



Southington Education Foundation

April 8, 2025

7pm

YMCA Conference Room

In Attendance:

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

3 Volunteers: Patricia Gagliardi, Julie Barnofski, and Jessica Springer Cap

0 Administrators

Welcome/Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:15.

Jerry moved to add the drive-in to the agenda. All were in favor.

Approval of the March 2025 Minutes:

Jan moved acceptance of the minutes. Trish seconded the motion and it was approved.

Treasurer's Report (Dianne)

- The current checking account balance was \$81,450.49 as of April 8th.
- Trivia netted a profit of \$1,364.72, which included income from tickets, raffle sales, and donations. Expenses included What Trivia, Kinsmen, and the canceled trivia event at Cadillac Ranch.
- Jerry moved acceptance of the report, Jan seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Committee Work:

Scholarship (Ann)

- Ann reported receipt of 30 scholarship applications, considerably more than last year, but only four received for fine arts.
- A discussion took place about which *arts* are included in the fine arts scholarship.
- Readers will meet this week to tally up the scores and select 3 award winners.

Events: (Nancy)

1. Basketball Event (Trish)

- Date – Friday, November 21st at SHS.
- The only anticipated expense will be for custodial services.
- Trish will look into getting the police security fee waived.
- Robotics team will perform a half-time show.
- We can sell pizza and candy.
- An MC will be needed.

2. **Cider Tasting** (Committee met briefly prior to meeting.)

- Date: May 21, 2025 / 5:30-8:30pm
- SEF grants will be highlighted. Jan sent invitations (2 free admissions) to some past awardees. “Ask Me” buttons will be ordered for them.
- The flier needs updating to reflect additional auction items including a Staycation (Homewood Suites and Lake Compounce) and a second Adirondack chair.
- See Google 24/25 *Cider Tasting* for updates:
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ByQEaZhB7LPWUCTXpLH0CAsm61LSsLxOjGzNF-nkbJY/edit?gid=1827235819#gid=1827235819>

3. **Drive-In** (Michelle)

- Date: June 7, 5:30 until dark.
- Michelle began compiling a list of volunteers.

Approval of Spring Grants (Jan)

1. **Hands-On Coding with VEX** (\$1,958.99)

- VEX robot kits provide the opportunity for students to program and see the results of their code in-person. The project will impact two schools and over 1,000 students in grades K-5.
- Jerry made the motion to fund \$1,958.99 for the *Hands-On Coding with VEX* grant, seconded by Ellen.
- Discussion included concerns about future funding for similar programming needs across the district.
- The motion passed unanimously.
- Jim Gorham’s \$500 STEM donation will be applied to this grant.

2. **Summer Rise: Multilingual Summer Enrichment** (\$1,500.00)

- The program is intended to provide language learning opportunities to prevent what is known as a *summer slide*. The project’s planned trips to town hall, a museum and a zoo will expand immigrant students’ language and knowledge.
- A separate grant from the state was obtained to fund the two teacher positions needed for the project.

- The committee acknowledged that though the project lacked sustainability beyond just the one summer, it recommended supporting this grant.
- Nancy G made the motion to fund \$1,500.00 for the *Summer Rise Multilingual Summer Enrichment* grant. Trish seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

3. Fishing Club Rod and Lure Building (\$1,999.00)

- About twenty-five high school students will attend an after-school club that will meet weekly throughout the year. They will use critical thinking skills to plan, design, build, and create and evaluate fishing equipment.
- Jerry made the motion to fund \$1,999.00 for the *Fishing Club Rod and Lure Building* grant. Katie seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

SHS Team 195 Robotics Sponsorship

- SEF has donated over \$11,000 to Team 195 over the years. Jan reached out to them and asked that they reciprocate by putting our event fliers out to their contact list.
- Jan made a motion to sponsor Team 195 Robotics at the \$2000 level. It was seconded by Jerry.
- A discussion took place about how much money we can wisely afford to give at this time.
- Jerry made a friendly amendment to reduce the donation to \$1500, seconded by Ellen, and it was passed unanimously.

Board Development (Jan)

Membership

- According to the By-Laws, there should be 10-12 members on the Board.
- George, Denise, and Joyce have resigned.
- Patricia Gagliardi and Julie Barkowski have agreed to join the board.

Leadership

- Jan reported that there is a need for members to step up into leadership roles.
- Dianne will be stepping down as treasurer and promised to mentor the next treasurer.
- Katie and Lisa will be stepping down as co-chairs.

Marketing

Katie, Jan, and Patricia met to discuss a marketing plan. A chart with a checklist was created to use with all future events.

SEF's 15th Anniversary

Members discussed things we could do to celebrate this milestone.

Next General Meeting Date - May 13, 2025 Location TBA

Next Events Committee Meeting April 23, 6:30 on Zoom.

Adjournment – Jerry moved to adjourn at 8:37, seconded by Lisa. All were in favor.