

**Stonington High School**  
**January 16, 2007**  
**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:** C, Moore, L. Gillick, M. Gillick, L. Raffo, S. Murphy, P. Jeffrey, M. McKee, D. Willner, L. Bolduc, S. Mueller, A. Walsh, M. Devine, C. Sartor, B. Morrone, G. MacDonald, J. Norcross, N. Kepple.

**Members Absent:** L. Conway, K. Donovan.

**Visitors:** J. Adriano, D. Murphy, D. Messina, M. Peel.

Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Luke Raffo.

**Reports**

Maureen Gillick introduced Doris Messina, principal of St. Michael's School. Mrs. Messina is thinking of starting an SBIT at St. Michael's and is here to observe the meeting.

**A. Minutes-Approved.**

**B. Student Report-**Luke reported that Reindeer Games were a success. The money raised was given to Frankie Rodriguez's family. Winter Ball elections for King and Queen took place. Comfort Stations will be going on during exams this week. Data Match will start after exams.

**C. SBIT Reports/BOE Reports/Policies Under Review-**Gail MacDonald said the BOE is discussing changes to the drug and alcohol policy. They are reviewing other town's policies and will have this item back on the agenda next month. There was a proposal to change the wording on the student/staff relationship policy but no one brought forward any new wording. They are also working on the budget.

**D. Course Proposals STATUS-**The BOE approved Neuropsychology and Mandarin Chinese. The Chinese class is pending the budget though because it will be a new program and require new staffing. M. Gillick asked whether consideration was given to programs that have been dropped in the past. S. Murphy stated that students are encouraged to take those classes through the virtual high school. The cost for SHS for the virtual high school is \$5,000 per year. Extra spots can be picked up through LEARN that other schools do not use.

**E. Y-BLOCK-**P. Jeffrey handed out the proposal for this new extension of X-BLOCK. It is intended for those students who do not use X-BLOCK productively and responsibly. It will consist of students going to a classroom with more supervision and structure. It is not intended to take the place of a detention. Students will be assigned to it by faculty. This was brought about by the Faculty Administration Collaborative Team (FACT) at SHS. There would be a limited time for cell phone use and music. G. MacDonald asked how students would be assigned. P. Jeffrey stated it is students who do not use the time

wisely and are very disruptive to other students. P. Jeffrey is hoping that activities such as games, TV, VCR, puzzles will be utilized during this time. She said there could be a chance for extra help in studies either by NHS or other students. It will be communicated with the parents that the student is assigned to Y-BLOCK. There will be open discussion with the student about how long they will be assigned to this new area. Someone from Guidance would be assigned to that room along with a security monitor. M. Peel said to think of X-BLOCK as a 5<sup>th</sup> period "Social Citizen Class". Y is just an assistance plan for that class! P. Jeffrey said this was planned prior to the Thanksgiving break but just now ready for implementation. M. McKee asked if students could be self-referred? The answer was YES, if there is room in the class. The proposal is for no more than 25 students at one time. M. McKee asked what the assistance plan was to teach the students the proper behavior. P. Jeffrey said she would bring this question back to the faculty. A. Walsh stated it would be a deterrent to take kids away from their friends during this social time. G. MacDonald asked why this room could not be made available to anyone who just wants a quiet spot to watch TV, listen to music etc. . . . B. Morrone said there is a supervision problem as it the teachers' lunch block also. C. Sartor thought the surveys that the X-BLOCK sub-committee were doing would give students other alternatives to just hanging out with friends and maybe this would alleviate some of the students disrupting the X-BLOCK time. P. Jeffrey stated plans could be modified for this program once it is in place. M. Gillick asked for an update next meeting to see how things are going. This will be implemented on January 22. M. Gillick did state that the sub-committee for X-BLOCK would be starting up again.

**F. Student Representation-**P. Jeffrey stated that Dr. Murphy was in the process of speaking with 4-5 sophomores about this. G. MacDonald did not know she was supposed to bring the discussion from last month to the BOE. She will bring it up next month.

**G. BOE Evaluations-**Maureen handed out the summary of the BOE Evaluations.

**Visitors' Comments-**Dextor Murphy gave all members a handout of the benefits of activities within a high school.

**SBIT Comments-**C. Moore asked about the policy on students' wearing their ID badges during the school day. This was clarified by P. Jeffrey who stated as long as the ID is on the person, whether it is in the pocket, around their neck or clipped to their clothing, all are ok.

M. Gillick asked for comments from SBIT members for D. Messina to take back to St. Michael's School on the benefits of an SBIT. They were as follows:

P. Jeffrey-She gets parents' input before a policy goes into affect.

J. Norcross-The new high school came from the SBIT.

S. Mueller-She likes to hear other perspectives from parents, teachers and students.

L. Raffo-He brings student concerns to the SBIT and brings faculty concerns back to the students.

M. Gillick-It helps her to realize how committed the staff is to the students and helps her to understand what goes on daily.

N. Kepple-There is nothing like it! You can get the perspective of community, students, parents and teachers in one place. He did caution D. Messina to make sure to state clearly the limitations the SBIT has.

M. Devine-It is a place that students can voice their concerns.

D. Willner asked that the report card and progress report link possibly be left up longer than a weekend as the April one falls on a weekend of vacation. P. Jeffrey will look into this. She did mention that if you are away, you can request a hard copy.

N. Kepple resigned as a member. The meeting time is difficult for him. He will focus on getting the budget passed and also on getting more visibility on Comcast. B. Morrone states that the coaches do not want the basketball games on TV until the season is over because of scouting issues. M. McKee asked that B. Morrone bring this up to the district athletic committee. M. Gillick thanked Nick for all his years of service to SHS.

**Action**-None

**Agenda**-Y BLOCK discussion

**Adjournment**-Meeting was adjourned at 6:30p.m.