



Southington Education Foundation

August 18, 2020

6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

E-Meeting on Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Quorum= 7

9 of 13 Directors Present: Jerry Belanger, Ellen Bellinger, Denise Carabetta, George Fournier, Jan Galati, Trish Kennefick, Paula Knight, Michelle LeBrun-Griffin, and Joyce McAloon.

0 Volunteer Members Present

1. **Welcome/Call to Order** – Jerry called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

2. **Approval of 7/14/20 Minutes** (Ellen)

Jan asked for clarification on some budget items in the minutes.
Denise moved and Jan seconded that the minutes be amended to reflect the \$3,000 needed for scholarships awarded in the 2019-2020 fiscal year and the \$2,000 needed for yearly expenses as indicated in the financial report.
All in favor. The minutes were approved as amended.
George will set aside the \$3,000 needed to pay for awarded scholarships.

3. **Treasurer's Report** (George)
 - a. **Monthly report**

CHECKING-- \$14,129.73
BALANCE/ASSETS—\$16,129.73

 - The bank charged a \$3 service charge that George will monitor.
 - \$250 was deposited from a gala sponsor, The DePaolo Foundation.
 - \$30,450 was received from the Main Street Foundation for the SPS Emotional Intelligence Program.
 - Trish moved acceptance of the treasurer's report, seconded by Joyce. All in favor. The treasurer's report was accepted.

4. **Committee Work**
 - a. **Grant Committee** (Denise and Jan)

I. Approval of Mini-Grant Scoring Rubric

Denise moved acceptance of the proposed scoring rubric that aligned with the mini grant application, seconded by Trish. All in favor. The scoring rubric was approved.

II. Process for Grant Application Collection

The grant committee co-chairs proposed that they be given direct access to SEF's Gmail account in order to collect and monitor grant applications as they are submitted. Michelle suggested that the SEF chairperson be copied in order to keep abreast of grant activity. (It was noted that a January 2020 grant application had fallen through the cracks. A letter was sent to the applicant with a recommendation to apply for a mini grant.)

Jan made a motion, seconded by Jerry, that grant committee chairpersons monitor collection of grant applications, which was amended by Michelle and Joyce to include that copies be sent to the SEF chairperson as applications are received. All in favor. The motion passed.

5. SEF statement on Social Justice- (Jan)

i. Discussion of Coalition Webinars

Jan described Southington's Coalition for Social Justice series of community conversations and urged members to register for the 8/19/20 final event in the series.

ii. Discussion and Approval of SEF Social Justice Statement

Jan moved, and George seconded, acceptance of a revised SEF statement on social justice as submitted:

Re: Together We Can Do Better

Dear Friends in Education:

The Southington Education Foundation (SEF) feels compelled to join in the conversation about social justice. The Foundation believes that social justice aligns with our organization's values: equity, innovation, integrity, life-long learning, and school-community partnership. We ask you to reflect on these five values and their definitions below. Together, we can support a quality education for every child by freeing our community of implicit and explicit biases and discrimination.

Southington Education Foundation's Core Values Defined As:

Equity: freedom from bias; justice or fairness of social policy

Innovation: the act or process of introducing new ideas, devices, or methods

Integrity: the quality of being honest and consistent; firm adherence to code of ethics

Life-long learning: the ongoing, voluntary, and self-motivated pursuit of knowledge

School-community partnership: the shared responsibility and reciprocal process with schools and community organizations and others actively supporting children's learning

Sincerely, SEF Board of Directors

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| <i>Paula Knight</i> | <i>SEF Chair; Parent; Grandparent; Retired SPS Teacher</i> |
| <i>Jerry Belanger</i> | <i>SEF Vice-chair; Parent; Former BOE Member; Web Developer, HHC</i> |
| <i>George Fournier</i> | <i>SEF Treasurer; Parent; Retired VP of Engineering, ACME</i> |
| <i>Ellen Bellinger</i> | <i>SEF Secretary; Parent; Retired SPS Teacher</i> |
| <i>Gloria Brown</i> | <i>Board Member; Parent; Retired Teacher</i> |
| <i>Denise Carabetta</i> | <i>Board Member; Parent; Retired Bristol Schools Administrator</i> |
| <i>Gail Duffy</i> | <i>Board Member; Parent; SPS Teacher</i> |
| <i>Jan Galati</i> | <i>Board Member; Parent; Retired SPS Teacher</i> |
| <i>Trish Kenefick</i> | <i>Board Member; Parent; Retired SPS Teacher; STEPS; Southington Drug Task Force, Chair; Peer Advocate Advisor; Rotary Club</i> |
| <i>Michelle LeBrun-Griffin</i> | <i>Board Member; Parent; Education Consultant, SERC</i> |
| <i>Joyce McAloon</i> | <i>Board Member; Parent; Retired SPS Teacher</i> |
| <i>Dianne Quinn</i> | <i>Board Member, Parent; Retired Educator</i> |
| <i>Ann Taylor</i> | <i>Board Member; Parent; Grandparent; Retired Educator</i> |

To share your thoughts with the Southington Education Foundation, email SEF.Donations@gmail.com; to contact a specific board member, follow this link: <https://southingtoneducationfoundation.org/board.htm>.

The discussion that followed involved reasons for the foundation to make this statement and suggestions for changes to the title and the letter format. There were no changes suggested to the statement body. Concerns were raised that absent directors should have the opportunity to weigh in, since their names would appear in the signature list at the statement's end. A consensus was reached on how to revise the statement.

The motion to accept the above statement as submitted was unanimously opposed and replaced with a new motion: Michelle moved, seconded by Joyce, that a revised statement be shared electronically with the board of directors for approval, that the secretary will keep track of the votes, and that an approved statement be disseminated by the end of August. All in favor. The motion passed unanimously. If approved by the directors, the statement will be published on the website, in the newsletter, and on social media. The superintendent will be requested to include it in his back to school communication.

The body of the revised statement will remain the same as in the proposal above. The "Dear Friends in Education" line will be cut, and the title will be changed to "Together We Can Make a Difference". Directors' names will remain at the end of the statement (with consent) and the donations link at the bottom will be removed.

6. Southington Drive-In Volunteer Request

A request was made to drive-in host organizations for volunteers to help with parking cars at the two Metallica concerts on Saturday, August 29th.

SEF will send four volunteers for the 7pm concert: George, Jerry, Paula & Rick.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:57 pm.

Next Zoom Meeting: September 8, 2020 at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Bellinger, 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