

Southington Education Foundation

March 11, 2025

7:00 p.m.

On Zoom

In Attendance:

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

2 Volunteers: Jessica Springer-Cop, Peg Lewis

No Administrators

Welcome/Call to Order:

Katie called the meeting to order at 7:02.

Additions to the Agenda:

Jan introduced and welcomed Jessica Springer-Cop, a Southington public school parent, college professor and PTO President, joining the meeting tonight as a volunteer.

Approval of the December 2024 Minutes:

Ellen moved acceptance of the minutes as distributed. Ann seconded the motion and they was approved. Katie abstained due to her absence.

Treasurer's Report:

Dianne reported a current balance of \$59,398.04.

Income included:

\$1480 in Zeffy returns for Trivia ticket sales

\$60 additional tickets sold

\$6.88 in interest

Expenses were:

\$1276.14 for Bakehouse Club grant

\$790.00 for School Helpers Club grant

\$395.40 for Empowering Elementary Voices grant

\$436.80 for Constant Contact (email mailing list contract)

\$75 for Grant Mastery mini-conference (Katie attended)

Dianne noted that a check sent to the college of a scholarship recipient was never received and that there will be a \$35 stop payment charge next week. Check was re-issued. A suggestion was made to deposit funds digitally.

Discussion ensued about the \$8224.46 carried in SEF accounts designated for the Social Justice Coalition. Michelle reported she has been talking with Missy Cipriano

about using these funds and their decision was to take action when the timing was better due to other educational and funding concerns now. The question of the funds still on account for families in need of tuition support due to changes in kindergarten eligibility will be addressed when administrators are present.

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

Superintendent's Report -

Administrators were not present due to a scheduling conflict with kindergarten information night.

Committee Work:

Scholarship: Ann

Ann reported that the deadline for applications was March 8, with allowance for some that might still come in the mail. Ann will be picking up the essays from SHS on March 13 and distributing them to her volunteer readers.

Events: Nancy G and Paula

Trivia Night

Jerry reported that 72 tickets have been sold to date. He will send out another email/social media blast.

Michelle confirmed with What Trivia and Kinsmen as to date and time and arrangements. Supplemental insurance will not be needed.

Ellen reported we have 13 raffle donations and Nancy G will bring tickets. Dianne will bring seed money and will use a QR code for walk-ins.

Jan will promote Teacher Appreciation Week and Honor an Educator at the event.

Cider and Wine Tasting

Nancy G urged board members to join actively in efforts to make the event a success by taking on responsibility for tasks.

Nancy R has agreed to chair the event overall.

Accordingly, the following people agreed to head up these aspects:

Advertising: Jerry and Lisa

Food: Katie

Entertainment: Lisa and Paula

Raffle and Auction: Ellen for signage. Also Ann, Katie and Michelle

Wine Pull: Michelle

Sponsors: Michelle and Nancy R

Grants/Marketing/Mission: Jan

Program: Michelle

Michelle stated there was nothing new to report.

Katie attended a two-day Grant Master mini-conference for non-profits on February 25-26, and found it helpful with regard to applying for state and federal grants as well as strategic planning and networking.

Katie also reported that she will a letter to Meghan Albanese's supervisor praising her for the work she did on behalf of the STEPS Asset Building Program, including writing the grant and working hard to integrate the program in schools.

Grants: Jan

SEF received a request to sponsor the Southington Robotics Team. Jerry moved to donate \$2000 at the Silver level, which would give us publicity according to the attached flyer. Trish seconded the motion.

During discussion, members expressed concerns that recognition according to the level of giving has not been given in the past. The consensus was to ask officials to assure SEF that we will get the benefits of our sponsorship level.

Paula moved to table the motion. Jerry seconded this motion and it was approved unanimously.

Board Development: Jan

Board Membership: Katie, Patricia and Jan met to brainstorm ideas to expand knowledge of SEF in the community and increase membership. They advocated for a monthly newsletter, perhaps beginning in September, that could be posted on social media to highlight upcoming events and the impact SEF grants and programs has had. They will meet again on April 1.

PTO Visits: Lisa and Katie have been attending PTO meetings to inform and promote about SEF grants, programs and events. Katie attended a meeting at Thalberg right before this meeting and she and Lisa will go to South End on 4/8. Jessica invited them to the JFK meeting on 3/27.

Other Business:

Paula reported that she and Trish have been further exploring creating a basketball event in November that would involve teams comprised of people from local organizations. They will develop and proposal to present to the board.

There being no further business to come before the board, Lisa moved to adjourn at 9:15. Nancy G seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

Grants Committee – Monday, March 24 at 6:30 on Zoom

Events Committee- Wednesday, April 23 at 6:30 on Zoom

General Meeting – Tuesday, April 8 at **7:00 in person at the Y Board Room**
130 Main Street (white house)

Trivia Night - Wednesday, March 19 5:30 Kinsmen Brewing

Cider Tasting - Wednesday, May 21 Time TBD at Longview Ciderhouse

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