



## Southington Education Foundation

June 10, 2024

6:00 p.m.

Jacob Family Pavilion, Camp Sloper

### Meeting Minutes

#### **In Attendance**

9 Directors – Jerry Belanger, Lisa Cammuso, Dianne Quinn, Nancy Garry, Paula Knight, Michelle LeBrun-Griffin, Nancy Rogers, Ann Taylor, and Katie Wade.

#### **A. Welcome/Call to Order –**

Katie called the meeting to order at 6:22 pm.

#### **B. Approval of the May Minutes**

There was one correction to the 5/24/24 minutes.

Paula moved to accept the minutes as amended, seconded by Nancy G. All were in favor. The minutes were approved.

#### **C. Treasurer's Report**

Dianne reported a current balance of \$69,663.38. She submitted the following:

##### **SEF End of Fiscal Year Summary 2023-2024**

Shopping Extravaganza	\$ 471.51
Donations	\$8,496.35
Trivia Event	\$4,808.35
Cider Tasting	\$9,653.25*
Honor An Educator	\$ 75.00
Main Street Foundation/Bradley Barnes	\$ 491.24

Southington Coalition	\$8,224.46
Grants Awarded	-\$3,496.65
Donation to Robotics	-\$2,000.00
2023 Scholarship Awards	-\$3,000.00
Expenses	-\$1,903.08
Interest	\$ 81.05

\*Expense for Lion's King tickets (\$600) have not yet been deducted. Other in-kind expenses, such as donations of food and supplies by members, were accounted for by the Events Committee.

Jerry moved acceptance of the Treasurer's Report. Nancy R seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

A discussion ensued as to what ratio of spending to operating expenses we must keep to maintain 501c3 status. The consensus of the board was that we are within bounds, but that we want to spend more money to support our mission.

An audit of our financial records is recommended based on best practices. Lisa will talk with Jerry Albino in an effort to seek a pro bono accountant to perform this audit.

At this September's meeting, the Board will have an opportunity to create a line-item budget for the coming fiscal year.

#### **D. Superintendent's Report**

No report.

#### **E. Committee Work**

##### **1. Scholarship – Ann**

Ann met with the two students who won scholarships, one of whom received two scholarships from SEF having been the best candidate to meet the criteria this year.

Lisa moved that, in the future, students will only be awarded one scholarship per year. Jerry seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

##### **2. Events Committee – Paula and Nancy G**

###### **A. Cider and Wine Tasting Recap:**

The event was successful. The consensus was to repeat the event next year, possibly a little later in May to better the odds for good weather.

###### **B. Drive-In:**

Although the attendance was reportedly lower than some showings, volunteers fulfilled their duties on a beautiful night. Lisa thanked those who could attend. The drive-in event next year is scheduled for June 14, 2025.

**C. Trivia Night Date:**

Michelle will take the lead with this event, and she confirmed that it will be held at the Cadillac Ranch on October 23, 2024. Jerry and Lisa will handle social media; Ellen will organize a raffle; Lisa will take care of centerpieces. It was recommended that we begin with marketing and seeking donations early.

**D. Honor An Educator:**

Katie and Michelle reported that they would assist Joyce and facilitate board discussions aimed at coming up with ways to demonstrate SEF's gratitude and respect for teachers during the upcoming program season.

**E. Grant Recognition:**

Board members brainstormed ways to expand the audience, including connecting fund raising events with recognizing grant winners and having them explain the value of the grant to their students; coordinating with Visual Arts department to get some footage in the classrooms; and contacting local civic organizations to share news of the value of these grants. Paula will contact Rebecca Terciano, Bread for Life marketing coordinator, to learn more ways to put forth this important aspect of our mission.

The board members present discussed other ideas for events/fundraisers, such as a pickleball tournament, a basketball clinic, a bourbon tasting at World Wide Wines, and a historical scavenger hunt. Nancy R noted the eagerness of the Barnes Museum director, Christina Volpe, to provide programming for Southington public school students. She will follow up with her to explore possible collaboration.

**3. Program Committee - Michelle**

Michelle had nothing new to report, but noted that, although SEF may not be getting applications for a lot of mini-grants, some individual classroom grants, notably Building Thinking Classrooms, have become district-wide initiatives.

**4. Grants Committee - Jan**

Jerry moved to award full funding in the approved amount of \$10,061.21 for the Building Thinking Skills in Math Classrooms grant. Nancy G seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

A discussion ensued as to the need to address the mental health needs of students, which has been identified as a priority. It was suggested that the committee explore more what schools need to address this concern. The possibility of approaching other funders, such as the Barnes Trust, was noted.

**5. Board Development - Jan**

Paula conducted the installation of these officers for 2024-2025, swearing in  
Co-Chair: Lisa Cammuso\*  
Treasurer: Dianne Quinn  
Recording Secretary: Nancy Rogers

\*Co-Chair Katie Wade left the meeting early and will be installed in September.

Corresponding Secretary Ellen Bellinger was not present and also will be installed in September.

Officers were reminded that their Conflict of Interest forms need to be signed and returned to Jan.

**6. Other Business:**

The American Legion Auxilliary sent a letter requesting that SEF sponsor one girl to attend Laurel Girls' State at a cost of \$400 for the week. Nancy G moved that SEF support a Southington High School student's attendance at Laurel Girls' State with a \$400 donation to the American Legion Auxilliary for that purpose. Paula seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

**7. Dates to Calendar -**

The following Board Meeting dates were proposed for 2024-2025:

9/10; 10/8; 11/12; 12/10; 1/14; 2/11; 3/11; 4/8; 5/13; and 6/10. Paula moved acceptance of the calendar with the amendment that the December meeting be held on 12/3 to avoid conflict with holiday events. Jerry seconded the motion and the calendar as amended was approved.

**8. Next General Meeting Date: September 10, 2024**

**9. Next Committee Meeting Dates to be determined.**

**10. Adjournment -**

Nancy R moved for adjournment at 8:02. Jerry seconded the motion 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