



MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Southington Education Foundation

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The newly established Southington Education Foundation Inc. elected its premier Board of Directors and is proceeding with its mission to raise substantial funding for educational programs and projects that will instill a love of learning in the community's school children.

Local attorney Anthony Alan Sheffy was elected the non-profit group's chairman, while William M. Lutz, a Southington resident who formerly served on both the Meriden and Berlin Boards of Education, will serve as vice chair. Former Kelley Elementary School Principal Alan M. DeBisschop will serve as treasurer and Bethany Pestillo, a special education teacher, is secretary.

Also serving on the Board of Directors are local chiropractic physician Dr. George J. Costanzo, Quinnipiac University Adjunct Professor and Planning and Zoning Commissioner Dawn A. Miceli, former Board of Education member and CCSU Professor Emeritus Dr. David Monti, local business executive Kelley Nolan-Maccione of United Healthcare and former Finance Board and Conservation Commission member Ronald J. Marut. Southington Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joseph V. Erardi Jr. serves in the capacity of ex-officio member.

Forty board at-large members comprised of local business and community leaders, educators and parent volunteers, all of whom realize the importance of effective educational programming in and beyond the public school classroom, round out the organization.

“Being a part of this worthwhile endeavor, especially in the beginning stages, is truly an honor,” said Sheffy. “The long-term goal is to establish an endowment that will meet this community’s needs in terms of its educational system for generations to come.”

The Southington Education Foundation is committed to enriching the minds and lives of the town’s most impressionable community members – its school students – and will support innovative and creative initiatives that expand upon existing educational opportunities.

SEF operates independently of the Southington Board of Education and local tax dollars to secure funding for worthwhile, relevant instructional projects and grants that otherwise would not be available to Southington’s school children. At the heart of this initiative is sustainability. SEF seeks to cultivate long-lasting relationships with members of the Southington community and beyond who value ideas, creativity, and achievement.

A website is currently under construction and fundraising opportunities are in the planning stages. For information on how to support SEF, please contact any board member or Dr. Erardi at the Southington BOE.