

**Stonington High School**  
**October 24, 2006**  
**SBIT Minutes**

*SHS SBIT 2005-2006 Goal: Strengthen the school to community connection in two distinct ways: bringing the community into SHS during X-BLOCK and sending students out into the area for job shadowing and internships.*

**Members Present:** M. Devine, K. Donovan, M. Gillick, P. Jeffrey, C. Moore, B. Morrone, S. Murphy, L. Raffo, C. Sartor, A. Walsh

**Members Absent:** L. Bolduc, L. Conway, L. Gillick, N. Kepple, G. MacDonald, M. McKee, S. Mueller, J. Norcross

**Visitors:** M. Bovino, P. Bovino, J. Lewis, D. Mola, S. Mola, J. Parsons, M. Riordan, L. Rice, K. Smith, D. Willner, D. Woviotis

Meeting started at 5:06 pm. Maureen introduced Kevin Smith, Lois Rice, Josh Parsons from Sylvan Learning. Stonington High School Goals focused on differentiated instruction in classroom.

**I. Reports**

**A. Minutes** – Accepted

**B. Student Report** (Luke Raffo) – 1) Homecoming 10/28 in the commons. Money goes back to classes by banner competition during game on Friday. 2) Elections – Freshmen for class officers (4) and Student Government (13 ran/10 officers). Mrs. Bruno and Mrs. Pellegrino are Freshmen class advisors. 3) Fall Feast annual dinner for Veterans is November 9<sup>th</sup> – thanksgiving meal with visitors.

**C. Membership** – Dr. Murphy: students, 5 teachers, 5 parents (we have 7), principal, assistant principal, 2 students, 1 board of ed member, 1 community/support staff (K. Donovan). We meet the bylaws required for number of people. We are in compliance with by-laws.

**D. NEASC Report** (S. Murphy) – Presented article from The Day – the report uses “outstanding” in several places. Letter today that we do have accreditation for 10 more years. We received a rating of exemplary in leadership & curriculum & instruction, and an acceptable rating in all other areas. Handout: Materials handed to the BOE – NEASC has deadlines between now and 10 years from now to meet in reports/updates. One thing obvious to Dr. Murphy was that the NEASC visitors were familiar with our ways of working – X-BLOCK, block scheduling, etc. but rarely do they see this all working in one place. Most recommendations ask us to tighten up what we already do. Many of the items are budget issues – for example library resources, special education staff, contact time for school psychologists. 837 expected students next year, but our budget has gone down \$100,000. Follow-up Program – Dr. Murphy’s goal is to report to the NEASC by October 2008. They did not ask for a 5-year report because our report uses so positive. Dr. Murphy shared a Framework for high school – a framework to be high school for the 21<sup>st</sup> century and were already doing all 7 of the suggestions for 2014.

**E. New Course Proposal** – Brought to SBIT and Curriculum Council want this new course to be on the opportunities book in January. Proposing this as an elective. 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders – marketing or personal finance are prerequisites. Sports/entertainment management. How do you manage an organization that has a financial base? CT Marketing Education Association giving fall conference. There is a textbook and teachers can go to a conference to learn strategies and topic areas. Offered contingent on 15 students. Taught by Mr. Dan Rahl, business teacher. SBIT in favor of the proposal. Curriculum Council had asked for a few edits to explain the entertainment side of the class. It is heavy on sports now.

**F. Perkins Grant** – \$23,000 this year. In addition we submitted for an Innovation Grant (\$65,000). Stonington Savers Club SHS goes to grades 5-8 and give them the sense of the importance for saving and financial literacy. These students have been saving. To further their savings – we’ll have a school site-credit union – we’ll know next week if we get the Innovation Grant – there are other grants available in the next round. FBLA and Stonington Savers Club – a conference room has been reconfigured to be a bank – open during X-BLOCK. Credit Union will be present at that time. Eventually an ATM on site. Our students would have on-the-job training in bank programs etc. for banking. If we get the grant BOE will do future expenditures. D. Willner pointed out that future expenditures picked up by the BOE should be minimal. Hope to have it up and running next year.

**G. Connect EDU** (M. Gillick) – College applications process program guides student through personalized college plan. Training in the English classes in September. Junior parents will be introduced to it in the spring. This costs us nothing. This is in connection with WISE consortium, provided by WISE

for free. M. Gillick discussed how Connect Edu expands the guidance office. Luke Raffo said it can be really helpful to choose a major and proper size school, etc. M. Gillick pointed out it is here and easy to access.

**H. 2006-2007 Principal's Goal** – Organize electronic portfolio for students so they can illustrate their skills. Will be weighed against rubric and proficiencies for graduation. Start with Freshman year. Once they've mastered a competency, they would put this on the electronic portfolio. Add things each year. Parents and teachers and guidance can monitor portfolio to see how student achievement is going. Dr. Murphy is working with programming students to develop our own program.

**I. X-BLOCK** (M. Gillick) – Need another student representative for X-BLOCK activities by SBIT. Would Luke or Mrs. Jeffrey work to find a student for subcommittee? Mrs. Jeffrey suggested on representative for each class to give a broad range of grades. Use class officers?

**II. Visitors' Comments** – Sylvan Learning Presentation by Josh Parsons who graduated from SHS. He believes SHS mission statement, ESL's and NEASC goals/recommendations align well with Sylvan's approach. Sylvan does both remediation and enrichment wide variety of ages and interests. Look at modalities and learning style preferences. M. Gillick says that Sylvan wants to get into partnership with schools to work as a team. J. Parsons How can we help SHS? Students ability to communicate, students way of thinking, students individual learning style. Student could do the Sylvan assessment and then get teachers a "communication Preference Report" for each student. Students who understand themselves will likely work toward better achievement. M. Gillick believes this connects well with all the other programs discussed tonight. (Connect Edu, electronic portfolio, etc.). Helps students take responsibility for how they learn in school. Lois Rice says all Sylvan students go through this process and apply what they learn about themselves to their learning. Assessments take 45-60 minutes and every teacher and student would receive reports on communication preferences and learning styles. M. Gillick says we could connect this to N.G.A. Need a Long-term Strategic Plan to raise funds if we were going to take on this kind of testing. Dr. Murphy asks how would you see this report? Kevin Smith – Electronically to access al 4 years? Original idea would be file folder, but it could be done electronically. Andrew Walsh – are there free ones online? (Connect Edu). Dr. Murphy – Doesn't include freshmen class – 2011 we could start their profiles/preferences. K. Smith price includes teacher workshops to know how to use the information. M. Gillick the Sylvan approach allows for consistency. "We're committed to each student's success" is the message it gives to the community.

**III. SBIT Comments** – C. Sartor wants to talk more about getting students and SBITinvolved in budget issues and that Linda Bolduc wanted to talk more about fund raising. M. Gillick agrees that budget issues should be discussed by SBIT. Noted that AP classes are now paid for by parents and it was SIBT that had gotten them funded by BOE. B. Morrone says the band and cheerleaders have really added to the football games. Powder Puff football game is Thursday starting at 6:30.

**IV. Action**

**V. Agenda**

**VI. Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 6:25

Members: Don't forget to e-mail me ([smccarthy@stoningtonschools.org](mailto:smccarthy@stoningtonschools.org)) agendas and minutes; I'll post these important documents to the SBIT area of [www.stonington.org](http://www.stonington.org).

Susan McCarthy