

Stonington High School
Tuesday, February 28, 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: S. Angello, M. Devine, K. Donovan, M. Gillick, N. Kepple, S. McCarthy, M. McKee, C. Moore, J. Moore, B. Morrone, S. Mueller, S. Murphy, J. Norcross, L. Raffo, C. Sartor, A. Walsh
Visitors Present: Tim Chokas (SHS Technology Teacher), Abby Gibney (SHS Teacher and Lacrosse Coach), Lauren Gillick (SHS Student), Patricia Jeffrey (Newly Appointed SHS Assistant Principal)

Three documents distributed: 1) BOE report prepared by Sam Agnello dated 2/28/06 2) SHS Parent Involvement Compact 3) Copy of letter distributed to parents (on reverse of recent report cards) regarding K12now and paragraph announcing k12now in most recent Bear Essentials.

Meeting started at 5:02 pm.

I. Reports

A. Minutes (1/17/06) – accepted.

B. Student Report (B. Taylor) – Given by Jenna Moore. \$1970 recently raised and donated to the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. Jen Norcross is working with juniors to help them decide on a project to 'better the school' (possibly covering the bulletin boards with Plexiglas). Last year's project – allowing clear water bottles in the classrooms during school hours- was presented to and approved by the SBIT and is currently in practice. The junior class will make a presentation at the April SBIT meeting. Elections for Student Gov't members are held in mid-May for the next school year.

BBC/Comcast – Given by Tim Chokas. Tim recently met with Frank Vachini (spelling?) from Comcast Cable in Groton. Students can sign up to video-tape any one of a number of school related events. There is a \$50 stipend per event. Sometimes kids forget to videotape the event they have volunteered to videotape. Compiling footage from an event into the final acceptable product for Comcast is very TIME CONSUMING. SHS doesn't own time-saving equipment. To remedy this, Tim has ordered a time-saving analog to digital converter, which should arrive within the week. Tim suggested that filming school events could be a senior WISE project. Another issue is that students are buying costly video tapes. Other equipment needs are coming out of the Tech Ed budget. Tim suggested a fundraiser to raise needed funds. Tim would like additional cameras. The final product – a VHS tape – must be either hand delivered or quickly mailed in order to be broadcast in a timely manner. Comcast has abundant availability for Stonington broadcasts. Tim said all levels of students want to be involved, especially when they hear about the \$50 stipend. Sharon Mueller has a camera and tripod available. Students may be able to use Comcast's editing equipment.

Clare Sartor welcomed Pat Jeffries.

**C. SBIT Reports/BOE Report/Policies Under Review –
SBIT**

Members should look at the website for information regarding SBIT activity at the other schools.

BOE Report / Policies Under Review

Given by Sam Agnello. See the document he distributed. Highlights: 06/07 budget approved by the BOE and forwarded to BOF for their review March 1st. Joint Budget Workshop planned form 3/8. Three policies (#6171, #5114, #7230.3) presented for first reading at the BOE meeting on 2/9. There is an issue regarding acoustics at SHS – music can be heard in non-music classrooms. Mr. McKee has initiated discussions with UCONN to design a program where some juniors and seniors can complete their OCONN freshmen year while at SHS. This is in the very preliminary stage. This item will be on the 3/21 SBIT agenda and the 4/13 BOE agenda. SHS has similar agreements with Three Rivers (14 credits) and NE Tech. It is not clear whether college credits earned at SHS (to satisfy for example, Three Rivers) would be transferable to a

different university (other than Three Rivers). The UCONN classes at SHS would not necessarily be AP classes.

D. Update on Parent Forums – The first forum held on 2/16. 16 people attended (1 or 2 people were not SBIT members.) The next forum is planned for 3/16 and will focus on “Rights and Responsibilities for Parents and Teens”.

E. SHS Parent Compact – See the second document distributed – “SHS Parent Involvement Compact”. Originally written by Mike McKee and Claudia Albert during the 2003/2004 school year as part of the NCLB act; it is an effort to improve communication between schools and families. Maybe the SBIT should create a way to measure communication. Please review before the next SBIT meeting.

F. BBC/Comcast – see above

G. NEASC Visit – 15 Individuals representing NEASC (accrediting organization - New England Association of Schools and Colleges) will be visiting SHS Sunday April 2nd thru Wednesday 4/5. SHS has spent the past two years in self-study highlighting several areas. The NEASC individuals will be staying at the Mystic Hilton reviewing documentation; they will also be shadowing students and visiting classrooms. A definite schedule will be determined by 3/21. Sharon Mueller is Steering Chairperson of the SHS Committee and will issue a report in July. Other members include Dane Lewis, Jen Norcross, Pat McCarney and Kathy Pellegrino. 1995/96 was the last time NEASC visited. Thomas Moore, Wethersfield principal is chairperson of the visiting group. The NEASC Committee will be looking at SHS against a group of standards, not against other high schools. Last time NEASC evaluated SHS, there were 69 recommendations regarding all aspects across 10 areas (instruction, curriculum, etc.) of schools life.

H. Improving Communication

- **K12now** – k12now, a new internet/cell phone text messaging service now available to SHS families is in place and 92 families have signed up. See the third document distributed.

Last year’s grade-8-transition-to-the-high-school program was a more involved, more in-depth and a “gentler transition” to SHS life for the incoming freshmen class. The same program is starting up again this year.

II. Visitors’ Comments –

Abby Gibney – Abby Came to talk with the group regarding Lacrosse. It continues to be “unfunded”. Boys’ Lacrosse is in its 9th year; Girls in it 8th year. Thank you BOE for paying the head coach salary. Players must still raise funds to keep the program operational (\$2000 to pay officials and \$2000 to pay for transportation). Acme Wire donated \$3800 to purchase new helmets and SEF donated funds to purchase new uniform shorts. Lacrosse has been fortunate to have volunteer bus drivers for 8 years. Players must raise an additional \$2000 when volunteer drivers are no longer available. Abby came to the SBIT seeking funds for officials and transportation. Crew (another unfunded team), has \$1000 in transportation funds available from the BOE budget. Currently there are three self-funded sports at SHS: Crew, Lacrosse and Swimming. Every sport at SHS does *some* fundraising except maybe golf. Lacrosse’s major fund raiser is a booklet – the team sells advertising space.

III. SBIT Comments

Sue McCarthy – The Wellness Policy Committee needs a student to round out its roster of members. Mike McKee explained the need for this policy.

Nick Kepple – Nick suggested a list of alumni that have gone on to play sports, come back to SHS to talk about their experiences. Maybe bring these alumni into the X-Block period for discussions with interested students. Pat Jeffries suggested Matt Vanderslice (Coast Guard Academy) visit and speak about athleticism in college. Steve suggested Nick and SBIT members compose a list of possible alumni. Maureen Gillick suggested art students speak about creating portfolios.

IV. Action

V. Agenda

VI. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned 6:21

Submitted by Susan McCarthy