

Southington Education Foundation

January 14, 2025

6:30 p.m.

On Zoom

In Attendance:

12 Directors: Lisa Cammuso, Katie Wade, Dianne Quinn, Nancy Rogers, Ellen Bellinger, Jan Galati, Trish Kenefick, Paula Knight, Michelle LeBrun-Griffin, Ann Taylor, Nancy Garry, Jerry Belanger

2 Volunteers: Patricia Gagliardi, Julie Barnofski

No Administrators due to meeting conflict

Welcome/Call to Order:

Lisa called the meeting to order at 6:32.

Additions to the Agenda:

Paula reported that on February 25 and 26 at the Doubletree Hotel in Bristol, the Main Street Foundation and the Community Foundation of Greater New Britain will be offering a workshop in grant writing, including learning about resources and the roles and responsibilities of board members. The cost is \$75 per person. A reading list is also available for those who do not attend.

Paula moved that SEF pay the tuition for up to two SEF members who would like to attend, i.e. \$150. Trish seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Approval of the December 2024 Minutes:

Ellen moved acceptance of the minutes. Jerry seconded the motion and it was approved with Jan, Paula and Michelle due to their absence.

Treasurer's Report:

Dianne reported the current balance of \$59,589.21.

Income included:

\$3000 from the Drive-In event

\$475 [amended to \$125] to honor five educators
[plus \$350 in donations]

\$500 from Jim Goram to be used for STEM programs

And \$7.47 in interest

\$44,280 was received from the Main Street Foundation Grant, and \$42,951.60 was disbursed to the STEPS program, with SEF keeping our 3%, \$1328.48.

There were no expenses reported in December.

Jerry moved acceptance of the report, Nancy R seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Committee Work:

Scholarship: Ann

Ann reported that she sent a message to all readers and has five: Trish, Jerry, Peg Lewis, Dianne and Michelle. Applications will be distributed to them at the end of March, giving them ten days to submit their score sheets.

One 2024 recipient has submitted his transcripts and she is awaiting others.

Events: Nancy and Paula

Just for You yielded \$313.02 for SEF.

The date for the **Cider Tasting** is May 21, 2025 and planning has begun.

Trivia Night will be held on Wednesday, March 19 from 5:30 to 9 at Kinsman (amended to “Kinsmen”) Brewing. Admission will be \$30 per person. Michelle is negotiating the rental price.

Trisha reported that the **Basketball Event** is on hold for this year. Jan is still pursuing a donation of two signed basketballs from Donovan Clingan.

Program: Michelle

[Lisa reported] there will be a joint press release issued from SEF and STEPS regarding a check presentation event to be held on Tuesday, January 28th.

\$6000 of the grant from the Main Street Foundation must be spent under the Reading With Minds and Heart program by year end.

Grants: Jan

The next Grants Committee meeting is scheduled for January 20 at 6:30 on Zoom. Members will have three applications to review.

Board Development: Jan

Jan urged members to be on the lookout for prospective board members and officers. To date there are thirteen board members and three volunteers.

Board Leadership: Jan

There are two officers’ positions opening up for 2025-2026: Chair (or two co-chairs) and Treasurer. The SEF Election Calendar is such that a slate of officers is offered in April, elections are in May, and officers are installed in June.

A discussion ensued as to how to recruit more members and volunteers. Suggestions included using social media for more public awareness, publishing a newsletter, a marketing calendar and/or hosting a book talk on “The Anxious Generation”.

Michelle offered to help with technological aspects of these efforts. Patricia, Jan and Katie will meet to spark some more ideas. It was suggested that the SEF board might meet in person, perhaps in April, to advance our mission, goals and future-planning, with the objective being to let our community know what we’ve been doing.

There being no further business to come before the board, Trish moved to adjourn at 7:48. Jan seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

Grants Committee – Monday, January 20 at 6:30 on Zoom
Events Committee- Thursday, January 30 at 6:30 on Zoom
Wednesday, April 23 at 6:30 on Zoom
General Meeting – Tuesday, February 11 at 6:30 on Zoom
Trivia Night - Wednesday, March 19
Cider Tasting - Wednesday, May 21

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