

SCIENCE EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES  
(SESD)

Annual Business Meeting

April 7, 2006 / NSTA Anaheim, California

Call to order by President Babette Moeller, 2:07  
PST

Present: Babette Moeller, Laureen Summers, R.L.  
Grubbs, Jen Nagarah, Kate Fraser, Saul Shenberg,  
John Stiles, Greg Stefanich

2005 meeting minutes approved with minor changes.  
The two changes were: Add Greg Stefanich's name to  
those present; and add an "n" to the word "absetia"  
(to make "absentia") in the line beginning with  
Secretary John Stiles.

Babette reviewed the new activities since last  
meeting, including:

- CAGS meeting, attended by Greg Stefanich and Almetta Hall;
- New award implemented: Lifetime Achievement Award for teaching science to students with disabilities;
- Selected Scadden Award winner;
- New JSESD editors: Larry Quinsland and Todd Pagano of R.I.T.;
- Newsletter published by Laureen Summers, also on web site;
- New webmaster, Mickie Flores;
- Reminder of the "Science-Abled Breakfast" on Saturday with featured speaker Paul-John To.

Babette thanked everyone who worked to make these events and activities possible.

John gave the secretary's report of actions taken by the board, which will be posted on the web site.

Babette asked about funds to cover the newsletter. Lauren replied that AAAS covered expenses. Babette said that perhaps SEDS should offer to cover the printing and postage if host organization cannot.

Babette suggested that we turn in reports and minutes to NSTA CAGs representative.

Treasurer's report given by David Bartlett (in absentia) and discussed. The balance as of 3-21-06 was \$1,078.26.

David also reports that SEDS currently has 45 paid members. John mentioned that the high point was around 130 members for several years, and that many members traditionally forget to renew memberships. Babette replied that we need new members, and to link with the alliances. We will look into contacting people to volunteer to be membership chair, as it is currently open.

Lauren reported on newsletter practices. She would like to see more short articles about classroom practice. Babette asked about the Research & Disability Project participants: could they be approached to submit?

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

##### Convention

Saturday's breakfast agenda was highlighted by Babette. A concern brought up by Babette: We sometimes miss out on speakers due to lack of funds for additional needs of some speakers. SEDS tries to ask those who live nearby or are coming to NSTA anyway. No more receptions are held due to lack of funds and low number of visitors, and thus new members. A Suite is just as costly. John suggested finding a patron to help defray expenses. Babette suggested pursuing funding sources.

## Publications

JSESD: Editors are looking at design and content changes for the journal. Three articles are currently in review. Reviewers are needed at the secondary science level. Volunteers are asked to email editors, by finding link on the web site. Larry, in conversation with Babette, suggested digitizing past journals and place on the web. Jen Nagarah suggested putting issues on the web; it would cut costs and entice new members. John reported that a state journal recently went to electronic publishing, giving access to members after full access for first issue. Jen reported that it will most likely snag new members.

## Awards

Scadden Award report given by Sami Kahn, in absentia. This year's winner is Sue Ann Iannacci of Ridley Park Middle School in Pennsylvania. The award is co-sponsored by SEDS and RASEM of New Mexico State University.

Lifetime Achievement Award report given by John Stiles. This year's winner (the first awarded) goes to Greg Stefanich of The University of Northern Iowa.

Both awards are to be presented at Saturday's "Science-Abled Breakfast."

## CAGs Report

Greg Stefanich reported on his participation at the annual meeting of Chapters and Affiliated Groups last year in Minneapolis. Greg submitted the NSTA position statement on students with disabilities. With Greg's suggestion, NSTA Congress passed a resolution that highly qualified teachers include knowledge of resources to provide access for diverse students to all aspects of the science curriculum AND collaborative skills for working with specialists and support personnel in the professional learning community.

Greg suggested that SEDS ask NSTA to include information on students with disabilities as applies to highly qualified teachers on their website and to encourage NSTA to put into NCATE standards encouraging universities to show that they are including accessibility for diverse students, including teacher preparation programs. Babette will draft a letter.

### New Business

Officers: Membership Chair is open. Membership forms will be distributed at breakfast and SEDS booth.

John suggested that both SEDS awards be under same committee (Awards), with Sami the chair. Approved.

Suggestions for membership drives included discussion about sending information and forms to museums, universities, and alliances. Jen suggested that SEDS provide a number of presentations with accessibility the theme at future conferences. Greg suggested asking NSTA to reserve a "block" of sessions so that we do not vie for participants when they occur at the same time slot. Kate suggested getting a block for Boston 2008. R.L. Grubbs suggested joining a diversity track along with culture, language, sexual orientation, and ethnicity. Greg thought that since time is short for next year's proposal deadline that we try to target Boston. He and John would contact NSTA about it.

John expressed a desire to have SEDS be more of an advocacy group, and support students who find themselves victims of discrimination, or if institutions balk at providing accommodations for students with disabilities. Perhaps have a letterhead made with representative names, and have the president or designee make contact with schools as we hear of problems. Due to time considerations, it was suggested that we take this up in earnest at

next year's meeting as one of the main topics for discussion.

Babette is looking for funds to help sustain the web site. She would welcome any ideas or leads. John suggested contacting N.O.D. (National Organization on Disabilities) that has a high profile, with support from many sponsors as well as celebrity advocates.

Breakfast tickets: SESD covers awardee's ticket, but not guests. It was suggested that from now on, SESD offer an additional guest ticket to awardees if requested. Unanimously approved.

CAGs (NSTA Chapters and Affiliated Groups) Congress this year is July 19-22 in Toronto. Babette may go. If anyone else is interested in representing SESD, please contact Babette.

ADJOURNED 4:09 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
John Stiles, SESD Secretary