

**Stonington High School**  
**Tuesday, January 17, 2006**

*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:** L. Bolduc, L. Conway, J. Jones, N. Kepple, M. McKee, C. Moore, S. Mueller, S. Murphy, J. Norcross, L. Raffo, C. Sartor, A. Walsh

**Visitors Present:** Tom Kasprzak (Westerly Sun)

One document distributed: 1) First draft of 'Teen Dating' Parent Forum flyer

Meeting started 5:07 pm.

Jenna Moore, Maureen Gillick, Mary Lou Devine and Sam Agnello not able to attend tonight's meeting.

Tom Kasprzak snapped a photo of all SBIT members present for the yearbook.

### **I. Reports**

**A. Minutes (12/20/05)** – Two clarifications: 1) Sue McCarthy asked if a 'district-wide' SBIT meeting was planned for May 18th. This date is "not cast in stone." If one is planned, it will be organized by the BOE, not one of the SBITs, because each school's SBIT has a pact (similar to a mission statement) created by that school for that school. 2) In section E of the 12/20/05 minutes, "Update on Parent Forums", the hand-out distributed was from Steve Murphy after a meeting with Beth Stewart, NOT directly from Beth. With these clarifications, minutes from 12/20/05 were accepted.

**B. Student Report (B. Taylor)** – Report given by Luke Raffo. Reindeer Games were held before vacation and raised ~\$500, which was donated to Human Services. Human Services in turn donated this money to a family in need. Data Match is upcoming. Barefoot Concert planned for 1/28; proceeds will be donated to a team being organized by Jenna Moore for this spring's "Relay for Life". Tickets are \$7.00. Comfort Stations, providing a variety of food/drink items are planned for exams periods. Nalgene bottles are still available for \$10 each.

### **C. SBIT Reports/BOE Report/Policies under Review – SBIT**

WBSS and WVSS December meetings cancelled.

MMS (Sharon Mueller) – MMS SBIT is trying to increase extra curricular activities as well as look at budgets (~ \$22k for MMS and PMS combined; ~ \$133k for SHS).

PMS and DMS – Ken Donovan not present and no report

### **BOE**

John Jones will be filling a newly created position of assistant principal for the middle schools.

### **Policies under Review**

Last month, the BOE drafted a policy regarding steroid use; this month it was approved. The drug policy could have included this steroid use policy, but the BOE decided to draft a separate policy regarding steroid use only.

**D. Update on Parent Forums** – Steve met first with Beth Stewart (Human Services) and then with Lynn Conway (SBIT) to discuss the upcoming parent forums. See the draft of the Teen Dating Parent Forum distributed during the meeting. Corrections to Forum flyer:

- Indicated a joint venture between Stonington Human Services and Stonington High School SBIT.
- 'Dating Violence' changed to 'Teen Dating'
- Indicate coffee and dessert will be served
- Indicate a 'question and answer' or 'interaction' period
- Remove the word 'partner'
- Change 'What a parent needs to know' to 'What parents *and teens* need to know'
- Include the word 'interactive' into the paragraph beginning: "Join us for an informational *and interactive* forum".
- Within the graphic box on the flyer, include positive statistics, not just negative statistics
- Indicate "First of a series"
- More age appropriate clip art.
- Remove the words "To register"; replace with "Just show up"

To establish regularity, forums will be scheduled for the third Thursday of the month. Notify the locate papers (Mystic River Press, etc.) of this upcoming series. Distribute a feedback survey (or exit slips) after each forum (“What did you think?”, “What would you like to see discussed?”) Possible order of events for the first forum (scheduled for 2/16/06): Featured speaker, Michelle Boussolotti, Panel Discussion and finally exit slips. Make a flyer for each of the planned forums. Steve Murphy will work up a new flyer and e-mail it to us for review. Editors of the MMS and PMS newsletters will be notified of this upcoming parent series. Parents of elementary school kids may not be interested in this series.

Lynn Conway asked why there is no standardized district communication. It is because much of the standard communication is produced by it is a ‘stellar’, *volunteer* group of community members. Lynn suggested we find a way to ‘push’ information to parents, for example notify those parents who no longer receive the ‘Bear Essentials’ in the mail, be notified when a new edition is posted online. Only 150 families have the Bear Essentials mailed to them. Steve will speak to Clint Kennedy regarding a subscriber e-mail service.

**II. Visitors’ Comments - None**

**III. SBIT Comments - None**

**IV. Action - None**

**V. Agenda**

- Bring a copy of the SBIT pact for February meeting.

Nick Kepple asked about broadcasting school events on Comcast’s channel 19. Students are not signing up to cover school events. Through a grant, students could be paid \$50. per episode they produce for Comcast. Grant money has been available for a while – at least since Nils Lesniewski (spelling??) was a student at SHS. Stonington has to hand deliver a VHS tape ready for broadcast; Fitch has an automatic feed. Mike McKee pointed out that a new cable company is coming to town, but viewing audience may be limited because so many people here in town use Comcast for both cable *and* Internet access. Short term solution: Give a list of items to film to the SHS tech department. Lynn suggested that filming a school event become a classroom assignment? Another problem: The new lab is not as fully equipped as originally proposed back when the high school renovations were proposed. Stonington still doesn’t have the video equipment that Fitch has. Nick stressed the positives: freshmen and sophomore classes have lots of spirit, wonderful faculty and cooperation from Comcast. Video equipment is expensive and disappears if not locked in cabinet. Steve will meet with technology teacher Tim Chokas to discuss this issue.

**VI. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned 6:19 pm**

Susan McCarthy