

## BOARD COMMITTEES

### STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

*Jocelyn Paas*

The Committee continued to oversee the implementation of the existing Strategic Plan through the use of Committee Implementation Plans. The decision to extend the Strategic Plan for a fourth year was made, and in 2019 it is anticipated that a new Strategic Plan will be developed. Thank you to all of STAO's volunteers for their work in pursuing the goals set out in the plan.

### RISK COMMITTEE

*Bob Weese*

STAO committees have begun work on the consideration of the specific risks for which they are responsible, and the measures that could be taken to mitigate the most serious risks. The Board's Risk Committee will encourage and assist committees to review and update their reports on an annual basis. The decision to move the date of the Conference from November to next March, was a good example of the need to identify risks and take measures, where possible, to minimize their likelihood and their impact on STAO

### GOVERNANCE & NOMINATING COMMITTEE

*Ralph Chou*

Following last year's Annual Meeting, the GNC worked to address the concerns expressed about the proposed bylaw amendments. A revised amendment will be presented for approval at the 2019 Annual Meeting. GNC successfully recruited our new Treasurer, Jim Rahaman.

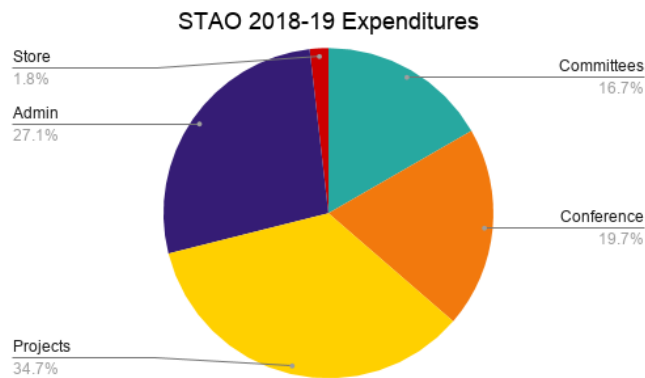
### PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE

*Ralph Chou*

Project Innovation 2 and Project Innovation 3 were successfully completed in the last year. Project Innovation 2 came in significantly below budget and the unused funds are being returned to the Ministry of Education. The Committee continues to monitor the Ministry's grant to STAO for support services and resources for our Francophone membership.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Finance Committee is responsible for reviewing the quarterly financial statements and recommending actions to the board. In 2018-19, STAO underwent a year of transition, resulting in a deficit of approximately \$22,000, which was due to an excess of operational expenses over revenue. This deficit represents a change from last year, when there was a surplus of approximately \$55,000. Although there was a reduction in both revenue and expenses, no surplus exists this year primarily due to a reduction in revenues associated with the annual conference and the wrap-up of Project Innovations 2 and 3.



**Mission:** Encouraging excellence in science education through leadership and service

**Vision:** To be the leading voice in the advancement of science education in Ontario

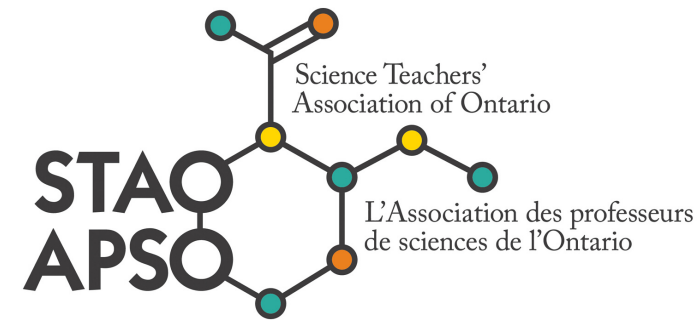
**Values:** Accountability, excellence, inclusiveness, innovation, integrity, respect, responsibility, teamwork

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Nathalie Rudner, <i>President</i>	Karen Dodds, <i>Past President</i>
Lise Gravelle, <i>President-Elect</i>	Joseph Bishay, <i>Secretary</i>
Jim Rahaman, <i>Treasurer</i>	Cindy Adams, <i>Director</i>
Dr. B. Ralph Chou, <i>Director</i>	Robert Weese, <i>Director</i>

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Michael Frankfort, <i>Curriculum Coordinator</i>
Malisa Mezenberg, <i>Professional Development Coordinator</i>
Sheila Rhodes, <i>Partnership Coordinator</i>
Kathryn Wheeldon, <i>Communications Coordinator</i>



## 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

### President's Message

*Nathalie Rudner*

As STAO approaches its 130 year anniversary, I am honoured to represent STAO and its volunteers. STAO has a long-standing tradition of supporting the professional learning of science educators in Ontario and the 2018-2019 school year was no different. This past year, STAO continued its tradition of excellence by completing a number of initiatives including Project Innovation, a 3-year Ministry of Education funded project that produced an impressive collection of classroom resources, a revision of Safe ON Science, the translation of STAO resources for our Francophone members, and hosting an inspiring STAO2018 conference: Science for All. It is important to recognize and thank our many dedicated volunteers who work tirelessly to ensure that STAO meets its mandate of encouraging "excellence in science education through leadership and service". STAO thrives because of the work you do! Thank you!

### Executive Director's Message

*Amy Gorecki*

This year has been an exciting year of change and transition for everyone at STAO and I would like to thank everyone for their support during my first year. I am excited for the launch of the new STAO.ca website, and for the changes in format to STAO2020, as well as the new opportunities that this will present for us. I hope that over the next year we will also work to expand our membership, volunteer base, and our influence within the science community. I look forward to an exciting 2019-20 year!

# OPERATIONAL COMMITTEES

## PROMOTIONS COMMITTEE

*Racquel Carlow*

The Promotions Committee was actively involved in promoting STAO2018, both onsite, and ahead of the conference. Over the course of the year, committee members staffed STAO display tables at the TDSB Eureka, OAPT, OCTE, and EcoLinks conferences. The STAO Blog also increased its followers to almost 2,900.



## FRANCOPHONE COMMITTEE

*Lise Gravelle*

The committee successfully revised a translation of Safe ON Science, which is now for sale in the STAO Store, and worked to assist with the translation of STAO News, the internal volunteer newsletter, and other STAO communications, as well as numerous other resources. Committee members also provided a welcoming atmosphere for the many Francophones who attended STAO2018 through a Francophone grant from the Ministry of Education.



## SAFETY COMMITTEE

*Dave Gervais*

The Safety Committee ensured that Safe ON Science was revised in time for renewals of school board's rights to the document. The Safety Committee was also responsible for the creation of the new Science Facility Safety resource, written for school board safety officers, and Joint Health and Safety Committees, and for work on the revision of Safer Use of Chemicals in Secondary Schools, which was originally published in 2004. A Lab Inspection Team also successfully completed a pilot project with Simcoe County DSB, which will be more fully implemented in 2019-20.

## ELEMENTARY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

*Melissa Doucas, Darren Campbell*

The committee prepared and presented demos and hands-on experiments/challenges for teacher participation in the STAO Playground at STAO2018. In 2019, an agreement with iP2 Entertainment was established to oversee the creation of science curriculum-aligned materials at the opening of their new family entertainment complex. The ECC will continue to look at creating/reviewing resources and building/continuing to bridge partnerships with outside organizations and other standing committees of STAO. It continues to look for new members.

## VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE

*Gerrie Storr*

The committee worked with the Awards Committee to organize and plan the 2018 Celebration Dinner that recognizes all of STAO's award winners. We also recognize the significant contributions of our former Chair, Gerrie Storr, who worked hard to ensure that all of STAO's volunteers are recognized for their contributions to STAO.



Left: Mahfuza Rahman and Gerrie Storr  
Right: Gerrie Storr and Corrine Brook-Allred

## SECONDARY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

*Ana Pereira Neves*

At STAO2018, the SCC staffed a well-attended booth in the STAO Playground, as well as presented a Tech Tools Collection workshop. The committee also created a membership survey to determine future resource creation projects, received an OSSTF grant to add videos to the STAO demo collection, contributed to the STAO Blog, and collaborated with the Promotions Committee on a plan to highlight existing STAO resources.

## WEBSITE COMMITTEE

*Amy Gorecki*

A Request for Proposal process was completed that will pave the way for the launch of a brand new STAO.ca web presence before the end of 2019. The new website will bring together all of STAO's three current websites, act as a promotional tool for the organization, and have improved navigability for website users.

## CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE 2018

*Chuck Cohen, Julie VanderMeij*

"Science for All" attracted 1,122 attendees from across the province. 246 sessions, including certificate programs, were offered, including STEAM, FNMI, Kindergarten, and Beginning Teachers, in English and French, by speakers from all walks of life. Sessions spanned the early years through secondary, and were applicable to both new and experienced teachers.

"Playground" and "Sharing Showcase" were positive experiences, and 8 sessions were broadcast offsite to Faculties of Education. The exhibits area had 70 booths displaying new material and opportunities. Conference planning takes over a year, with a dedicated team of volunteers contributing countless hours. On top of the conference planning team, STAO committees spent all 3 days offering learning opportunities through workshops, Playground and networking through the STAO@STAO booth. STAO Conference is a conference by teachers, for teachers. Ultimately STAO2018 could not have happened without the generous contribution of 262 volunteer presenters by teachers and organizations from across Ontario and beyond!

## PROJECT INNOVATION

*Malisa Mezenberg*

Projects Innovation 2 and 3 were both completed this past year. The 150+ resources created over the course of these multi-year projects are openly available on the STAO Connex website. Topics include: safety, Indigenous knowledge, kindergarten, FSL, inquiry, technology-enhanced learning, design-thinking, and span the curriculum.

Project Innovation 2 also focused on a new professional learning delivery model, which included new learning, knowledge application/creation, and knowledge sharing. The projects were a huge success, involving participants from over 25 school boards, and we thank Malisa for her tireless leadership over the course of all three projects!

## SCIENCEWORKS

*Heather Theijsmeijer*

ScienceWorks presented 14 unique workshops for 24 sessions at STAO2018. The demo sessions for grade 9/10 Science and 11/12 Physics, Chemistry and Biology were very popular. STAO's Safety workshops were also presented at several faculties of education. We wish to thank Heather for her leadership, who has stepped down from her position as Chair of the committee.