

Minutes

General Meeting - January 18, 2007

(Ontario Science Centre, Toronto)

Present: Catherine Little, Martin Gabber, Jody Soehner, Jill Snider, Maureen Callan, Susan Paradiso, Cindy Adams, Shawna Hopkins, Mirella Sanwalka, Paul Oravets, Julie Grando, Steve Kotulak, Susan Cohen, John Yip-Chuck, Vincent Citriniti, Melanie Checkeris, Mars Bloch, Rosanna Deo-Discipio, Anita Ghazariansteja, Jamie, Jameski, James Palcik, Otto Wevers, Dennis Pare, Christine Adam-Carr, Glen Mullings, Shane Green, Anjuli, Ahooja, Reid McAlpine, Mike Newnham

1. Introduction: Martin welcomed everyone and thanked our hosts. Everyone introduced himself or herself.
2. Associate Member Reports: Each associate member presented a brief report.
 - a. Cindy Adams from Scientists in School – great fall, starting work with Niagara District School Board
 - b. Paul from Merlan – catalogue has been sent out, workshops available by request
 - c. Susan Cohen from Science Centre – highlighted information from report (which is posted on the website) and passed out Marvel tickets for 1pm.
 - d. John Yip-Chuck from Nelson – announced the publication of a free research based document
 - e. Mars from Let's Talk Science made announcements re: survey, publication of kindergarten program, Aboriginal Studies committee, and new "Science with Impact" workshop for scientists
 - f. James Palcik from Palcik Educational thanked everyone for helping launch his new company. The new catalogues are either in print or close to printing. Chemical safety program is coming. Markbook is free for download from Palcik Educational's Website
 - g. Reid McAlpine from Pearson – The Program "Breakthrough Science" is in development. It is a program based on results from the TIMMS study. They are trying to get the videos from "Lesson Lab" available to Canadians
3. Ontario Science Centre - new programs (Melanie)
(<http://www.ontariosciencecentre.ca/school/curriculum/default.asp>)
 - a. Laura presented highlights from their new programs which highlight inquiry / design. Tree Frogs / Go Gadget Go (Heat & Temperature)
 - b. Laura described the free educator workshops that will be offered.
4. Review of minutes: The minutes were checked and minor corrections recorded.
5. Position Paper: Literacy Through Science and Technology: Martin announced that the position paper will be posted with the completed footnotes. The date will be June 2004.
6. "An Inconvenient Truth"; Al Gore, the NSTA (<http://www.nsta.org/>), and Laurie David (<http://www.lauriedavid.com/>): Martin updated the membership

about the attempt to obtain free copies for Ontario teachers. There was some discussion about the grade level appropriateness of the DVD. Gr. 7 and up was discussed as the lower grade level. The need for teacher material was brought up. “Critical Literacy” is really emphasized in the Language Curriculum. This was brought up as an opportunity to bring the content area into the language classroom. This will be put on the agenda of the next executive meeting and discussed with STAO.

7. Cram Science (<http://www.cramscience.ca/>) (Mike): Mike introduced the membership to this new resource. A grad science student started “a science magazine for teenagers” on the Internet. They have new articles every two weeks for 13 -17 year olds.
8. Mars Bloch survey request (http://www.letstalkscience.ca/surveys/reaching_teachers_2007.htm): The invitation was included in the information package. They would like assistance in making teachers aware of the survey. There are 30 questions for the teachers. The intention is to gather the teacher perspective on science & technology education in Canada. Mars will also be conducting a series of interviews with various stakeholders.
9. Membership database update (Catherine)
 - a. Please check the database.
 - b. Send in your membership form and cheque if you have not already done so
10. Teacher Science and Technology Outreach Program (TSTOP) (Otto) (<http://www.mri.gov.on.ca/english/programs/tstop/program.asp>): Otto highlighted the information and website. Boards cannot put in applications but can partner with a research organization.
11. International Comparisons (Shawna): Shawna highlighted the articles in Educational Leadership that related to student achievement.
12. elearning / Ministry courses (<http://www.elearningontario.com>) ; Ontario Educational Resource Bank / Ron St. Louis (Shawna): There is nothing new right now.
13. OSAPAC (<http://www.osapac.org/>): Martin encouraged the membership to continue to log on to the website and lobby for science & technology resources.
14. Educational Leadership, December 2006 - Science in the Spotlight (Catherine): Catherine talked about the issue and the Science and Children November 2006 Issue.
15. Shane Green, Ontario Genomics Institute (OGI) - OGI Teaching Prize (<http://www.ontariogenomics.ca/main/home.asp>): Shane gave an overview of the development of the field of Genomics as well as the initiatives of the Ontario Genomics Institute. One outreach effort is the “fact sheet” presented for every episode of the tv series ReGenesis. They are also presenting a drama dance performance on genomics in September 2007. They also produce

educational materials such as “Engage: Stem Cells” which is distributed through Let’s Talk Science. This is also the inaugural year for the OGI Genomics Teaching Prize. The prize is \$5000 for the teacher, \$2000 for laboratory equipment and materials, travel expenses to present at the next STAO Conference. The application package is available on the OGI website. This will be available at the end of January. The package will be due in June. The announcement will be made in September.

16. Stewart McMeeking - demo of digital robotics and digital cameras for elementary (James Palcik)
 - a. Palcik Educational will be marketing new products – Bee-Bot, Pro-Bot and a digital camera for use in primary classrooms.
17. Feedback survey - issues with the SCCAO response: Martin related the process we followed to gather feedback. There were some issues. The membership did not respond to the website request. The SCCAO response was based on the sheets handed in at the previous SCCAO Meeting.
18. Ministry feedback on 1-8, and 9&10 surveys (Maureen / Jill)
 - a. The ministry feedback survey was based on previous surveys.
 - b. Maureen and Jill each received approximately 80 responses.
 - c. The senior course drafts will be available between April 23 and mid-June (tentative).
 - d. The rating scale will be changed. Maureen then asked for suggestions from the membership.
19. Conference update: Martin presented the Sudbury conference proposal to the membership. There was lots of interest in attending.
20. Upcoming meetings and locations
21. Other
 - a. Combined Grades: Chuck asked if either STAO or SCCAO could write a letter to the Ministry asking for permission to be granted to schools to adopt flexibility to deal with combined grades. Mars suggested that other provinces have more flexibility and to check this if a letter is to be written.
 - b. Christine asked if there were any Special Projects going on in the boards. Martin suggested we put this item back on the formal Agenda.
 - c. Sue announced a website <http://asx.sa.utoronto.ca> - “Space Times”

Next Meeting:

March 29, 9:30 - 3:00, The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto