

**Stonington High School
SBIT Minutes
March 16, 2010**

Members Present: C. Moore, M. Devine, J. McCurdy, E. Collette, K. Donovan, S. Murphy, M. Gillick, S. Bavasso, J. Norcross, T. Farrell, L. Masterjoseph, K. Borenstein.

Visitors: O. Barth, F. Zelepos, J. Brant, M. Connelly, C. Chambers, M. Gillick, N. Gullickson, R. Kepple.

Meeting called to order at: 5:00p.m.

I. Reports:

A. Minutes to February 8 meeting approved.

B. Student Report: E. Collette.

This Saturday, March 13, the Block 7 jazz band will be competing at the Berklee Jazz Festival in Boston. This is the nation's oldest, and one of the most competitive jazz festivals.

On Sunday, March 21, the SHS band will participate in the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

On Tuesday, March 23, the SHS band will present an exchange concert with Ledyard High School. It will be at Ledyard High School at 7:30 pm and will feature bands from both schools.

Each year, the Arts Café Mystic (a group that holds poetry readings in downtown Mystic) invites area schools to choose a student poet whose work is "deserving of distinction." The poet chosen this year is Senior, Chandler Fowles.

She will be given a \$100 scholarship, a chance to work with a published poet and other area Poet Laureates, and the opportunity to read in front of a live audience at the March 12th evening of poetry in Mystic. In addition to the honors bestowed by the Arts Café Mystic, Chandler will also have a featured section in this year's SHS literary magazine, Sojourn, and the opportunity to read at various SHS activities, including graduation. Six other students also participated in this competition, which made it very difficult to choose just one winner.

Megan McNeil, who is a freshman, qualified for the New England Gymnastics Championship on Balance Beam next Saturday. This is the first time for a Stonington gymnast in 25 years.

The 2008/2009 Girls Soccer Varsity Team received the National Soccer Coaches Association Academic Award with a 3.45 average GPA. This is the 3rd season in a row that the SHS Girls Soccer team has received this award and we expect to win it for the 2009/2010 team also.

Students visited Washington DC last week for Stonington High School's 8th annual "CloseUp! Washington" study trip. Students spent much time in workshops with students from all over the US, including US Guam and

the Federated States of Micronesia. Any SHS who has completed their CAPT exams is eligible to attend next year's CloseUp! trip which is scheduled to take place March 6-11, 2011.

Finally, in SHS news, the Student Government is holding their annual Mr. SHS talent show competition this evening. With the excellent candidates, it will be an excellent event.

C. Save The Bay—Outreach Program: R. Kepple stated they have an office in Westerly RI but want Stonington to be included in all activities. She reviewed the programs they have available this spring/summer. They will also be having a volunteer beach clean up soon. Job shadowing is also available.

D. Student Government Junior Project: Junior class representatives explained their proposal to increase the effectiveness of the Activities Fair. They are making a video of all activities available at SHS to be shown at the PMS and MMS and St. Michaels. S. G. representatives will go the schools and show the video and break into small groups to explain how important involvement is to 8th graders. They will supply their own transportation to and from. M. Gillick stated that both middle schools SBITs are interested in this policy. S. Murphy said this was a good goal and very attainable. It will continue each year with Student Government representatives handling all details.

(Handout) Students will also have a checklist on which to select their favorite activities and questions they should ask of club members when they come to the fair. They will be required to get the sheet stamped at each station of their favorites. J. McCurdy mentioned this should help with the 8th graders just milling around and talking with friends. This proposal has already gone before Dr. Murphy, J. McCurdy and the faculty.

E. RHAM's Principal's Counsel: M. Gillick explained RHAM's Counsel. (Handout) They also send student to the State Counsel Advisory. Their students rotate on the forums for more participation. It gives the students better understanding of policies and brings creative ideas to the Administration. J. McCurdy stated they already meet with the executive board of S.G. S. Murphy will be meeting with Senior class officers over the next few months to discuss the banquet, prom and upcoming graduation activities.

II. Visitors's Comments: None.

III. SBIT Comments: M. Devine praised the Poet Laureate presentation. J. Norcross praised the musical Seussical. Music Boosters did such a great job! Timing of play is hard because of CAPT testing and sports. L. Masterjoseph (Handout) gave a sheet explaining The Path to a Proposed 1.37% Budget Increase. She met with BOF last week and it was an amicable meeting. Next SBIT meeting will be a joint with all SBITs to work on getting the voters out on the budget. K. Borenstein stated the BOF cancelled deliberations on the budget and will bring it right to a town meeting. S. Murphy commented on the 9th grade assembly on internet safety. J. McCurdy said she got good feedback from students and teachers. Sports night speaker, Keith Kenyon was also very good. His topic was Drug and Alcohol Abuse.

IV. Action: None.

V. Agenda: Joint SBIT-to discuss getting the budget passed.

VI. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 5:52p.m.