



Southington Education Foundation

April 16, 2024
6:30 p.m. on Zoom

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance

9 Directors – Jerry Belanger, Ellen Bellinger, Lisa Cammuso, Jan Galati, Nancy Garry, Paula Knight, Nancy Rogers, Ann Taylor, and Katie Wade.

2 Volunteers – Patricia Gagliardi and Julie Portfolio.

1 Administrator – Steve Madancy

A. Welcome/Call to Order –

Katie called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

B. Approval of the January Minutes

There were no additions or corrections to the 3/12/24 minutes.

Paula moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Ann. All were in favor. The minutes were approved.

C. Treasurer's Report

- The treasurer's report was shared on Google Drive.
- Income included many donations to the cider tasting.
- Not listed is a \$1,000 sponsorship received from COCC.
- Checking account balance at this time = \$63,908.67.
- Discussion included questions raised about Zeffy and PayPal.
- The \$245 insurance cost for the cider event is on par with the cost for a gala.
- Ellen moved acceptance of the treasurer's report, seconded by Nancy R. All were in favor. The treasurer's report was accepted.

D. Superintendent's Report

- Steve reported that the robotics team was travelling to Houston for world championships and that that the robot would need to be disassemble and re-assembled on site. Discussions with the team on possible SEF grant considerations will resume after the competition season.
- The town council will be holding a public hearing on the budget next week.

E. Committee Work

1. Grant Committee – Jan

- a. Consideration to expand *Building Thinking Skills in Math* project across district.
 - A grant application to repeat the math project in another school in grades 3-5 was received. The committee requested input from admin. on the desirability of expanding the initiative and possibly of funding it with school budget money.
 - Steve reported that the math coordinator hopes to expand it across the district and has submitted a Title 4 grant application towards this purpose. Additional funding support would be needed.
 - Steve suggested a possibly staggering the purchase of these materials.
 - The focus would be limited to grades 3-5 as K-2 teachers are currently focused on new reading initiatives.
 - Paula requested and Steve will secure cost projections for district expansion. Paula also suggested we could look into possible outside funding sources.
- b. Approval of the current *Building Thinking Skills in Math, Grades 3-5* grant application
 - A discussion occurred regarding SEF's Grant Award Policy, Section C-6.

“When a repeat request is received, The Grant Committee will review the project evaluation(s) and sustainability portion of the previously awarded grant(s) and factor in this information in to the decision about awarded funding for a repeat grant.”
 - The consensus of board members was that factoring in the results from a previous grant evaluation is not mandatory.
 - It was stated by many that because this initiative was held in such high regard by classroom teachers, specialists and administrators it should be approved.
 - Jerry moved to approve the *Building Thinking Skills in Math, Grades 3-5* grant application, seconded by Paula. The motion passed unanimously.
 - The grant will be awarded to Sabina Vance at Flanders.
- c. Other Grant Applications
 - Five grants had been received during the spring cycle. One grant that was beyond our spending limit was sent to MSCF for their consideration. Unfortunately, another grant was a better match for them.
 - Three other grants (from the same person) were received and rejected by the committee due to quality concerns.
- d. Review of Grant Application Process
 - The committee will meet on May 20 to discuss ways to improve the grant application process.
- e. Grant Celebration
 - Date: April 30 at DePaolo Middle School.
 - The event begins at 7:00. Members should arrive at 6:30 to set up.
 - Tasks for the event were finalized.
 - Katie, Ann, Nancy R, and Paula volunteered to bring cookies. Nancy G will bring water.

2. Scholarship – Ann

- Ann reported that two SEF scholarships (Erardi and STEM) will be awarded to the same student based on committee members' scores on the blinded applications. Though highly unusual, there was no reason not to give them both to the person who had the highest scores.

3. Events Committee –

a. Wine & Cider Tasting Event

- May 8, 5:30-8:30 (Members should arrive earlier.)
- Location: Rogers Orchard Longview Cider House, 36 Long Bottom Rd.
- SEF blocks will be set up at the driveway entrance.
- Price \$40 pp; 100 persons max; 50+ tickets sold to date.
- Tasks for before/during/after the event were reviewed/assigned online.
- See Google Sheets for event details:
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ByQEaZhB7LPWUCTXpLH0CAsm61LSsLxOjGzNF-nkbJY/edit#gid=1063722267>
- Auction items will include: two *Beetlejuice* orchestra seats at The Bushnell; a pair of handmade Adirondack chairs; VIP Turf Seating for 4 at graduation with VIP parking; a one-half CSA share of LEAF produce with a handmade charcuterie board; and an opportunity to get 4 orchestra seats on the aisle for *The Lion King* at The Bushnell in November.

b. Drive-In Volunteers are needed for June 8th

c. Trivia Night date has yet to be set for the fall.

F. Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm

Dates to Calendar:

- Grant Celebration: April 30, DePaolo Middle School, 7-8:30 (5:30 set up)
- Wine & Cider Tasting: Rogers Orchard, May 8, 5:30-8:30
- Next General Meeting: May 14, 6:30 Zoom
- Grant Committee: May 20, 6:30 Zoom
- Southington Drive-In: June 8th

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Bellinger
Recording 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