

**Minutes of the NCTE Annual Business Meeting
for the Board of Directors and Other Members of the Council
Friday, November 18, 2022
Anaheim, California**

The Annual Business Meeting for the Board of Directors and Other Members of the Council of the National Council of Teachers of English was called to order by President Valerie Kinloch at 5:07 p.m., November 18, 2022.

Platform guests included Alfredo Luján, NCTE Past President; Katrina Bartow-Jacobs, Resolutions Committee Chair; Shelley Rodrigo, NCTE Vice President; María Fránquiz, NCTE President-Elect; Valerie Kinloch, NCTE President; Victor Del Hierro, Parliamentarian; Emily Kirkpatrick, NCTE Executive Director; and members of the NCTE Resolutions Committee: Minda M. López, Emily Nemeth, Brian Ripley Crandall, and Brent Gilson.

President Kinloch called for a motion to adopt the rules for the Annual Business Meeting. Beverly Ann Chin, MT, moved to adopt the rules; seconded by Chris Bronke, IL. The motion CARRIED.

An NCTE member named Ronnie, whose last name and state was not audible on the meeting recording, moved to adopt the agenda; seconded by Darius Wimby, GA. The motion CARRIED.

Susan Dillon, CA, moved to dispense with the roll call of directors; seconded by Kirstey Ewald, IA. The motion CARRIED.

Liz McAnnich, CA, moved to dispense with a formal reading of the 2021 Minutes of the NCTE Annual Business Meeting; seconded by an NCTE member from IL whose name was not audible on the meeting recording. The motion CARRIED.

Nicole Mirra, PA, moved to accept the posted 2022 Annual Reports; seconded by Ann David, TX. The motion CARRIED.

President Kinloch called Past President Alfredo Luján to the podium, who introduced the NCTE past presidents and executive directors in attendance: Kylene Beers, David Bloome, Randy Bomer, Beverly Ann Chin, Anne Ruggles Gere, Yetta Goodman, Jerome Harste, Carol Jago, Ernest Morrell, and Kathy Short.

President Kinloch asked for a moment of silence for all NCTE members who had passed away since the last meeting.

President Kinloch asked the audience to share words expressing thoughts in the moment. Words were Legacy. Connection. Gratitude. Openness. North Stars. President

Kinloch reminded the group why they were all present for Convention, why they come.

Kinloch introduced Tiffany Rehbein, member of the NCTE Nominating Committee. Rehbein solicited nominations for the 2023 ballots.

President Kinloch called María Fránquiz, President-Elect, to the podium to read “A Moment in NCTE History” prepared by NCTE Historian Jonna Perrillo:

Jonna’s remarks: “Good Evening, I want to begin by apologizing that I am not at this year’s conference to meet all of you in person. It is exceptionally difficult for me to get away this year, but I look forward to being at this gathering at next year’s meeting. As the incoming Council historian for the NCTE, I’d like to introduce myself, tell you some of what I’ve been working on recently that complements my position in the organization, and share two of my goals for the near future. I also want to invite María Fránquiz, who is reading this on my behalf, to share my email widely: . I would love to hear from all of you. We are in a crisis-driven moment for English teachers for many, many reasons. What would you like to see from a Council historian? What kinds of problems, challenges, or trends do you think you could be more equipped to address or counter if you had a stronger understanding of their history? I am an education historian and professor of English education at the University of Texas at El Paso. I published a book this spring titled *Educating the Enemy: Teaching Nazis and Mexicans in the Cold War Borderlands* that traces what happened when 118 Nazi scientists and their school-aged children relocated to El Paso in 1946 at the US War Department’s behest. The scientists’ children were welcomed into the city’s segregated schools and flourished from all of the advantages that every other white child held.

It’s a book about how white supremacy and white privilege served as the organizational and pedagogical backbone of a school system in a city where most students were Mexican American. It pushes us to think about how and why that was and the current legacy of these events. The book opened a pathway for me to write for the public about current issues that are of primary importance to many English teachers. In September, I published a *Washington Post*

column that compares book banning during the Cold War with what many states are facing now. NCTE shared the article with its members in its newsletter during Banned Books Week. Our current climate is often compared to the Cold War, but in the McCarthy era the greatest focus on book bans in schools was on textbooks. Now, as we know, the focus is on books that young people most often read for pleasure, a potentially even more dangerous prospect.

I made this same argument as part of a panel that PEN America organized in October called Freedom to Learn in Historical Perspective. I'm excited to have had the opportunity to talk about issues that shape the lives of students and teachers to broad and different stakeholders. There are two partnerships that I will be working on in the coming year that I would like to bring to your attention. The first is a virtual National Endowment for the Humanities institute for K–12 teachers that my colleague Drew Newman, who chairs the English department at SUNY Stony Brook, and I will co-direct next summer. Our institute titled "Making the Good Reader and Citizen: The History of Literature Instruction in American Schools" will serve 30 teachers, and we hope that many of them will be NCTE members. I also hope that this and other NEH institutes being directed by other NCTE members will mark the beginning of thinking about more partnerships between NCTE and other national organizations that work on supporting K–12 faculty and schools.

As with my work on academic freedom, I also hope to make some of the conversations that come out of this institute more accessible to NCTE members broadly through the *Council Chronicle* and other means. Second, NCTE Executive Director Emily Kirkpatrick has initiated a partnership with the American Antiquarian Society and the American Council of Learned Societies to digitize and make usable a large collection of early American children's writing. This is an extraordinary prospect for people who teach what I do and for you all, I hope. My goal is to help make the digitized collection more classroom ready, possibly through identifying some themes or strands in the materials or through providing contextual information, including a list of references to a rich body of existing scholarship on early American literacy practices and education for interpreting what is happening in the primary materials.

Again, I welcome any feedback or information that you would like to provide to me via email. I'm also available on Twitter for the time being. Finally, if you are interested in the ideas I've

listed, please encourage teachers you know to apply to the NEH institute. You can find our website online through NEH or by Googling "Making the Good Reader and Citizen." Applications will open in late December. Thank you.

President Kinloch gave her Presidential report:

At this time, I have the honor of offering a few words as President. I'm going to start with this poem by June Jordan that you probably have heard. I used the last stanza in the call for proposals for the 2021 Convention, and the poem is titled "Poem for South African Women." And as many of you know or you've heard me talk about, it's a poem that June Jordan wrote to commemorate the 40,000 plus lives of children and women who marched against compass laws in apartheid South Africa. And they started protesting in 1956, and it took them 30 years in order for these laws to be repealed. And they never stopped protesting. They never stopped marching and they never stopped resisting. June Jordan wrote this poem and presented it at first in 1978 at the United Nations, and I want to share it with you.

And she writes, "Our own shadows disappear as the feet of thousands by the tens of thousands pound the fallow land into new dust that rising like a marvelous pollen will be fertile even as the first woman whispering imagination to the trees around her made for righteous fruit from such deliberate defense of life as no other still will claim inferior to any other safety in the world." She continues, "The whispers too they intimate to the inmost ear of every spirit now aroused they are carousing in ferocious affirmation sound a certainly unbounded heat from a baptismal smoke where yes there will be fire. And the babies cease alarm as mothers raising arms sound a certainly unbounded heat and hearts high as the stars so far unseen nevertheless hurl into the universe a moving force irreversible as light years traveling to the open eye." And she says, "And who will join the standing up? And the ones who stood without sweet company will sing and sing back into the mountains and even, if necessary, under the sea. We are the ones we've been waiting for." I've said this before, and I will say it again, that I believe that we are the ones we have been waiting for. Our professional organization, the National Council of Teachers of English. Thank you so much.

And so, it begins transitioning into my found poem since I've been here. And so it begins, transitions, acceptances memories, remembering, histories

of ourselves and of others, of our lives, our dreams, our dreaming, we dream, walking and waking and wondering, pursuing and becoming home together here in person at NCTE. You said gratitude, comfort, openness, curiosity, inspiration, being present, having presence, courage, courageousness, courageously, leading for equity, justice and anti-racist teaching, engaged and engaging and engagement and revolutionary work because of revolutionary love, including red bicycle moments of adversaries and adversities of challenges and circumstances and chances and chaos and sometimes complexities too, of stories and storytelling, often of happenstance or maybe because of happenstances, of confluences and conflicts, adversarial moments that can, that should, and that must lead to joy and joyfulness and joyful, full, yes, joy, always of impact and promise. Potential possibilities whether we are learning one with another, thinking one with another, or talking and engaging or even maybe disengaging.

And as bell hooks reminds us of as we teach to transgress and as Marian Wright Edelman reminds us of because we must leave the world better than we found it, as we story places, as storied places and places of stories with one love, with heart, with feelings.

So, take the expected and unexpected joys in life and the beauties too, being in and within and caught up in and because of stories and storytelling, because of human life.

It's been an interesting journey from creating a partnership with Medgar Evers College, NCTE, and the Pitt School of Education to celebrate Black writers, and to honor them near our National Day on Writing for NCTE in October, to having a lot of important work done on anti-censorship, to having our Intellectual Freedom Center work to having our Cultivating New Voices among Scholars of Color program fully endowed, to re-imagining our public language awards in order for us to understand the importance of affirmative and positive language in the world, to getting to 2021's Annual Convention and our theme of equity, justice, and antiracist teaching, to interviewing forever First Lady Michelle Obama, to listening and learning from Amanda Gorman, to having an African American Read-In annually, and having NCTE uplifted. It's because we are in fact the ones we have been waiting for.

For the time is now for us to collectively examine our commitments and to be recommitted to the work of equity and justice. And I will say this, you

joined me. You walked with me. You thought with me. You pushed me and you encouraged me. And I could not be more honored to have had the pleasure of re-imagining language, literacy, English education, teacher education, and the work that we do in classrooms across this country and across the world, because of the membership of our National Council of Teachers of English. It has been a true privilege. Finally, I will say that you joined me and co-creating a healthier, a more just, a more sane, a more civilized world, not just for ourselves and our families and our schools and our communities, but for each other and more importantly, for our children, for our students, and for our young adults.

We can do this work with NCTE, we can do this work across the world. And I am more motivated now than I've ever been before. So, I want to thank you for having me as your 2021–2022 President, and the work continues. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. You know, what would a meeting be without a selfie. Right? Truly I am honored.

President Kinloch introduced Emily Kirkpatrick, NCTE Executive Director:

As I begin my report, I would like to acknowledge the incredible focus and commitment and courage that has been present over the last year in the elected leadership of this organization. Led by Valerie Kinloch and joined in lockstep by the Presidential Team members and in partnership with an incredibly insightful and effective executive committee, we have made incredible strides. You know, dreams and vision would be empty if you didn't have consistent focus and if you weren't willing to commit to something and stay with it, and that's exactly what this organization has done. Vision would also be an empty dream if it weren't for a committed staff. Ambidextrous is a common trait, both flexible and focused, and I would like to recognize all members of our staff team who have made this possible. And on a lighter note, also recognize that a member of our team is also celebrating a birthday. And that's our dear colleague, Marvin Young.

So, with that framing, we began the Executive Director's Report. I'm pleased to report that NCTE's membership is now stable after quite interesting conditions, both positive and very frightening during the pandemic. This stability does not come from the stasis of membership efforts. It's actually quite sobering how hard we have to work to remain at a point of equilibrium as

there are so many shifts in the education workforce. But it is indeed something to celebrate that we're at a point of stability and as I mentioned, this is an organization that continues to excel through courage and creativity. NCTE's Annual Convention, which was held for a second year online last November, continued to attract the attention of many people inside and external to the literacy education field. This year, as a result of last year's success, NCTE earned the top award for any association event from the American Society of Association Executives. We also won a Gold Stevie Award, and as a reminder, the year prior an international award for our excellence in creativity in bringing as many components as possible of in-person connection to life in a virtual environment.

We have applied that ingenuity to the benefit of NCTE's assemblies as well as conferences. And I recognize new relationships that have been forged and continue to sustain with our state and regional affiliates, and assemblies such as ALAN, where the ingenuity of NCTE staff and affordances of our technology selections and beyond continue to serve our extended parts as well as our conferences, including CCCC. Early in the year, we again celebrated the African American Read-In, which NCTE as an organization as well as its Black Caucus continues to be incredibly committed to, but we pressed new boundaries and held the first ever national virtual African American Read-In this February. This was moderated by NCTE Member leader Dr. Ayanna Brown and was an incredible experience for students across the country to spend time celebrating writing, celebrating the tenets of the African American Read-In with not only a national author, but also an illustrator and live illustrations. It was incredible.

We have moved forward and continue to press on in modernizing NCTE's publishing operation, which is no small task when you consider that this focused organization publishes such a waterfront of publications including 10 quarterly journals. We have a brand-new distribution arrangement with Ingram, which moves NCTE forward by having dedicated sales channels and a distribution network unlike anything we've ever imagined before. This was brought to life and went live on October 1 of this year. In quarter one of 2023, you can also expect to see all of NCTE's journals published in a digital first environment. This was a substantial research project and then a decision made by the NCTE Executive Committee. We are not leaving the important pieces of print publications behind, but we will be offering our publications first in a digital environment. We

have selected the publishing platform chosen by the United Nations, and what you see before you is a very early rendering of how a basic publication page will appear.

The benefits to researchers, to teachers, and this organization are countless, and we look forward to launching this again in the first quarter of 2023. As we know censorship has been on the rise. NCTE saw this coming and added things like a 24-hour response line early in the year 2021, as well as increased our partnership and arrangement with the National Coalition Against Censorship. Thank you. We also continue to partner very closely with the NCTE Standing Committee Against Censorship, chaired by Annamary Consalvo and co-led by Ann David, who is in the audience today. Working so closely with them, we moved NCTE's book rationales, which many of you have contributed to over decades, to an online database that's searchable at any time by teachers. We are continuing to invest in this database, which now holds about 600 titles, and very much need volunteers and peer reviewers to continue growing this incredible resource.

Here you see an image of the book database. We also broadened our outreach this year fighting censorship by engaging NCTE's affiliates and offering membership of the affiliates opportunities to learn from NCTE staff as well as national experts that we can leverage and bring to the table. Here you see an important learning experience that we offered in September, and I'm very proud to say that 25 NCTE's affiliates actively participated, recruited their members, and it was an incredibly informative exchange, again, in partnership with the Standing Committee Against Censorship. NCTE has made documented progress in the nation understanding what we do in defense of intellectual freedom.

NCTE is now compared with great frequency to the American Library Association's office on intellectual freedom. And this came forward in a very formal way in the month of September when the United States Congress, the United States Senate acknowledged NCTE and ALA as best practices in intellectual freedom through a bicameral resolution. Our work continues with a lot of outreach and leadership. NCTE approached our teaching organization peers, the logos for which you see on the screen, and together we wrote an NCTE-conducted press outreach for an unprecedented statement in defense of teachers' freedom to teach. To our knowledge and the knowledge of each association that you see on

the screen, no such statement has ever been published in unison across each organization.

This statement has been used by individual teachers to defend their practices, to push against an encroachment of their freedoms. It's also been used on the national level. *The Washington Post* covered this piece and actually reprinted the statement in full when it was published and it caught the attention of the Secretary of the Smithsonian, Lonnie Bunch. As a result, the executive directors of each of the participating associations were invited to give a preliminary panel at the Smithsonian's Education Summit this July. Our strategic outreach continues. Valerie and I presented at a forum by the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education. A member and I presented at the 100th Convention of the National Council of Social Studies. We also had an Executive Committee representative attend the Educator Shortage Summit, Lisa Scherff. Thank you. And most recently, NCTE co-sponsored a forum at the National Women's Studies Association Conference and recruited the participation of Anita Hill, drawing upon her successful interview with Staci Perryman-Clark this March at the CCCC Convention.

We also broke the mold, and I'm pleased to see so many of you who attended the NCTE Homecoming be present this evening. Staff and the Executive Committee, the Presidential Team knew we felt a hunger for our members to be together, to mourn, to collect ourselves as a new academic year was upon us. And so, we held a first-time event known as NCTE's Homecoming. This was also an opportunity for our totality to come together rather than sprinkle small events throughout the summer. And the sum was truly larger than the parts when we had the Standing Committee on Affiliates join us for their annual leadership meeting. The ELATE summer meeting also joined us alongside Literacies and Languages for All, and the Chair of the Conference on English Leadership also delivered a workshop.

A strategic point this year has been to draw closer to the humanities community and specifically the National Endowment for the Humanities. We recruited Chair Shelly C. Lowe, the first chair of the National Endowment for the Humanities from an Indigenous community, to deliver a keynote talk. She was so engaged that this was later reported in their publication *Humanities Magazine*. From there, we have built a new partnership with the National Humanities Alliance. As you may be aware, the National

Endowment for the Humanities holds an annual lecture, a very prestigious lecture known as the Jefferson Lecture. This year celebrated its 50th anniversary. For the first time ever, teachers and students were intentionally invited, and those teachers and students were from the network of this Council. Here you see a collection of students who were in attendance that evening. They're now eligible to participate in a writing contest with grant awards of \$1,000 supported by the Teagle Foundation. And if we have anything to do with it, we are just getting started.

As we close this year, we acknowledge several active policy engagements on the national level for which NCTE has played instrumental roles in getting to the point where they are. And we look forward to the reconstitution of Congress, the United States Senate to continue moving these bills forward. The first is the Raise Act of 2022 led by Senator Cory Booker of the state of New Jersey. This is legislation that NCTE has been working on for five years. And when it takes shape, when it is finally enacted, it will likely become part of another bill. It will give teachers much new support, including tax support for the supplies that we know they continue to contribute to their classrooms. It expands that support for clarification. The Loan Forgiveness Act of 2022 will indeed be moving forward in the form of a new bill in 2023. This is an effort that reconstitutes an existing program that has not been modernized for over 15 years. Its development has been led by the United States Senator Ben Ray Luján, who happens to be the first cousin of NCTE Past President Alfredo Luján, which is an amazing connection.

You can tell that literacy runs in the family. We have also been instrumental in broadening a bill, the Right to Read, in support of student and teacher freedom for book material in the classroom and in libraries. And this will indeed be moving forward. We need your engagement on testimonies for this particular bill come January and February. And in closing, because of NCTE's wide mission, because of all that we know about the discipline of English language arts, and because of NCTE's forward leaning orientation, always looking into what's next in our creativity, we are increasingly called into new conversations. One of those most important ones being around civics and literacy. We have just released a new publication written by NCTE member Nicole Mirra, who is here this evening, *Reading, Writing, and Raising Voices: The Centrality of Literacy to Civic Education*. And that's a great way to end this year. Thank you so

much for your attention. That concludes my report.

and the meeting was adjourned at 6:17 p.m. in Anaheim, California.

President Kinloch called on Shelley Rodrigo, NCTE Vice President, to announce upcoming meetings and locations for Council meetings. Rodrigo reported the following dates and sites: 2023 NCTE Annual Convention, November 16–19, 2023, Columbus, OH; CCCC Convention, February 15–18, Chicago, IL; TYCA Conference, February 15, Chicago, IL; CEL Convention, November 19–21, 2023, Columbus, OH.

President Kinloch moved to “New Business” and called on Katrina Bartow Jacobs, Chair of the Committee on Resolutions. Bartow reported no formal resolutions to be voted on during the meeting and shared a memo of recommendations from the Committee on Resolutions.

President Kinloch asked if anyone had any declarations to make.

Susan Dillon, CA: Invited everyone to Monterrey, California in March 2023 for the CATE (California Association of Teachers of English) Annual Convention.

Bruce Novak, CO: Memoriam Event for bell hooks, “From Oppression to Love,” a 90-minute session of making tributes clips from previous memorials.

Speaker from TX: The Texas Council for Teachers of English Language Arts, TCTELA, will hold its 58th annual convention, “Embracing Boldness and Exploration of the Power of Language,” in Denton, TX, February 3–5. Invite all to attend.

Rebecca Chatham, CA: Arizona English Teachers Association invited all to join a webinar series to reach more rural members; it is open to all affiliate members from across the country.

Kirstey Ewald, IA: Issued an invitation to the Affiliate Breakfast on Sunday to celebrate all the wonderful work that affiliates have done this year, as well as session at 10:30 on Sunday, the affiliate extravaganza.

President Kinloch called Executive Director Emily Kirkpatrick to the podium to recognize her leadership and full heart dedicated to NCTE.

President Kinloch called Alfredo Luján to the podium to recognize his giving of time, energy, and brilliance to the NCTE Presidential Team and NCTE.

President Kinloch asked for any other declarations. Hearing none, she asked for a motion to adjourn.

Staci Perryman-Clark, MI, moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Darius Wimby, GA. The motion CARRIED,