

Southington Education Foundation

Executive Board Meeting

April 8, 2014 Minutes

Attendance: J. Galati, A. DeBisschop, K. DiFusco, B. Hosmer, S. Proffitt, Jerry Belanger, Rick Veilleux, Michelle LeBrun-Griffen, John Duffy. Both Rick Veilleux and Michelle LeBrun-Griffen left early.

Call to order made by Jan at 6:35

Approval of minutes: Motion made by Rick to approve the 3/12/13 minutes. Motion seconded by Alan. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Motion made to accept the treasurer's report by Kim and seconded by Jerry.

Chairman's Report:

Committee Chair Appointments:

Fundraising: Steve and Michelle

Grants: Beth Hosmer

Communications: Jerry and Jan

STEM: Tony

Scholarship: Jan

Nature Center at Camp Sloper: SEF received recent publicity for the \$20,000 donation to the YMCA for completion of construction of the Nature Center. Progress is being made on construction.

Hospital of Central CT and TMZ Corp. Jan reported that the group will meet this week to discuss partnership development between HCC and programming with the SPS. This committee includes: Karen Smith, John Duffy, Dale Reidinger, Linda Tipping, and Jan Galati.

LEAF Initiative with Lewis Farms/Mark Ramsay: Nothing new to report.

Rogers Orchards: SEF recently received a \$5,000 donation. Greg Parczyk, representing Rogers Orchards explained to Jan that he was looking for a meaningful way to impact education and teachers. This will be a one-time donation.

Third Grade Initiative: Christine Boulanger, grant writer for SPS just days ago contacted Jan to relate that the Third Grade Initiative for a National Arts Endowment (NEA) was not awarded to SPS. The grant was developed by Karen Smith and Jan Verderame last summer. Christine recently created a Plan B for the SEF to consider. In the initial plan Dawn had indicated a \$5,000 commitment with CGNBF who was willing to provide \$15,600; the total for this project is \$44,622. (See hand-out provided by Jan.) Alan made a motion that the SEF provide \$5,000 to the Third Grade Art Initiative. Kim seconded the motion. Much discussion and many questions followed. Questions included but were not limited to the following:

- What is the level of interest and commitment of the six art teachers who would be involved?
- What can be done about transportation costs?
- What is the urgency?
- Does this fit our mission?

Jan will contact Karen Smith in order to obtain more information. Alan made the motion to table the motion and Jerry seconded.

Vice-Chair's Report: Kim stated that the next Board at Large meeting will be held at Hatton School on June 5th at 6:30. This meeting will focus on SEF accomplishments over the past three months and the upcoming events such as the Drive-in Movie and the Fan of the Foundation.

Presentation by John Duffey, Science Coordinator: Mr. Duffey provided specific information on the following STEM related activities in the district:

- Invention Convention: All fourth and fifth graders have the opportunity to participate
- Science at Sloper: Anticipates that the Nature Center and the program will allow for all components of STEM to part of this science program for all fourth graders

Mr. Duffey was enthused about ideas for STEM that he learned about while recently attending the *Boston National Conference for Science Teachers*. He looks forward to working with the technology teachers and investigating major grants. He also sees a need for a town-wide STEM committee made of educators, people in the workforce, and businesses.

- Virtual STEM University update: Mr. Duffey stated that the teacher created lessons are nearing completion.
- Alan inquired about the process for dispersing checks to the teams of teachers.
 - Who is the contact person? Sherry Dinello or Debi Albaitis?
 - Will one check go to the team or separate checks to individuals?

Committee Reports:

Fundraising:

- Spelling Bee: Alan reported that we have fewer teams than last year and asked for members to recruit teams. Important players: PowerPoint by Michelle Passamano, Program by Steve, mic and lighting by Rit Campbell.

Grants: Beth is making arrangements for a June reception at Thalberg School or South End School.

Communications: Great job on the newsletter, sending out 225 emails with 32% read as compared to the industry standard of 25%. Biographies need to be written or revised by directors.

Scholarship: Postpone discussion of proposals to next meeting.

New Business:

- Steve is very excited that Robin Taillie has volunteered to create a comprehensive SEF database. He described Robin's background in database with nonprofits. He stated that the Little Green Light Program will be able to do applications similar to what Guy Iccarino explained in a previous demonstration.
- Alan discussed funding of social events. A consensus was reached by those in attendance that individual checks for payment of these events would be preferable.
- Amazonsmile.com would be discussed at a future meeting.

Old Business: None

Motion to Adjourn: Motion made by Jan to adjourn and seconded by Kim. Meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Next meeting: May 13, 2013 at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Hosmer

Secretary