

Southeastern Association for Science Teacher Education (SASTE) Annual Business Meeting 2019

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Date: October 5, 2019 **Location:** Fusion Education Center, Carrollton, GA **Host Institution:** University of West Georgia **SASTE President:** Stacey Britton **Theme:** STEM Education: Promoting Inclusive Learning

President Stacey Britton opened the business meeting at 8am and welcomed the SASTE members to the Fusion Education Center in Carrollton, GA. She then invited the members gathered to join in and commenced the Business meeting.

Business Meeting:

Item 1: The Business Meeting got underway with a motion to approve the SASTE 2017 and ASTE 2018 Minutes - motion made by Dr. Ryan Walker, and seconded by Dr. Logan Leslie. Both SASTE 2018 and ASTE 2019 Minutes were unanimously approved.

Item 2: President Britton reiterated the SASTE' focus on mentoring graduate students and drew attention to the Mentors Session at 11:05am

Next, President Britton announced that SASTE 2020 will be held in Dahlonega, GA as planned. Incoming president for 2020, Dr. Gina Childers has secured administrative support for SASTE 2020 at University of North Georgia, even though she has moved to Texas. Given SASTE interest in environmental education, Dr. Childers encouraged all SASTE members to register and attend SASTE 2020, promoting the possibilities for hiking and other outdoor activities at the Dahlonega location.

This was followed by nominations for the 2021 president; Dr. Melanie Kinksey was nominated, and accepted the position as SASTE President for 2021

Item 3: Dr. Sumitra Himangshu-Pennybacker presented the Secretary-Treasurer's Report for 2018-2019. The secretary/treasurer's report was distributed to the attendees and included a fiscal report of conference finances to date.

[NOTE: As of 12.17.18 - Income from 2019 Conference Registrations = \$2,872.56; Expense for 2019 Conference = \$1,203.88. Balance in SASTE Business Account = \$9,100.20]

Item 4: The following Position Papers were presented:

(1) Graduate students Ms. Tredina Sheppard, and Ms. Christine Lord (under the supervision of Dr. Rose Pringle), presented their research that suggests that student engagement in STEM fields is sustained by meaningful experiences at the secondary school level.

(2) Dr. Rose Pringle, then presented the Faculty Position Paper on the Promise and Peril: STEM in Middle School. Dr. Pringle's paper focused on need for STEM literacy,

innovation, and employment. The importance of experiences in grades 6-8 that lay the foundations for STEM trajectory in high school. She also discussed the underlying urgency to clearly define STEM Education, i.e. Which STEM discipline is being served? Her presentation focused on why it was important for teachers to be able to clearly articulate and emphasize each STEM content during interdisciplinary activities.

A robust discussion ensued regarding the need to define STEM and STEAM, funding, and institutional challenges regarding leadership roles in integrated coursework.

Item 5: This was followed by the Awards presentations by Dr. Stacey Britton

The only Awards presented for 2019 were for the Position Papers and the Past President Service and Leadership Awards.

The Student Position Paper for 2019 was awarded jointly to Ms. Tredina Sheppard and Ms. Christina Lord.

The Faculty Position Paper for 2019 was awarded to Dr. Rose Pringle.

2018 Past President Service and Leadership Award presented to Dr. Ryan Walker (Mississippi State University).

Item 6: A process for onboarding President-elect was suggested and a working committee comprising of Brendan Callahan, Gina Childers, Ryan Walker, Nate Carnes, Stacey Britton, and Jennifer Mesa was convened to address this matter.

Ryan Walker was newly appointed as the Secretary and Treasurer for 2020 (nominated by Sumitra Himangshu-Pennybacker / seconded by John Pecore).

Item 7: Dr. Britton officially passed the gavel to incoming-President Dr. Gina Childers.

The business meeting was adjourned at 8:40am

Submitted by Sumitra Himangshu-Pennybacker, Secretary/Treasurer, 2018-2019.