



## Southington Education Foundation

November 14, 2023

6:30 p.m. on Zoom

### Meeting Minutes

#### **In Attendance**

10 Directors - Jerry Belanger, Ellen Bellinger, Lisa Cammuso, Denise Carabetta, Jan Galati, Paula Knight, Michelle Lebrun-Griffin, Nancy Rogers, Dianne Quinn, and Katie Wade

Volunteers – Bob Brown & Julie Portfolio

Administrator – Frank Pepe

#### **A. Welcome/Call to Order –**

Lisa called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.

Katie congratulated Bob Brown on his election to the BOE and expressed excitement over a successful trivia night.

#### **B. Approval of June Minutes**

There was a correction to the 10/10/23 minutes.

Jerry moved to accept the minutes as amended, seconded by Paula.

The corrected minutes were approved.

#### **C. Treasurer's Report – Dianne Quinn**

- The treasurer's report (as of 11/3) was shared on Google Drive.
- Checking account balance = \$62,883.50
- Donations received include \$5,000 from the Quinn Foundation, \$100 from Nancy & John Rogers, and \$194.20 from Lisa Cammuso and her employer.
- Trivia Bee earned a grand total of \$4,358.50. It includes a \$500 in-kind donation from the owners of Cadillac Ranch and a \$50 Honor an Educator donation.
- A discussion took place about what percentage of interest on the Goralski scholarship would be appropriate for SEF to keep.
- Jerry moved approval of the treasurer's report, seconded by Jan. The treasurer's report was approved.

## D. Committee Work

### 1. Scholarship – Lisa (for Ann)

Paperwork has been filed at the high school for the 3 SEF scholarships at \$1,000 each.

### 2. Events Committee – Paula

a. Next Meeting – December 6<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 on Zoom.

b. Trivia Night –

- Last year about \$1500 was raised. This year - over \$4300.
- Better turnout (143 tickets) was attributed to a longer, more intense period of advertising and social media presence.
- We are grateful for Graham and Bonnie Nicholson's \$500 discount for the venue.
- There was concern that some schools didn't receive invitations.
- The trophy has been sent out for updating.

c. Chamber of Commerce – Sip & Shop - November 28<sup>th</sup>

- The event will be an opportunity to promote SEF in the community.
- Key fobs were created as trinkets for giveaways.
- SEF's PowerPoint will be utilized as well as print materials.
- Honor an Educator cards will be available for purchase.
- Paula and Jan will represent.

d. Just-For-You Shopping Fundraiser

- SEF shopping day is set for December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 10-5.
- Publicity has begun.
- Ellen shared Nancy's idea to raffle off a store item in order to generate more interest and to gather contact information for SEF and for the store.
- Motion: Jerry moved to authorize up to \$100 for a Just-For-You raffle item, seconded by Ellen. Paula and Jan will represent.

### 3. Honor-An-Educator

- Publicity will be pushed out to parents and staff for SEF honor-an-educator holiday giving.
- Cards will be delivered to recipients at their schools prior to the holiday recess.

#### **4. Program Committee – Michelle**

- Michelle reported that books have been purchased for the “*Reading with Our Minds and Hearts*” grant.
- Jan met with 2 teachers seeking \$2400 for training in coaching and intervention. They wanted to know if this would qualify for a grant or program request. She suggested they approach Stephanie Lawler and Amy Zappone for funding assistance.
- A discussion followed concerning professional development needs in the district especially in light of post-covid needs, changes in scheduling, and the district’s responsibility for meeting those needs.

#### **5. Grant Committee – Jan**

##### a. Grant Committee Meeting

The committee will meet on November 27<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 on Zoom.

##### b. Business Office Meeting

Jan & Dianne met with business staff in October to review completion of grant purchases.

##### c. Status of Grant Applications

Two complete applications have been received with two more possible.

##### d. Website Descriptions of Grants vs. Programs

Teachers seeking funding were confused about what is a grant vs a program. Should the website be clarified? All the criteria are clearly listed. Would it help to separate the two on different pages? Jan will work on this.

##### e. Secret Donor

Paula: The same anonymous donor who funded the *Kids Koop* grant in the summer is interested in awarding more money for education with SEF’s input.

#### **E. Other - SHS First Robotics Team Sponsorship**

Last year SEF sponsored the robotics team at the \$2000 level. A discussion took place about if SEF should sponsor the robotics team and at what level. Dianne was asked to look into what we can afford to spend.

#### **F. Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 7:43 pm.**

**Next general meeting ~ December 12<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 on Zoom**

**Other Dates to Calendar:**

- Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> ~ Grant Committee – 6:30 on Zoom
- Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> ~ Sip-N-Shop at the Aqua Turf, 5:30-9
- Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> ~ Just For You Shopping, 10-5.
- Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> ~ Events Committee – 6:30 on Zoom

**Respectfully submitted,**  
Ellen Bellinger, Recording Secretary

Mission: The Southington Education Foundation, Inc. is committed to instilling a life-long love of learning in all children through innovative, creative learning experiences that expand upon existing educational opportunities. The Foundation will partner with the community to secure resources, inspire excellence, and enrich student achievement.

Core Values: Innovation, Learning, Equity, School-Community Partnership, Integrity.