

Stonington High School
Tuesday, 17 May 2005
SBIT Minutes

Members Present: L. Conway, M. Devine, K. Donovan, J. Jones, S. McCarthy M. McKee, J. McKernan, J. Moore, S. Mueller, S. Murphy, C. Sartor, P. Schmitz

Visitors Present: Dawn Beard, Maureen Gillick, Jamie Gregoire, Laura Metzger, Tim Metzger, Cindy Moore, Val Rodgers, Linda Shafer, Robert E. Shafer, Ryan Shafer

Members Not Present: L. Bolduc, N. Kepple, J. Macko, J. Norcross, C. Rossi

Meeting started at 5:35 pm.

I. Report

A. Minutes (4/26/05) – Minutes accepted with the following modification: Remove the last line from Visitors' Comments section. This line reads "The issue of midriff exposure tabled until our September SBIT."

B. Student Report (Paul Schmitz) – Report given by Jenna Moore. The Induction Ceremony is planned for 5/26 and plans exist to review proofs for agenda/handbook with John Jones.

C. Student Membership – Britton Taylor may fill SBIT student rep vacancy. Jenna Moore will remain. Two new SBIT parent representatives: Cindy Moore and Maureen Gillick. Currently, SBIT by-laws state a max of 5 parent reps, but that can be amended.

D. Athletics – A document titled "SPS Athletic Handbook" was distributed. This document is the product of the District Athletic Department.

* **BOE Athletic Subcommittee** – The BOE Athletic Subcommittee was established about a year ago to create this "SPS Athletic Handbook". Many people involved including Sam Agnello, Gene Spaziani, Jane Giulini, Susan Dumas, Joe Ciriello, among others. Many topics are 'spelled out' including adding a sport to the school system's roster, how to eliminate a sport, transportation, hiring of coaches, philosophy of sportsmanship, etc. This handbook became effective April 2005. Lynn Conway asked why the SBIT had not seen this handbook before it was adopted by the BOE. The response was: because this handbook was brought before the BOE in March, 2005 and *was available* for review for 30 days prior to BOE adoption in April, 2005. Lynn suggested that the SBIT be able to review any "policy statement" brought before the BOE before BOE adoption. This procedure should be standardized. Any new 'policy statement' should be presented ('first reading') to BOE, then passed to SBIT, and then passed back to the BOE. A SBIT representative would then communicate concerns/revisions, etc to BOE. Adopt a proactive stand rather than a reactive stand. Michael McKee suggested that *all* SPS SBIT's be pulled into this review loop. Steve Murphy suggested that any new policy statement that appears on the monthly BOE agenda automatically be placed on the next SBIT meeting agenda. This works well because the BOE meets the second Thursday of the month and the SHS SBIT meeting is two weeks later. BOE reps change every year; ideally each rotates thru the schools; the BOE Chair determines school reps at the beginning of the school year. Questions asked: Lynn Conway: What are the procedures for selection and evaluation of new coaches? Michael McKee: Preference is given to SPS, certified applicants when two candidates apply for the same coaching job. Lynn: What about financial information? MM: See the section captioned: "Additional of a Sport"; in it an interested group of people must provide fundraising information as well as a budget. Also in the section, regarding evaluation, teams must provide a statement of actual vs. proposed expenses. Clare Sartor: What about the four unfunded (and successful, viable) teams of boys' and girls' crew and lacrosse? MM: (See the last point in the section titled "Addition of a Sport") *FROM THIS POINT ONWARD*, no new unfunded teams will be added to the SPS roster until the ~ \$60,000 annual budget is met with BOE dollars for those 4 unfunded teams. There will be no grandfathering of teams. The BOE did not recommend the addition of the Stonington/New London Girls' Swim-Team after the SBIT's endorsement. THE BOE wants to 'to go on record' to stop unfunded sports. A plan is now in place for funding all current teams (even if this means eliminating less viable teams). Clare suggested that two years of approved referendums would supply a nice flow of money to fund all sports teams here in town. Some teams (for example basketball and football) are income producing (concession and admission), but proceeds go to Sports Boosters and Stonington's General Fund). Paul Schmitz (member of the unfunded Crew team) asked for clarification of a rumor: some sports will receive funding (lacrosse) while others will not (crew); Michael McKee stated this is not true. All unfunded sports are being considered equally.

* **Co-op Ice Hockey Team** – Presented by parent Tim Metzger. PowerPoint notes distributed outlining a proposed Fitch/East Lyme/Stonington Hockey Co-Op Co-ed Team. Fitch has an establish hockey team, now 4 years old, but is losing 8 players to graduation. East Lyme has joined Fitch. If Stonington decided not to join this three-way co-op, Fitch and East Lyme will still form a team and compete. Currently, Fitch has a \$12,000 budget that works out to about \$600 per player. Fitch is a revenue generating team that plays and practices locally at Connecticut College. Fitch would

draft CICA documents. Flyers have been posted at SHS announcing the new ice hockey team. Three students have shown interest. No more than 13 players per school. Fitch has 4 years of budget information available. Last year, Fitch's hockey team was able to supply scholarships to graduating seniors. Very viable team. In other leagues, \$1400 per player is not unusual. Costs can skyrocket to \$6000 per player in a traveling youth league. \$600 per player is very reasonable. Half of this co-op's games would be home at Connecticut College (where spectator's tickets must be purchased - \$3.00 for adults and \$2.00 for kids) and the other half would be away, but an easy parent-supplied car ride – no really long distance away games. For those kids that cannot afford the \$600 in fees and the purchase of playing equipment, the Fitch pay-to-play hockey group has been able to supply equipment and pay that child's fees. Of the 66 varsity hockey teams in CT, 13 are co-ops and most are pay-to-play.

Lynn Conway suggested, the "SBIT should be credible" and "can't say yes to everything". Steve Murphy pointed out that the SBIT doesn't spend the money, the BOE does. The BOE has to make the hard decisions.

In 1999, there was no document stating that unfunded sports teams would be funded if they proved themselves viable (and successful) after 3 years. If there had been, lacrosse would probably be currently funded. Paul Schmidt suggested that the SBIT endorse the co-op hockey proposal because \$2400 (4 hockey players x \$600) is so much less costly than the for example the \$15,000 needed to purchase a used crew shell (boat).

The CICA (spelling?) will meet only twice (June 1 and Oct 1) before the hockey season starts. If SBIT endorses, then proposal moves to the Athletic Committee and then onto the BOE. Chris McCarthy asked about the possibility of a JV team because there was many SHS students that are interested in joining the hockey co-op team, but are not steady skaters yet. Yes there would be. Motion to endorse: SBIT Consensus endorsed this proposal.

E. Review Handbook – Proof sheets for next year's handbook were distributed. We reviewed this document that will be inserted into the students' 2005-2006 agenda. Changes are indicated with underlined text. Other changes noted during the meeting:

- P6 – "All Four to Get out the Door", 'mvoe' should be 'move'
- P6 – "Announcements and Daily Bulletin" – "Channel One" should be "BBC"
- P17 – "Rules and Regulations", point #4 – the phrase "except in designated areas" should be added
- P18 – "Dress Code" – "Bar" should be "Bare"
- P21 – "School Dances", point #11 – Remove the following words: "reflecting the Board of Education Dress Code (See complete Dress Code Policy in Policy Section)." Members felt that spaghetti straps and top hats would be hard to regulate at a school dance (prom, etc.)
- P21 – "Cafeteria Regulation", point #4 – a comma needs to be added after the term 'designated area' and the capital 'R' replaced with a lower case 'r'.
- P32 – is blank in the proof sheets, but will contain a map of the new school once agendas are distributed to the students.

Rules are reviewed with students. There is a telecommunications form in the agenda that students must sign and return.

F. Meeting Schedule for 2005-2006 – No June Meeting.

Meetings scheduled for 2005-2006: September 20, October 18, November 15, December 20, January 17, February 28, March 21, April 25, and May 16

II. Visitors' Comments – The old X-block returns in the fall. There is a new Bear Cage and activity room off of the café/commons area.

III. SBIT Comments – Lynn Conway suggested that someone look into the difficulty with using the telephone to speak with SHS staff. She was frustrated over repeated attempts to reach certain staff members by phone. It casts a 'bad image' to members of the community, when they are not able to speak with SHS members. Ken Donovan (who is a SBIT member and happened to be sitting next to her) is the man in charge of the SHS telephone system. He said sometimes, if a staff member fails to empty their voice mailbox, then the system becomes 'clogged'. Kenny also stated that the indicator lights are not reliable. Kenny can review the procedure for emptying a staff member's voice mailbox.

IV. Action – Kenny will look into the phone problems.

Michael McKee commented that of the two years attending SBIT meetings he was impressed with tonight's meeting for its good discussion. He 'felt good about this meeting'.

V. Agenda

VI. Adjournment