

Stonington High School
SBIT Minutes
October 21, 2008

Members Present: C. Moore, S. Murphy, P. Jeffrey, A. Fossa, S. McCarthy, M. Gillick, S. Mueller, D. Wilner, M. Devine.

Visitors Present: Mary-Kate Tobin, Kathy Tobin, Chelsea Samataro, Amanda Pope.

Handouts: Bylaws of the Board for SBIT

New Course Proposal: Beginning Guitar

New Course Proposal: Beginning Percussion

New Course Proposal: Advanced Placement Human Geography

Preface to Honor Code

Meeting started at 5:00 p.m.

I. Reports

A. Minutes (9/16/08)—No corrections. Minutes approved.

B. Student Report (A. Fossa)—Many events have been happening over the past month from the band playing at football games and marching in the Columbus Day parade, tailgate night, benefit concert for Make a Wish Foundation, Powder Puff football game, and Homecoming dance this past weekend with over 500 tickets sold.

C. BOE Report/Policies Under Review—Dr. Murphy stated that at the last BOE meeting none of the members were in favor of changing the time of SBIT meetings to 7 p.m. feeling that this would prove less participation. When SBIT was established, the philosophy was for site-based management but now few decisions are made by SBIT. Most decisions are made by the Central Office. The 2000 Bylaw revisions took the responsibilities away from SBIT. Old SBIT could move money around within the school. The questions are: Why do we still have SBIT? Does it serve a purpose or is it another PTO? Should it be disbanded or redefined? There has been discussion about forming a “Super SBIT” by consolidating all schools. BOE will discuss this at their November meeting. Currently they are in violation of the Bylaws by not attending SBIT meetings. D. Wilner feels when she was on SBIT at West Broad and Pawcatuck Middle they were very productive but she does not feel that way at the high school. C. Moore stated there is no other place at the high school for a parent to express concerns or new proposals. M. Gillick asked Dr. Murphy what his thoughts were on this. He stated if SBIT was disbanded, he would look into establishing a parent’s advisory panel with parents and administration. S. Mueller asked if that is where new sports or new programming would go through? Dr. Murphy said he would put something in Bear Essentials asking for parent volunteers. With no BOE member present at meetings, SBIT ideas and concerns are not brought back to the Board unless SBIT members attend BOE meetings! The point was made that these smaller groups are better at making new

proposals such as the high school renovations and the attendance policy changes coming out of SBIT at the high school.

D. Principal's Report—M. Gillick gave this report regarding the recent College Day held on 10/07/08. Great turn out of colleges. College representatives had great reviews about our facilities, Guidance Dept. behavior of students and organization of the whole day. Each Rep. received a hand-out of achievements of students past and present. All Reps. said they would attend again. M. Devine stated her students that had no direction for the future came away with a plan and were excited about the information they received. All college representatives are funneling through the Career Center and Anne Marie Houle. Naviance and the Family Connection is the new search engine for students and families for college searches. Seniors and juniors will be introduced to the new system over the next year. In the future it can be utilized for sending letters of recommendations, transcripts and applications.

Budget (2009-2010)—BOE wants to use a different process of showing the cuts in the budget to citizens before it goes to a vote so everyone is aware of the cuts that will be affected.

E. New Course Proposals—(Hand-outs). The music department is proposing 2 new courses. There were some potential cuts to the dept. in regards to the budget. This will help boost enrollment. 1. Beginning Guitar. 2. Beginning Percussion. These courses will be worth .5 credits and will be one semester in length. Current teacher hours can support these courses. Course offerings per semester will be based on enrollment. Dr. Murphy will check on who will supply the instruments.

Social Studies department proposal is Advanced Placement Human Geography. This was proposed by Jen Norcross. It would be an alternative to World Geography and more challenging. This has The Connecticut Geographic Alliance approval. They are offering \$650 tuition stipend for up to three CT teachers who wish to attend a summer workshop on teaching this class. Dr. Murphy stated the number of students taking AP exams is up to 225 from last year's 108.

Students present at this meeting were asked their thoughts on these classes. Most in attendance thought the music proposals were interesting as they did not continue in music once they reached the high school because of the huge commitment of time to the band. This would give students a music outlet without the time commitment.

F. Academic Honor Code—(Hand-out). P. Jeffrey handed out a preface which Mr. McKee liked and would be brought to the BOE at their next meeting, November 13. P. Jeffrey asked for SBIT members to attend this meeting. Members interested will check their calendars and get back to Pat soon.

II. Visitors' Comments: None.

III. SBIT Comments: None.

IV. Action:

V. Agenda

VI. Adjournment: Adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

Cynthia Moore