



## Southington Education Foundation

February 13, 2024

6:30 p.m. on Zoom

### Meeting Minutes

#### **In Attendance**

8 Directors - Ellen Bellinger, Lisa Cammuso, Nancy Garry, Paula Knight, Nancy Rogers, Ann Taylor, Dianne Quinn, and Katie Wade

3 Volunteers – Patricia Gagliardi, Peg Lewis, and Julie Portfolio

1 Administrator – Frank Pepe

#### **A. Welcome/Call to Order –**

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 pm.

#### **B. Approval of the January Minutes**

There were no additions or corrections to the 1/9/24 minutes.

Paula moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Dianne. The minutes were approved.

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

- The treasurer's report was shared on Google Drive.
- Checking account balance at this time = \$62,222.89.
- Expenses included two \$1,000 scholarship payments
- Income included a \$2,000 donation from the Knight family and an Honor-an-Educator donation of \$50.23.
- Ellen moved to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Nancy R. All were in favor. The treasurer's report was accepted.
- Dianne reported that annual payments will need to be made to Benevity and Constant Contact.
- A question was raised about a tax filing form. Dianne will check with George.
- Paula raised the question of when and if an audit should be considered.
- The Goralski Family Scholarship account shows over \$100 in interest each month. A percentage of the interest was intended to be earmarked for SEF's use. This needs to be officially pinned down so that transfers to SEF checking can take place.

#### **D. Superintendent's Report - No report this month.**

#### **E. Committee Work**

##### **1. Scholarship – Ann**

- The final two scholarship awards have been paid.

- Page will be the new contact person, in the library to collect SEF's scholarship applications.
- Peg volunteered to help read scholarship applications.

## 2. Events Committee – Paula

- a. Next Meeting – March 20, 6:30 on Zoom.
- b. Grant Celebration – Ellen  
Six grant awardees have been invited to present. So far, 3 have confirmed their availability, 1 sent regrets, and 2 others have yet to respond.
- c. Historical Scavenger Hunt – Nancy R.
  - This event is intended for the fall, possibly October.
  - Nancy R has been in touch with Liz Kopec who has offered to help.
  - The Historical Society will be involved.
  - Nancy also shared news of an upcoming event at Barnes on April 3<sup>rd</sup> called “The Crime of the Century” which has a Southington connection.
- d. Cider Tasting at Rogers Orchard – Nancy R.
  - The date is set for May 8<sup>th</sup> when the cider bar will be closed to the public.
  - Nancy R connected with Missy at Bread-For-Life who offered to help organize the event.
  - Bread-for-Life's fall fundraiser sold 60 tickets at \$40 each.
  - Nancy R asked about the need for a liquor license if wine is served and if we need to purchase event insurance.
  - Nancy is also looking into a small (3-piece) live band.
  - Auction - In addition to the Adirondack chair, members offered to look into other possible items: a second Adirondack chair, VIP graduation tickets, a food share from LEAF, Southington Country Club golf, an Old Mill gift certificate, and Bushnell tickets.

## 3. Program Committee

- a. Katie reported that work is underway for a follow up to the “Reading With Our Minds & Hearts” program grant which will be aimed at older students. She also had an opportunity to observe a kindergarten lesson using one of the new decodable books from last year's program grant.
- b. Paula reported that a meeting took place with Steve on two program ideas: 1) Robotics for middle and elementary level students in partnership with Park & Rec., and 2) Developing the land next to DePaolo into a working farm, along with the Heritage Foundation.

#### 4. Grant Committee

- a. Approval of Grant *Building Thinking Classrooms in Mathematics Gr. 2-5*
  - The blinded application had been previously shared electronically with questions raised and answered. Ellen read aloud the teacher's response to some of the questions.
  - Lisa raised a question about the 100% metric used in the grant. Frank explained how 100% is a target for all in the district, the use of two lenses – *achievement and growth*.
  - Nancy G moved to accept and fully fund the *Building Thinking Classrooms in Mathematics* grant, seconded by Paula. All were in favor. The grant passed unanimously.
  
- b. Project Evaluation – *Book Tasting*
  - The written evaluation had been shared electronically on Google Docs: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/10P\\_hl6E1lcN1JbDHGFZanQhrWeTm79ZWeHQpkHgUhAE/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/10P_hl6E1lcN1JbDHGFZanQhrWeTm79ZWeHQpkHgUhAE/edit)
  - An unintended benefit: A boost to teacher morale and social emotional health.
  - An Excerpt:  
In our post survey after the Book Tasting Event 100% of teachers reported that they found books that will help them diversify their read aloud collection.

**F. Adjournment** - The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm

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

**Other Dates:**

- March 18<sup>th</sup> ~ Grant Committee, 6:30 Zoom
- March 20<sup>th</sup> ~ Event Committee, 6:30 Zoom
- April 30<sup>th</sup> ~ Grant Celebration at DePaolo Middle School
- May 8<sup>th</sup> ~ Cider Tasting at Rogers Orchard

**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