

Stonington High School
Tuesday March 21, 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. Agnello, C. Albert, L. Bolduc, M. Devine, K. Donovan, M. Gillick, P. Jeffries, N. Kepple, S. McCarthy, A. McKenzie, J. McKernan, C. Moore, J. Moore, S. Murphy, J. Norcross, L. Raffo, C. Sartor, B. Taylor, A. Walsh

Visitors Present: Joyce Birtcher (SHS Teacher), Stephanie Cozzolino (SHS Teacher), Pat McCarney (SHS Teacher), Richard Walter (SHS Teacher)

Two documents distributed: 1) BOE Report prepared by Sam Agnello dated 3/21/06 2) Packet of documents regarding UCONN's Early College Experience.

Meeting started at 5:06 pm.

I. Reports

A. Minutes (2/28/06) – Minutes accepted with one typo identified: In section C, OCONN should be UCONN.

B. Student Report (B. Taylor) – The talent show is planned for this Friday (3/24) at 7:00 pm in the auditorium. This is the first annual and admission is \$4.00 adults and \$3.00 students. 13 acts are planned. The junior class Student Gov't project this year is to advocate for the availability of water in the school's vending machines. Also under consideration: extending the 'senior privilege' where if your class average is >90% then you can skip exams.

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

No reports

BOE Report (Sam Agnello)

During the 3/9 BOE meeting, a 10-minute teaser of "Fiddler on the Roof" (FOTR) was presented by the SHS Arts Society. FOTR presentations are planned for 4/7 and 4/8 at 7:30 pm and 4/9 at 2:00 pm. See also the BOE report (by Sam Agnello): 06/07 Budget (joint budget workshop with BoF held 3/8. Concerns: field trips/school supplies. Budget accepted and scheduled for Public Hearing on 4/10). Also Claudia Albert presented an update at the 3/9 BOE meeting regarding the UConn / AP Courses.

Policies Under Review

Replacement policy #6171, Revised Policy #5114 and New Policy #7230.3 (New Construction) have been accepted. A new policy (#5122.3 – Students; Assignment of Former Home Schooled Students to Classes) went thru '1st Reading'

UConn / AP Program (readings attached) (Claudia Albert) – SPS / SHS Administrators are investigating the possibility of starting an "Early College Experience" here at SHS where SHS students take classes, taught by SHS teachers, while enrolled at SHS and earn college credit with UConn. Very preliminary stage – just fact finding. SHS teachers would submit their transcripts and resumes to UConn and if accepted into this program, they would be considered 'adjunct professors'. Each UConn dept. (English, Math, etc.) looks at acceptance of its adjunct professors 'with different eyes'. UConn requires a site coordinator here at SHS. Students have access to the UConn Library. Students earning "C" or better receive college credit. Official transcripts will indicate "non degree student". This proposal offers substantial cost savings as well as challenging college courses for students. May replace AP course; maybe not. Parents would be billed by UConn and pay ~\$25.00 per credit as opposed to \$265.00. There would be no preference to those students that get involved with this program when they do apply to UConn – there are ~115 other high schools that currently participate (Ledyard, Montville, NFA, etc.). Students should be made aware that UConn credits may not transfer to another college. There may be problems associated with the A/B scheduling here at SHS and the abundant course load that must be covered – there may not be enough time. Maybe offer both AP classes and UConn classes. This proposal, if adopted, would be offered in the 2007/08 school year. Nick Kepple cautioned about a drain on staff resources. Maureen Gillick suggested students be more "college ready", rather than "college bound".

D. BIG Meeting (Thursday 3/23/06) - The 'BIG Meeting' is planned for 7:00 pm this Thursday at SHS. PTO's and SBIT's are meeting with school officials and BOE members.

E. NEASC Visit: 4/2–5/06 – 60 students have volunteered to be shadowed during the NEASC visit by NEASC committee members. NEASC members will shadow students in all classes such as tech, music, PE, special ed, AP and honors. These students, not necessarily honors students, are gregarious (talkative) in nature. All grades involved (including freshmen, especially those with older siblings). Students will also act as tour guides. 28 teachers have agreed to be interviewed. NEASC will also meet with the BOE and Central Office. Ken Donovan plans to tour the SHS building with the group. Opening Reception is scheduled for Sunday April 2nd at 3:30 pm here at SHS. Closing comments will be at 2:15 pm on Wednesday April 5th and is open to the public. The final NEASC report will be issued in July.

Parent Forum Series – This forum dealt with the legal rights and responsibilities of both parents and children and presented by Judge Mac. About 10 parents attended. On the positive side, there were more parents than SBIT members. The next parent forum will concern the Internet. It will be presented by Clint Kennedy (IT manager here in town), Officer Todd Olsen and a parent whose child encountered problems with www.myspace.com.

F. SHS Parent Compact – A copy of this compact was distributed among SBIT members last month. Cindy Moore asked if parents sign this document. Yes, they do, when they initial/sign their student's agenda.

G. UConn / AP Program (readings attached) – Presented earlier in the meeting (because Claudia and Sam had another meeting to attend). See above.

H. SBIT Goal Status Report – Regarding the **X-Block Survey**, Maureen Gillick reported that there has been 'an amazing response' from staff and many have agreed to join a panel discussion. Ken Donovan will send out an e-mail asking for teachers to oversee an occasional x-block activity. Jen Norcross suggested a student survey. An additional survey for students to respond to will cost \$99 using the same website service used to survey teachers. As far as a follow-up panel discussion/meeting, April 10th (the Monday after the NEASC visit concludes) works for staff members.

II. Visitors' Comments - None

III. SBIT Comments – Maureen Gillick reminded us all of the '**Scholarship Tracker**' found on the stoningtonhigh.org website. Many deadlines are coming due for scholarship deadlines. Maybe send out a k12now e-mail reminder regarding the scholarship deadlines. (160 families have signed up for k12now thus far.) Student government members, wearing special "ambassador" jackets, will lead 8th graders on tours here at SHS. Nick Kepple pointed out "the amazing run" SHS has had in the newspapers. There have been **wonderful press coverage** regarding the school and some of its students (Doug Williams, Andrew Heylman (spelling?) and Pat Cortay (spelling??) for example). On March 29, there will be a **reception for the Girls' Basketball Team** – The State Champs! Hugging and congratulations were not permitted after the girls won and so this will be a great chance for Stonington to congratulate the girls. The public is invited. The **Hall of Fame Dinner** is planned for April 29th. The Girls' Basketball Team will be recognized at the dinner as well.

IV. Action

V. Agenda

VI. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 6:26 pm

Susan McCarthy