

West Vine Street School SBIT minutes

December 18, 2006

4:30 pm

Members Present:

Sue Jones, Ginny Brown, Claudia Albert, John McNally, Jim Taylor, Tia Dudda, Marika Heughins, Sam Agnello

Guests:

Jean Estabrooks, Nicole Estabrooks, Betty Henry, Jeanne Donato

Meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm after a discussion of the BOE survey was discussed amongst the members of the WVSS SBIT. Minutes were approved with a typo corrected.

SBIT/BOE Reports

DMS: Discussion of the institution of a mandatory walking program during recess.

WBSS: SBIT will be working during the months of December and January around budget issues. Fundraising has brought the total to \$30,000 for the new playground.

SHS: The SBIT meeting was focused around budget issues.

BOE: Sam Agnello discussed that 2 goals were presented to the administration from the Board. The areas that the budget will be focused on are at-risk students, technology for instructional support.

The foundation was originally increased by 3% for each building, but the BOE proposed adding additional needed items. Claudia Albert expressed that the board supports bringing schools' foundational budget back up.

Mr. Agnello also stated that the CIP (Capital Improvements Committee) has met and it will now be 5-8 years before building committee recommendations will be considered. The town is not willing to take on any more debt at this time.

In regards to the foreign language program at the high school, Mandarin Chinese will be presented to the curriculum committee as an added alternative in the 2007-2008 school year.

The Board meeting in January will begin at 7:00 as opposed to 7:30pm. There will also be a 10:00 pm curfew.

New Business

Jim Taylor had proposed creating a parent volunteer program to fill the needs of classroom support due to the decreased role of paraprofessionals. Some concern was voiced about the consistency of support on a purely volunteer basis.

Betty Henry suggested that we investigate a mentor program through Stonington Human Services. This program would have a supervisor and trained mentors from the community. Both Ginny Brown and Betty Henry said they would investigate this option. The members and guests were all in agreement that this was an excellent untapped resource in the community and would be worth looking into.

A Parent/Caregiver survey is going to be developed in order to assess feelings about school climate and the role of the SBIT as perceived by the WVSS families. Marika Heughins stated that it would be helpful to use the SBIT goals to form the questions. Jim Taylor said that it would be worthwhile to use the survey to gauge whether or not families understand the role of the SBIT. Claudia Albert and Betty Henry remarked that a previous survey had been done at WBSS, perhaps we could reference that survey for guidance.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:56 pm