

**Stonington High School**  
**SBIT Minutes**  
**March 18, 2008**

Members Present: S. Alfiero-Bavasso, R. Cary, M. Devine, K. Donovan, L. Gillick, M. Gillick, M. Guidera, P. Jeffrey, C. Moore, J. Norcross, S. McCarthy, S. Murphy, A. Walsh, D. Wilner

One handout:

- Stonington High School – Highlights 2008

Meeting started at 5:02.

## **I. Reports**

**A. Minutes (2/26/08)** – One correction of the 2/26/08 minutes: Under “Item E – Sojourn”, “Teachers of Excellence” should be “Teachers of English”

**B. Student Report (M. Guidera)** – Lots going on at SHS! A partial list includes: Visits by current 8<sup>th</sup> graders (tours were given by Student Government members); “Mr. SHS” (a talent show); Boys’ and Girls’ Basketball and Girls’ Gymnastics have all done well; practices for the sports teams start the week of 3/17; Dylan Anderson and Heather Buck have been chosen as “Scholar Athletes” (both students maintain 3.5+ GPA averages); the band concert is scheduled for 3/27; the choral concert is planned for 4/1; a mock trial is planned for 4/5; and Anna Victoria, read with other poet laureates, their work at the Arts Café in Mystic on 3/14.

**C. BOE Report / Policies Under Review (R. Carey)** – The upcoming budget meeting is planned for mid April (not during the school vacation). Board of Finance produces a figure for the Bd. Of Education to work within (they cannot work on Board of Education line items). Rob is optimistic that the Bd. Of Ed. budget may not be cut too much because of increase in the grand list. Hoping for one referendum. Place card signs placed on lawns around town last year were very helpful. Rob Cary will e-mail SBIT members the date of the referendum.

**D. Reforest the Tropics (Environmental Project) (Steve Murphy)** – Sharleen Rusticci received a grant from Dominion in one of her math classes. A 5-acre plot of land was purchased for \$4,000 in Costa Rica, “Hacienda Las Delicias”, in a “carbon offset forest”. Students will be looking at real world applications, such as speaking with bus drivers about miles driven, etc. Steve passed around an aerial photo showing the location of this piece of land. Both Steve Murphy and Elisa Whitman both have spoken with Hester Barres regarding this purchase.

**E. Governor’s Task Force on Teen Driving: Next Steps (Maureen Gillick)** – When proposed, the timing for this project was not ideal because CAPT testing was in progress. Now that CAPT has concluded, students can be involved. The Driving Commissioner (state of CT) would like to use SHS as “model school” for student input. How to capture student input on a variety of teen-driving-related subjects such as curfew and the consequences of a moving violation? Anne Baldelli, writer for the New London Day newspaper, will be writing an on-going series of articles for The Day, regarding teen driving. A survey has NOT been conducted yet. Ken Donovan suggested that web-based “Survey Monkey” be used (Clint Kennedy has ‘purchased a license’ with Survey Monkey”). Anonymous survey results will be sent to the state. The Board of Education recently OK’d a series of NL Day articles regarding Teen Drinking (to be written by Joe Wojtas) and so does the Bd. of Education have to OK this series of Teen Driving articles? No, because survey takers will be anonymous and therefore parent approval is not needed. Who would be the appropriate population to survey? Possibly, CIA students (juniors and seniors) and students enrolled in AP Government classes; this is at least 100 students. If a link is placed on the SHS website, access to the survey would be “anyplace/anytime”. Possibly arrange for a teen driving discussion before the senior prom and before the junior prom, as part of the “Prom Promise” program. Conduct “Prom Promise” and then conduct survey?? Maybe require that survey be completed

before the purchase of prom tickets?? This would be too complex! Mrs. Jeffrey suggested that maybe Chief Darren Stewart would come to speak at Prom Promise?

**F. Resolution of GPA Issue** – Maureen expressed gratitude for the quick response by Guidance and SHS regarding college transcripts. Revised transcripts sent to colleges. Report card GPA is not the same as transcript GPA. Jen McCurdy quickly drafted a letter to be sent out. Jen has also been trained to deal with the report card software program onsite/locally (rather than Clint Kennedy).

**G. Budget: GET OUT THE VOTE**

**II. Visitors' Comments** - None

**III. SBIT Comments**

- Re: Incoming Freshmen Orientation - On March 17<sup>th</sup>, SHS Counselors went to PMS and MMS and worked with small groups of 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and to address their questions regarding 9<sup>th</sup> grade at SHS. August 21 is freshmen orientation.
- Re: K12now is no longer available.
- Re: Frank Connolly retired Friday March 14<sup>th</sup>. His job has been broken into two jobs. Judy Samokas (accounting) and Bill King (Operations) will now do his job. Both Bill and Judy are certified as CT Board of Education Finance Directors. Once there were 3 FT positions; now there are 2 FT positions.
- Re: Lack of parking for visitors on busy days. (Andrew Walsh) Recently PMS visitors had problems parking during “Curriculum Day”. Mrs. Colchen gives out the numbered spots. If Mrs. Jeffrey has a “heads up” regarding an increase in needed spots, she may be able to direct substitute teachers into the spots of absent teachers.
- Re: “Stonington High School – Highlights 2008” – Steve issued a handout listing the many wonderful awards that Stonington students accomplished this year. “Little Stonington does such wonderful things!” Maureen Gillick shared with the group that a decade ago, she met with several college admissions officers that shared with her that Stonington did not have the good reputation that it has today.

**IV. Action**

**V. Agenda**

**VI. Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned 5:50 pm.