



## Southington Education Foundation

March 14, 2023  
6:30 p.m. on Zoom

### Meeting Minutes

#### **In Attendance**

11 Directors - Jerry Belanger, Ellen Bellinger, Lisa Cammuso, George Fournier, Jan Galati, Trish Kenefick, Paula Knight, Michelle LeBrun-Griffin, Joyce McAloon, Ann Taylor, and Katie Wade

1 Volunteer Member – Peg Lewis

1 Administrator - Steve Madancy

**Call to Order** – Paula Knight called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

#### **A. Approval of February Minutes**

There were no additions or corrections made to the 2/14/23 minutes.

Michelle moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Katie.

There were two abstentions. The minutes were approved.

#### **B. February Treasurer's Report**

- The treasurer was absent. Accounting is from submitted report:
- Deposits included \$60.31 from Amazon Smile; \$6.97 in interest; gala deposits of \$100 from DePaolo, \$40.50 from J. Belanger; and a \$240 Testa/Raytheon donation.
- Expenses included \$423 to Constant Contact and \$1,000 for the Book-Tasting grant.
- CHECKING BALANCE-- \$43,439.77.
- TOTAL ASSETS—\$75,122.22.
- Questions raised could not be answered. Action was tabled until next month.

#### **C. Committee Work**

##### **1. Grant Committee Report** – Jan

- **Winter Grant** – A \$1000 deposit was made for the *Book Tastings* grant as we await the listing of specific titles to be purchased.

- **Spring Grant** – One application was received, returned for revisions, and not resubmitted.
- **Why so few applications this year?** Steve shared that teachers feel worn out and stressed from post-pandemic pressures. Paula responded that SEF would be open to ways we might be able to help in that regard.

## 2. Program Committee – Michelle and Katie

- The Barnes Trust application will be submitted on Friday, with a request of \$40,000.
- Barnes allows only one initiative at a time.
- We are seeking funds for diverse decodable books for 27 K-2 classes. Stephanie Lawlor describes the books sought as *Windows and Mirrors*.
- Working community engagement into the school reading plan is yet to be determined.

## 3. Scholarship Committee – Ann

- All applications are being vetted and blinded in order to go out to readers by the end of the month.
- Steve offered his office for help with scanning and copying.
- Scholarship recipient names must be submitted to SHS by April 14<sup>th</sup>.
- The Awards assembly will be on May 8<sup>th</sup>.

## 4. Gala Update

- Tops catering has come in at \$20 per person for stations with a *Mexican flair*. Dessert still needs to be worked out.
- Steve suggested we consider using the high school's Corner Cafe for dessert. Steve and Paula will follow up.
- The Mtn. Room will charge \$1500 for the room, bartender, and outdoor games.
- Jerry reported that tickets started selling and we already sold two full tables.
- New auction ideas - Lisa initiated contact with ax-throwing and the escape room.
- Jan & Ellen will collect and organize auction items.
- Ellen made a motion on behalf of the decorating committee to have a working budget of \$100. Seconded by Jan. The motion passed.
- The next Event/Gala meeting will be at 6:30 on Monday, March 20.

## **D. New Business**

### **1. A.I. Summer Camp**

- Steve presented the group with a summer program offering some cutting-edge tech opportunities that he would love to be able to offer to some advanced level students.
- The courses are virtual and tiered for middle - high school students (1-week introductory and 3-week intermediate level courses).
- Eventually they can train our own teachers to teach their curriculum.
- Steve will be assessing teacher and student interest and will get back to us.
- Steve will be sending a link to the slides used in Steve's presentation.

2. Jerry shared a photo of the Robotics team t-shirt showing SEF's name appearing at the top.

## **E. Adjournment**

George moved to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.

**Next Meeting – April 18, 2023, 6:30 pm on Zoom**

### **Other Dates to Calendar:**

- **March 20** Events committee – 6:30 on Zoom (All are invited as we are well into Gala season)
- **May 5 - Cinco de Mayo** - SEF Gala dinner, Mt Southington Ski Area, Mountain Room,

### **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.

