



Southington Education Foundation

May 14, 2024

6:30 p.m. on Zoom

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance

10 Directors – Jerry Belanger, Lisa Cammuso, Dianne Quinn, Jan Galati, Trish Kenefick, Nancy Garry, Michelle LeBrun-Griffin, Nancy Rogers, Ann Taylor, and Katie Wade.

1 Volunteer – Patricia Gagliardi.

1 Administrator – Frank Pepe

A. Welcome/Call to Order –

Katie called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.

B. Approval of the January Minutes

There were no additions or corrections to the 4/16/24 minutes.

Trish moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Nancy R. All were in favor with the exception of Jerry who abstained. The minutes were approved.

C. Treasurer's Report

- The treasurer's report was shared on Google Drive.
- Checking account balance at this time = \$68,504.17.
- Early results from the Tasting fundraiser indicated a net profit of \$8,273.25.
- Another approximately \$900 deposit from Zeffy for auction items is expected at the beginning of June.
- A discussion ensued about the importance of accounting for the actual expenses of food and other items for the fundraiser that were donated by SEF members but not reimbursed.
- Frank stated that in the future the administration will urge more participation from PTOs.
- Jerry moved acceptance of the treasurer's report, seconded by Trish. All were in favor. The treasurer's report was accepted.

D. Superintendent's Report

Frank, after consulting with Steve, said there was nothing specific to report.

E. Committee Work

1. Scholarship – Ann

Ann reported that she and Lisa will present the two SEF scholarships on Thursday.

2. Events Committee – Paula and Nancy G

A. Cider and Wine Tasting Recap:

Lisa suggested that analysis of the event be conducted at the next Events meeting.

B. Drive-In:

Lisa reported that we still need more volunteers for the June 8 event. Members in attendance volunteered themselves and others to bring the number up to 18 of the 20 needed.

C. Trivia Night Date:

The consensus of the board was to hold the event at the Cadillac Ranch on Wednesday, October 23rd. Michelle will confirm the date. Jerry will reach out to What Trivia. Frank will look into the school calendar for any potential conflict with the date.

3. Program Committee - Michelle

With regard to the Building Thinking Skills in Math Classrooms, a discussion ensued in support of expansion on the part of the school administration and staff due to the enthusiasm and outcomes already experienced. Michelle said that in order to be considered an SEF Program, a grant would typically be larger than the additional \$6,000 anticipated, an SEF Program would not be “one-shot,” but rather long-term with a minimum of two years, and would require an outside community partner. It was agreed that the initiative be will considered a school grant instead and just need board approval. Kate and Jan will develop a proposal to be presented to the board in June, with the goal to be ready by fall.

Frank identified Alicia Naleway, Math Coordinator, as the contact person and suggested that the using the materials and ideas will not be mandated in the elementary school classrooms, but rather encouraged through shared energy and flexible adoption by teachers.

4. Grants Committee - Jan

Jan thanked all who made Grant Celebration a success, with diverse and creative presentations and connections made between SEF volunteer Patricia Gagliardi and literacy coaches with goal of future collaboration.

Jan reported that the grant budget for the past two years has been held at \$5,000 each year, with \$3,500 allotted this year. Considering the fact that the SEF treasury has improved and that being able to secure a larger grant might inspire more applicants, Jan

moved to increase individual grant levels to \$2,000 for the school year '24-'25. Michelle seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. A discussion ensued that we could afford to be even more generous, and Jerry moved a "friendly amendment" to budget \$10,000 for grants for the '24-'25 school year. Lisa seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. More discussion indicated agreement that the Grants Committee could move forward at its own discretion if a grant was within a \$500 overage.

5. Board Development - Jan

Jan presented the election slate for 2024-2025:

Co-Chairs: Katie Wade and Lisa Cammuso

Treasurer: Dianne Quinn

Recording Secretary: Nancy Rogers

Corresponding Secretary: Ellen Bellinger

Jan moved to accept the entire slate by a single vote. Jerry seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

6. Dates to Calendar -

- Grant Committee: May 20, 6:30 Zoom
- Southington Drive-In: June 8th
- Annual Meeting: **Monday, June 10 at a place TBD**

7. Adjournment - Jerry moved for adjournment at 7:35. Trish seconded and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Rogers
Corresponding 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