

## Southington Education Foundation

### Executive Board Meeting Minutes

April 11, 2011

1. **Call to order** by B. Lutz at 6:35
2. **Attendance:** G. Costanz, B. Lutz, R. Martu, D. Miceli, B. Pestillo, A. DeBisschop, T. Sheffy, D. Monti, J. Galati, Dr. Erardi
3. **Secretary's Report** approved: motion by B. Pestillo and seconded by A. DeBisschop
4. **Treasurer's Report**
  - a. A. DeBisschop provided report on income, expenses and CD status. Total assets: \$48, 302.89. Income tax report filed.
  - b. Donations from Marianne Purushotham have totaled \$6,750. Alan asked how the board might recognize her. Decided that secretary will invite M. Purashotham to the next BAL meeting as our invited guest
  - c. Alan anticipates receipt of the Wachovia donation tomorrow.
  - d. T. Sheffy moved to accept Treasurer's Report and D. Miceli seconded.
5. **Grant Report**
  - a. Chairman G. Costanzo reported that many teachers' grant applications do not meet guidelines. Discussion about ways to clarify this to teachers such as holding open meeting with teachers prior to the next round or attending faculty meetings, etc. Determined (1) In the future George will hold general informational meetings (right after announcing the next round of grants followed by another meeting a couple weeks later). (2) George/committee will add a series of questions to the grant application in order to inform and clarify the specific reason(s) a grant would be denied; (3) Grant presentation is planned no later than the end of May. (4) Request was approved for 10% (\$1,000) over /under the total grant funding amount (\$10,000). Alan moved and Ron seconded
  - b. Kelley/Plantville Library Book Grant. B. Lutz reported that the Kelley School Book Plate Sale was well attended; the program hopes to recoup the \$500 to give back to the SEF. This can be a self-sustained program. Discussion about the opportunity for other schools in the district to follow this lead.
  - c. STEM initiative
    - i. Agreement between YMCA and SEF. T. Sheffy reported that he met with YMCA but the organization is unsure about how to proceed. Tony suggested a ground lease; whereby, SEF would construct the building and then lease it back to the YMCA. Process is presently at a standstill. SEF Executive Board does not want to give away the building. The cut-off date for an established agreement with the YMCA was projected to be 60 days from this meeting date (June 15<sup>th</sup>). Tony indicated that the YMCA may be encumbered by the Sloper land bequest. However, STEM curriculum would be able to stand alone; therefore, the project could go forward utilizing Sloper grounds. If no agreement is reached, then the SEF will need to develop Plan B.

- ii. Curriculum development: Dale Redinger has met with committee but no information reported.
- iii. Building design: On Hold
- iv. Presentation Preparations: On hold for Curtiss Robinson. Consensus is that the SEF STEM needs more specific information to provide to a potential philanthropist.

## 6. Fund raising

- a. Aqua Turf Affair B. Pestillo reported that mailings have gone out to a number of businesses. Beth has requested that executive board members reach out to business which they may have a connection to. Aqua Turf (10/28/11) and DJ (with lighting component) are booked. Plans include stations with menu (open bar--\$50) around a tailgate and sporting theme. Beth reported that significant contributions are recognized by signage, website, etc. Dr. Erardi reported that writing a personal note on letters to a contact is productive. Determined: At June Executive Board meeting contact lists will be reviewed and members asked to choose names to contact.
  - b. Spelling bee. Information to all Southington employees via email; snail mail this week. Dawn is working on publicizing this event: newspapers, etc. At the BOE Brown Bag lunch Beth and Alan will promote the Spelling Bee to PTO's. Still need a referee (Eric Korps did not reject invitation but not yet committed). Donation boxes are being made by Mary Decroce. Food at event will be discussed closer to date of event. **We need people to register. May 16<sup>th</sup> is deadline for registration.**
  - c. Car raffle. Tony reported that this project is in limbo. After discussion about concerns, Beth made the motion that the SEF not pursue the offer; Don Marut seconded. Board voted to not pursue the car raffle at this time. Tony will make gracious contact.
  - d. Drive In. Dawn reported that SEF will host June 25 (Sat. night)
  - e. Teen dance. G. Constanzo presented concept. Liability concerns, chaperones; a short amount of time. Group decided against it.
  - f. Give Back Foundation. J. Galati reported that Kelley Maccione had offered to research fundraising ideas online such as the Give Back Foundation. Group would like Kelley to present her findings at the June BAL meeting. J. Galati will contact Kelley.
7. **Public Relations**. Dawn inquired: Do we want a June Newsletter? Bill suggested that the letter go out in September to promote Drive In, Spelling Bee, and Gala, followed by newsletter later in January (after Outback event). Email blast to go out in December. Tony suggested that Dawn look at Constant. Contact as a tool for communication.
8. **Old business**: Alan-\$ 5,000 check from Mike Engelido (Wall of Honor) was resolved.
- ## 9. New business
- a. Communications. Bill reported he is receiving many, many emails from a variety of sources. Discussion about Huddle and an in-service. Determined: Emails go to the chair person and not to Bill.
  - b. Information (i.e. minutes, grants, wish list). See SEF website.
  - c. Teacher recognition: J. Galati proposed that the Outback gift certificates be used to recognize teachers in a "Teacher of the Month" program. Determined: Bill will draw up an idea.

- d. Opportunities for Additional Money: Dr. Monti stated that both the Rotary and the American Literary Association have money available to education. (The ALA has millions of dollars for reading instruction/activities available to education.)
- 10. **Next BAL meeting is May 10<sup>th</sup>** (Tuesday) in the computer room at Hatton. Bob Cusano is able to discuss the 150<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the Civil War.
- 11. **Adjournment** Adjourned at 8:10 unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Galati