

Stonington High School
SBIT Minutes
February 15, 2011

Members Present: C. Chambers, K. Donovan, M. Gillick, L. George, J. McCurdy, A. Walsh, C. Woodman

Visitors Present: M. Gillick, S. Whewell

Meeting called to order: 5:03PM

I. Reports

A. Minutes: approved, no changes

B. Student Report (Claire Chambers, Student Government Vice- President):

Stonington High School just finished their midterm exams. However, the beginning of the third quarter has been a bit broken up and hectic due to snow days.

Last Thursday, the Stonington chorus classes had a combined concert with East Lyme students at East Lyme High School. Stonington's second annual Coffeehouse also took place on February 5th in the Commons. The program included soloists and small group performances, and featured guitarists, singers, pianists, and percussionists. Once again, the event was a big success. Thank you to Mr. Stanley and Mrs. Gottlieb for organizing the event.

This past weekend, Stonington's Indoor Track team participated in the ECC championships. A few runners qualified for the state meet, including Liz Hutchins, Stephanie Stearns, Jimmy Connelly, Tyler Tavares, Nate McColl, and Arrow Johnson. The state meet will take place on Thursday for the girls, and Saturday for the boys. Good luck to all runners!

Also, in sports, Lia Vann and Jake Berkowitz were awarded the CAS-CIAC Scholar Athlete awards for 2010-11 school year for both athletic achievements and academic excellence. Elena Vail and Andy Kawabata were the recipients of the CAS Fine Arts Award. Congratulations to all seniors for their accomplishments. Finally, the Stonington High School National Honor Society was recently recognized in the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center's newsletter for their help during the Thanksgiving food drive. Currently, NHS is planning a blood drive and donated \$144 to Haiti relief efforts.

C. BOE Reports (Alisa Morrison): Absent- none given

D. Principal's report (presented by J. McCurdy on behalf of Dr. Stephen Murphy):

i. 2010-2011 Goals:

- Community Partnerships: J. McCurdy provided a thorough summary report highlighting the various existing job shadow and internship

opportunities available to SHS students. She also discussed the progress made regarding Community Classroom. Ms. McCurdy focused on two collaborations that help special need students integrate with the community: Avalon and Mystic Aquarium. Both facilities offer students the chance for work study as well as guided instruction on site. The program extends SPS services to special need students up until the age of 21.

A speakers' bureau is currently being developed in conjunction with the Stonington Historical Society. This positive collaboration will bring community "experts" into the classroom setting sharing their knowledge about Stonington's historical events. Another aspect of the program will allow students to visit sites in the community as part of experiential learning.

Relationships have also been expanded with The New London Day, The Norwich Bulletin, and The Westerly Sun. Each of these area publications now welcome student written articles to be published. Students in Journalism and Media classes have already submitted and have received payment for their writing.

Ms. McCurdy also highlighted the several new internship opportunities that naturally will arise due to the new course offerings slated for next year. A question was posed by Mr. Walsh as to how many students have signed up for the new classes. He stated that the teachers were ready but was unsure if the students were or not. Have "we" marketed the classes properly? Do students understand what they can do? Have they been advised through guidance? Ms. McCurdy responded that the course selections have just been inputted and that she will check the numbers for the next meeting.

- Discussion from the group included the possible creation of a speakers' bureau handbook or on-line reference tool for teachers to use. The goal would be to create a comprehensive list by subject area or expertise and match to class. Do we know what teachers are looking for in terms of support? Please bring list of potential community members who could serve as mentors, job shadow hosts, and long term intern sponsors to next meeting. K. Donovan mentioned that transportation to businesses poses a problem. Do we have buses available and if so, at what cost? Also, he asked whether there were any insurance liability issues that we need to be made aware. Again, Ms. McCurdy said that she would check with Dr. Murphy.

II. Visitor Comments:

- A. S. Whewell stated that she works at Davis Standard in their media/ public relations department. Although they are short staffed at the moment, she offered that having student interns could be helpful in the future.

III. SBIT Comments:

- A. C. Chambers said that students would be interested in cooking classes
- B. M. Gillick mentioned that as we consider developing community relations and collaborative opportunities we must keep in mind certain student constraints such as: sports or after school schedules, lack of transportation, etc.
- C. Could our collaboration with certain businesses include help with transportation? Area businesses like PNC, COMO, and Stoneridge have vans—could they pick up students interested in internships/job shadows at SHS and bring to their sites? Again, the question of liability was discussed as a potential area of concern.
- D. J. McCurdy offered an update regarding GPAs and the difference between Honor Roll GPA calculations, semester GPAs and cumulative GPAs. An error had been made with the last report card which has since been corrected. Letters have been sent out to parents as well as updated grades have been sent to colleges on behalf of the seniors.

IV. Action:

- A. SBIT members and guests were asked to create a list with potential community members/businesses that they think would be willing to offer job shadowing or mentoring services. Please bring list to next meeting.
- B. J. McCurdy to bring job shadowing list to next meeting

V. Agenda: Add Junior Project presentation to next meeting as an agenda item

VI. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 5:45PM