

STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING JANUARY 22, 2009

Mr. Bolduc, Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. in the Board of Education Meeting Room. Members present were John Bolduc, Chairman, April Smith, Secretary, Doug Rea, GaiL MacDonald, and Sam Agnello.

Late Arrival: Rob Cary at 6:50 p.m.

Member Absent: Kevin Bornstein

Comments from Citizens

Dudley Wheeler, SHS Parent, spoke to the Board of Education regarding a recent incident involving his son and the punishment applied in accordance with Policy and Regulations #5131.6. Rob Planchette, SHS parent, spoke to the Board of Education regarding a recent incident involving his daughter and the punishment applied in accordance with Policy and Regulations #5131.6. Paulla Solar, SHS Coach, spoke about Policy and Regulations #5131.6 and suggested that board members consider adding practice days to suspension time.

Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco Policy #5131.6

Board members discussed a recent incident involving a few high school students and facebook pictures that showed some students consuming alcohol at a private residence and how the administration handled the incident when presented with the photos and whether or not Policy and Regulations of #5131.6 appropriately addresses such an incident.

The board agreed that the contract that student athletes sign agreeing not to engage in consuming alcohol or using drugs and board Policy and Regulations #5131.6 are not consistent and are flawed.

The following motion was made by Rob Cary and seconded by April Smith:

- **Motion 1: Move to reduce the time served by the SHS students who were in violation of Policy #5131.6 by 10 days.**

Vote was as follows:

Doug Rea – No

April Smith – Yes

Gail MacDonald – No

John Bolduc – Yes

Sam Agnello – Yes

Rob Cary – Yes

The Motion Carried.

The following motion was made by Rob Cary and seconded by Sam Agnello:

- **Motion 2: To review Policy and Regulations #5131.6 for the specific purpose of aligning athlete contract and after-school actions.**

The following motion was made by Rob Cary and seconded by Sam Agnello:

- **Motion 3: To amend motion #2 to do a review through the athletic committee and give recommendations to the Board of Education.**

Aye: All

Comments from Citizens Relative to Board Action on this Agenda

Dane Lewis, SHS teacher, stated that he commends the students who told the truth but fails to see how this supersedes the punishment. And the message being sent is that consequences for actions are minimized. He also said he felt this action by the board does not appropriately address the issues.

Mr. Planchette, SHS parent, stated that he felt that student athletes are higher profile and held to a higher standard than other students who do not participate in sports.

John Nickerson, SHS parent, stated he agrees with Mr. Lewis and Mr. McKee regarding students telling the truth does not excuse the violation. He also feels the student contract and the policy are very clear and sees no confusion. As a parent he would expect the administration to investigate when presented with information. The one issue he did have is with asking students to self incriminate and would like the board to explore different alternatives for investigating incidents.

Abby Gibney, SHS Coach and Teacher, stated that as an organization SPS has responsibility. She also stated that she is left with the question “to report or not report information” but that when she is confronted with information she feels compelled to forward it to administration.

Dudley Wheeler, SHS parent, stated that he had a folder full of Facebook photos and that the stuff was awful.

Jen Norcross, SHS teacher, stated that we should be thinking about our students as citizens and their health. She also stated some school district policies punish students for attending a party where alcohol is being served.

The following motion was made by Sam Agnello and seconded by Rob Cary:

- **Motion 4: To adjourn at 7:20 p.m.**

Aye: All

April Smith, Board Secretary