Bob talked about the membership cost vs. nonmembers. Vendors from last fall have not received invoices! Oh no! Bethany will look into this. We should have more vendors this year because of textbook adoption. Any ideas for a theme? Tina suggested we ask for ideas on Base Camp. There was a discussion about STEM as a theme which led into a discussion about what STEM really is. Tiffany talked about an article she had read that said the buzz word should be ‘STEM-integration,” not just STEM. Suzanne suggested something like Citizen Science but maybe not as environmentally oriented. Tim concurred and talked about Citizen Science and a site call Science Starter and another called Science Cheerleader. Tim and Suzanne both think Darlene Cavalier, keynote speaker at the Enviro Expo, would be a possible candidate for our keynote. He then emailed her, but we didn’t get back a reply during the meeting. Tiffany suggested “Doing Science” as a possible theme. The conference would be geared towards implementing and teaching the new standards. Mark suggested we solicit corporate sponsors like GE and Boeing, who have a vested interest in quality science education in OK. Bob told the group that having the conference on Saturday was even with the cost, as to why people decided NOT to attend. It would be very difficult for us to move away from Saturday because of a place to have it and the cost of having it somewhere besides UCO. (Hard to beat FREE!) Tiffany volunteered to talk with OCTM board members about a possible partnership. Suzanne knows the president and will speak to her.

The 3rd OSU STEM Institute will be held on June 20th. It is for K-8 teachers.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30. Next meeting is April 26th.