

Stonington High School
SBIT Minutes
Tuesday, January 22, 2008

Members Present: R. Cary (arrived late), M. Devine, K. Donovan, M. Gillick, P. Jeffrey, M. McKee (arrived late), C. Moore, S. Mueller, S. Murphy, J. Norcross, A. Walsh and D. Willner (arrived late)

Visitors: Dexter Murphy (parent)

Meeting started 5:04 pm.

Two documents distributed: 1) "SHS Quarter 1 Report Card" for a current student and used for an example to explain Honor Roll Calculations. 2) Section 3 "CIAC BY-LAWS" and Section 2 "CONSTITUTION" distributed by parent Dexter Murphy

1. Reports

A. Minutes (12/18/07) – Approved

B. Student Report (M. Guidera) – M. Guidera not present; Maureen Gillick presented report. Comfort Stations will be set up for exam week. Carnations will be sold for Valentine's Day. Every flower has a \$0.75 profit and will be deposited into the General Fund. Data Match planned for February. A community-wide Yard Sale, involving the entire school, is planned.

C. BOE Report (R. Carey) – Budget planning ("Foundation" and "New Programs") is moving along. Foundation budget complete – existing services brought into the new budget. Additional meeting planned for 1/24. New programs include: World Language Expansion, .6 Social Worker (this position would provide coverage for 2 elementary schools), k-4 Math position, District Data Manager, Career Pathways Advisor @ SHS, .6 Reading support, equipment purchase of a bathroom sanitizer, begin funding for SHS 'unfunded' sports, develop high school sports wish list. At the 1/24 meeting, the "New Programs" will be discussed. Add'l meeting planned for 2/7.

"Electronic Portfolio" (Steve Murphy) – Digital Portfolios will begin freshmen year. Teachers / Students / Parents will be able to view via the Internet. CMT / CAPT results, resume, etc. Students will make a presentation in their senior year.

"World Language Expansion" – Proposed language instruction in the lower grades (beginning with grade 5); add Mandarin instruction; adding French back into middle school.

Honor Roll Calculations – Document distributed by Steve Murphy. Cumulative Honor Roll calculations and not necessarily equal to quarterly Honor Roll calculations.

D. 2008-2009 Budget – Specific to the current enrollment

Virtual High School – Fran McSweeney currently manages 20 Virtual High School "slots"; George Hardison is "in training" for 20 additional slots; additional slots, if needed, can be obtained from other school districts.

- **1.6 FTE Staff (.2 English; .2 Science; .4 Math; .8 World Language)** .4 Math position needed because Mr. Peel is now the department coordinator. .8 World Language position needed because of the large incoming freshmen class – 4 additional sections of world language needed.
- **New Programs: .6 Literacy Support (43K); Career Pathways (35k); Complete funding unfunded sports (18k)**
All sports (including lacrosse, crew and swimming) would be funded (supplies, officials, etc.) except sailing. K-8 literacy support is available at MMS/PMS but currently not available at SHS. This .6 position would be for SHS and because it is more than .5, benefits would be available to the person hired for this position. Reading Lab would be available during x-block and study hall. Career Pathways is a new career/college center at SHS. A new full-time para would be hired and new software purchased for the center.
- **Dates**
 - **1/24 BOE Budget Discussion**

- 2/7 BOE (@ SHS) Budget Presentation
- 2/14 BOE adopts budget
- 2/19 BOE budget submitted to BOFinance

E. China Presentation (M. McKee) – Mike McKee not present when this agenda item addressed. The SBIT did not return to this agenda item when Michael arrived.

II. Visitors' Comments

Dexter Murphy (parent) wished to address the situation with the Girls' Basketball game that had been originally scheduled in February at UConn's Gampel Provillion. Mr. Murphy distributed copies of the CIAC by-law, specifically Article VII – "Tournaments, Meets and Games, Section B, Item 3", stating that "Tournaments, meets and games played on Sundays, either home or away (the Board of Control may grant exceptions to this rule)". The basketball game in question was originally scheduled for Saturday 2/9, then moved to Sunday 2/10 due to a conflict. Then it was discovered that CIAC prohibits games on Sunday. This game was to include Heather Buck and a star player from Ersline Academy (spelling?). The game will now be played on Saturday 2/9 at Eastern University.

III. SBIT Comments

Pat Jeffrey asked if Lauren Gillick is the SBIT co-chair this year. Maureen Gillick explained that her daughter is home studying and that is why she is absent. Yes, she remains co-chair.

Also, someone asked if the k12now could be used for purposes other than emergencies. Yes, it is available for non-emergencies.

Maureen reported on a number of parent questions and comments she had recently received. One parent asked if the SBIT was an 'open forum'. Yes, it is and that everyone is welcome. A notice should be placed on the website and The Bear Essentials newsletter stating that the SBIT is an 'open forum'. A parent commented to Maureen "she was thrilled that her child had been chosen for the link crew". Three parents of CRICKETS (the 6/7 team at MMS) asked what happens when their children gets to SHS. There is no combined team teaching at SHS (no CRICKETS equivalent), but gifted students may continue in honors / AP / electives. Mike McKee stated that middle school parents would have the opportunity to learn more about SHS later in the school year. All 8th graders will receive documentation March 1.

Maureen asked about a new 'policy' regarding lingering and standing in the Cafeteria / Commons area: Pat Jeffrey clarified the recent cafeteria 'policy' discouraging lingering / standing / hovering over other students while in the cafeteria / commons area. Students must find a seat. This new 'policy' will encourage freedom for foot traffic, address fire code concerns, allow teachers / staff a clear picture of the Café / Commons area, and discourage students from picking at the food of others.

Maureen asked about a rumor regarding the elimination of AP courses. This is a completely false rumor.

Students will be selecting courses next Tuesday 1/29. Some AP classes are offered on alternating years (for example AP Chemistry and AP Physics).

'Top Tier' schools (colleges) require 6-7 AP classes. SHS students may choose to use 'Virtual High School' to enroll in any AP class that is not currently available at SHS. Mostly seniors and juniors (some sophomores) enroll in the Virtual High School program. Currently SHS pays for ONE AP test per student.

IV. Action

V. Agenda

VI. Adjournment - Adjourned 5:57

Susan McCarthy