

Stonington Public Schools
SBIT Minutes
November 18, 2008

Members Present: S. Alfiero-Bavasso, M. Devine, K. Donovan, A. Fossa, M. Gillick, P. Jeffrey, C. Moore, A. Walsh, D. Willner

Handouts:

- “Health and Wellness Day – November 6, 2008” pamphlet
- “Civics matters at SHS” by Leslie Rovetti of The Westerly Sun (date not noted)

Meeting started at 5:05 pm.

Dr. Murphy absent; he is attending an “intervention” workshop.

I. Reports

A. Minutes (10/21/08) – Minutes of 10/21/08 accepted. September 16, 2008 minutes under item “F – Academic Honor Code”, where minutes state “ teachers should not e-mail parents”, the minutes should state “teachers should not e-mail SHSALL, however, teachers are encouraged to communicate with parents of students involved.”

B. Student Report (A. Fossa) – From her typewritten report:

“October was a busy month. This past week, the Drama Club performed it’s version the of the Green Archer, a drama filled with mystery that brought in many supporters and was a great success. There were around 20 students involved with the whole production. The boys cross country team was the only team to win ECCs this fall but many athletes including Sarah Hallinan, Kayla Murphy, Kevin Agnello, and Kelsey Thomas made the All State teams for each of their sports. Mario Costa made both All State and the All New England team for soccer. National Honor Society is currently holding a winter clothing driver (sic) and two new members were inducted, Gabriela Hybel and Elliott Olivas. The National Art Honor Society is working on a fashion show, where all clothes are made out of organic materials like plastics and newspapers. The Band has its concert coming up in December and two weeks ago they marched in Westerly for Columbus Day. The AP Government class and Law and Government Forum worked the election polls on Election Day bringing students into the community to learn about the election process. Lastly, Student Government had its annual Fall Feast for the veterans in our town. Although not many people were able to come because of the weather, it was still an enjoyable night for those that were able to attend. We are looking forward to the Turkey Day game and School Spirit week coming up in the next few weeks.”

C. BOE Report / Policies Under Review

- **The Future of SBITs (based on BOE discussion on 11/13/08)** – The BOE has asked each SBIT to determine how it functions within each building before the next BOE meeting. The way that each SBIT functions may not be the same as it once did. Over the years, SHS’s SBIT has involved in many projects such as: it recommended a SHS renovation feasibility study; new parent programs (lectures and forums); surveys to increase x-block opportunities; and to survey teen driving habits and opinions. It is unclear if the SBITs will disband. BOE members can no longer attend SBIT meetings. Maureen Gillick stated her daughter would like to attend SBIT to discuss student issues. Pat Jeffrey suggested a better avenue for student concerns is Student Government. Students need not be Student Gov. members to attend Student Gov. meetings – Andrea Fossa, Tim Cussacka and John Bavasso all attend Student Gov meetings and are not members. One SBIT member suggested that SBIT no longer ‘does anything’; it has become more of a ‘reporting’ outlet.

D. Principals’ Report (Pat Jeffrey) -

- **Health and Wellness Day (11/6/08)** (See Handout) – Grades 9, 10, and 11 visited classrooms while grade 12 stayed in the auditorium for three different lectures: gambling, careers and YMCA offerings. Various lectures were presented in the classrooms including yoga, dental health, weight training, and teen sexual issues. Many staff members were involved in the organization of this day, including Dane Lewis and Lea Kennedy. Andrea Fossa felt the day “went well”.
- **“Civics Matters at SHS”** (See Handout) - In 2004, four students of teacher Richard Walter (Matt Collette, Corey Prachniak, Paul Schmitz, and Dan Terrell) wondered why students that were 18 years of age on Election Day (early November), and yet were prohibited from voting in the presidential primaries because they were only 17. They worked with political leaders to put this question to CT voters on the most recent ballot (November, 2008). Voters approved this into law and on November 26, 2008 Susan Bysiewicz will sign this proposition into law. Mr. Walter will travel with a group to Hartford to witness this. Students also worked the polls during the recent presidential election.

Mr. Hardison has brought in Jerry Desmond to teach an 8-hour 'safe boating class' as part of his Oceanology class. Students that participant have the opportunity to take a test and get a 'safe boating' license.

- **2009-2010 Budget** – Michael McKee, Leanne Masterjoseph and Judy Samoka are currently working on staffing requirements. Michael plans to keep the public aware earlier of proposed budget cuts. Ken Donovan suggested the high school needs additional security cameras and security gates (so that portions of the school are inaccessible during school events). An SBIT member asked what would keep someone from coming into the school and spending the night? There are motion detector alarms and locked doors. Ken Donovan also suggested that the PA system in the commons area be upgraded so that announcements can be heard during a drill or an emergency.

II. Visitors' Comments – none.

III. SBIT Comments

- The Whale (from the Rotary), created by the artist, David Black, has found a new home in the courtyard near the "Guidance Garden".
- Please remove SBIT addresses and phone numbers from the SBIT area of stonington.org. Sue McCarthy explained that this was a document she received in a collection of documents to post earlier in the school year. Phone and address had to be downloaded to view – it was not directly on a webpage. Also she explained that she had lost web-editing access and would fix this as soon as she regained editing access.
- Ken Donovan stated that there were several students and staff members that worked hard on the gardens in the courtyard to clean them up. He stated that 'no one is in charge' of the gardens.

IV. Action

- Budget
- Update of SBIT status

V. Agenda

VI. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned 6:08

Susan McCarthy