

Stonington Public Schools
SBIT Minutes
Tuesday, September 16, 2008

Members Present: A. Coffey, M. Devine, A. Fossa, P. A. Jeffrey, S. McCarthy, C. Moore, S. Murphy, J. Norcross, A. Walsh,

Visitors Present: John Denard

Handouts:

- SBIT Membership (which has to be updated)
- SHS 2008-2009 Goals
- Academic Honor Code
- SHS Testing Results – Comparison of 2005-2006-2007-2008 CAPT results
- GTTF Survey May/June 2008

Meeting started 5:02 pm

I. Reports

A. Minutes (4/22/08) – Corrections to “II. Visitors Comments”: John Dinard should be John Denard. Correction to “A. Minutes”: “SHS did not have a good reputation a decade ago” should be “SHS did not have as good a reputation a decade ago”.

B. Student Report (A Fossa) – Report given by Amanda Coffey (Andrea Fossa unable to give Student Government report because of a sports practice). Many activities in progress. The text of Andrea’s report:

This year has been off to a wonderful start. Link Crew began the week before school, helping the freshman get adjusted to the high school by becoming mentors to the younger students and making them feel like a part of the school. They took part in a series of games and activities to get to know each other and an upperclassman. Everyone had a great time.

Since then, the school has been filled with spirit. The opening week picnic was a hit, and the following Friday the football team opened the season with a jamboree at home.

Also, the Environmental Club students are painting a mural on the cafeteria wall to help student locate the new containers for bottle/can recycling. They will also be sponsoring a beach clean up for late Sept./early Nov.

This coming week Student Government will be holding freshman elections. There will be a car wash on September 27th at the Human Services Building, to help support and raise money for Student Government. Next week, is Back-to-School Night and we are excited for Homecoming in the future.

Dr. Murphy, at this point introduced new art teacher, Theresa Bonillo

C. BOE Report /Policies Under Review (R. Carey) – The BOE may not be attending SBIT meetings anymore. The BOE will make this decision to attend at their next meeting. If they do attend it will only be occasionally. Two Policies Under Review:

1) Bullying (including hazing) – Allow anonymous information to be shared with staff members.

2) Field Trips – Re-written to be district-wide. Three types of field trips: a) local; b) long distance; and c) overnight, Guidelines designed to assist trip planner. Ensure that medically fragile student’s (self-medicate and nurse-administered) needs are met. Final reading will be in October. This policy may be in place in late October.

D. Principals’ Report

SHS 2008-2009 Goals – Digital Portfolios project is underway. Small training sessions held during summer. Kids must meet 16 goals (“Technology”, “Science Skills”, etc.). Marie, the new Guidance Para-Professional has received training related to this project. The goals include Digital Portfolio incorporation into 9th grade Academy, Advisory Program, Reading Across the Discipline, College/Career Center and Integrate Career Development into courses (see handout).

Assessment Data – CAPT and SAT results discussed (see handout).

Where Are They Now? – This is a new feature to be published in The Bear Essentials; similar in fashion to what can be found in college alumni magazines. For example, Will Hallesey is currently studying photojournalism in London.

E. GTTF Survey (J. Denard or J. Macko) – “Good Teaching Task Force” was an online survey that was available to parents in May and June of this year (see handout). 119 respondents. John Denard felt that the comment section of the survey was “most telling” and that communication and online grade reporting should improve. He felt that parents would like to see more frequent online grade reporting, not just at progress report or report card times. This would be difficult because teachers would have to be up-to-the-minute with their online grading. John <JDenard@stoningtonschools.org> is seeking suggestions for improvement.

Communication

BOE Policy needed on ON-line Grade Reporting

F. Academic Honor Code (P. Jeffrey) - A new academic honor code (see handout) has been developed. Confidentiality is an issue, teachers should not e-mail parents. There is a form containing the honor code and students must read it and sign it. To report an honor code violation, teachers would now fill in a form and submit it to Ms. Jeffrey. Ms. Jeffrey will file it and will be aware of a pattern of behavior. The intent is to “hold students to a level of honesty and accept results of their actions”. This honor code is not in the Opportunity Booklet, but it is in the students’ agendas.

G. Alert Now replaced K12Now – “Alert Now” has replaced “k12now”. It will be used for events like snow days and Back-to-School announcements. These announcements will be issued to the e-mails addresses that are currently stored in PowerSchool.

“Little X Block” – There was some off-the-track discussion regarding “Little X Block” at this point in the meeting. This small meeting period is available for current freshmen (class of 2012) and will continue until October 6th. X block is 54 minutes. Seniors, Juniors and Sophomores attend regular X-Block while the freshmen attend Little X Block. There are many activities going on (Yoga, Knitting, Xbox Tournament, Gymnasium activities). This a time for freshmen to “Get to Know” what is available to them during x-block. Andrew Walsh asked if an outside organization could come into the school during X-Block and offer something unique, for example karate classes. Must be careful because all school staff has to be screened and fingerprinted. Outside agencies that come into the school to hire students, for example, Dunkin Doughnuts, come thru Human Services and/or Guidance.

H. Membership – It is unclear whether Lynn Conway and Linda Bolduc will continue with SBIT. They are listed as current members but do not attend regularly. (See the handout.)

II. Visitors’ Comments - None

III. SBIT Comments –

SBIT Meeting Time – All members agreed 7:00 am was too late for the high school SBIT meeting. Members felt that the high school day starts very early. SBIT meeting time will remain at 5:00 pm.

Clarification of the Wellness Policy - Andrew Walsh asked for clarification regarding the selling of sweets as a fundraiser for the senior class prom. Selling of sweets (candy, cakes, pies, etc.) during school hours, even if a fundraiser is against the Wellness Policy. Other Wellness Policy points: no

vending machine sales of sweets, cannot be in competition with Food Services, it's a state law, the sale of fruit baskets is possible, Boosters can sell sweets at games (because after school hours and it is a school event).

IV. Action

V. Agenda

VI. Adjournment – Adjourned 6:00 pm

Susan McCarthy