

## **Southington Education Foundation**

October 8, 2024

7:00 p.m.

On Zoom

### **Meeting Minutes**

#### **In Attendance:**

11 Directors – Katie Wade, Lisa Cammuso, Dianne Quinn, Nancy Rogers, Ellen Bellinger, Nancy Garry, Paula Knight, Jerry Belanger, Trish Kenefick, Jan Galati, Ann Taylor  
Volunteer - Patricia Gagliardi  
Administrator - Steven Madancy

#### **A. Welcome/Call to Order –**

Katie called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

#### **B. Agenda Additions or Changes -**

Katie reported that the Main Street Foundation decided not to invite SEF to apply for a grant to fund the STEPS Asset Building Classrooms/Emotional Wellness Program at this time. Katie and Lisa will attend a meeting with them to discuss future SEF involvement with this project. The district is still moving forward with the program.

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

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

#### **D. Treasurer's Report**

Dianne reported a current balance of \$53,478.33. The one expense this month was the \$9,975 grant to the STEPS program. Income included \$7.78 in interest paid and \$690.00 from tickets sold for Trivia Night.

Dianne requested guidance from the Board on the option to earn higher interest from the Goralski Scholarship fund by investing a portion of the money in a CD. After some discussion, the consensus was to meet with the Goralski family to see what their needs are for ready access to these funds.

A suggestion was also offered for SEF to invest some of its money on hand in a three-month CD to earn more interest and to consider the feasibility for the treasurer to take this on.

Jerry moved acceptance of the report and Ellen seconded it. All were in favor. The Treasurer's Report was approved.

## **E. Superintendent's Report**

Steve and Katy met with the Town Manager regarding the current school budget.

Steve reported that the administration will facilitate community conversations regarding the issue of cell phones in schools.

School administrators will also join with the Early Childhood Collaborative of Southington in a book discussion of "The Anxious Generation" by Jonathan Haidt at the new library wing in January.

## **F. Committee Work**

### **1. Scholarship Committee – Ann**

Paige Kopcza requested information about any changes to amount or criteria for the 2025 SEF scholarships. After discussion, the consensus was to continue to fund three \$1,000 scholarships, but for there to be only one question put to applicants instead of two.

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

A. Jerry reported 44 tickets sold to date for **Trivia Night**, bringing in \$1320 so far. Steve reported teachers have been emailed twice about the event. Ten raffle prizes have been procured so far. There will be a presentation made at the event to connect our programs with this fund-raising effort.

B. Trish reported that a flyer for **Just for You** will be distributed, emphasizing that SEF will get 20% of purchases made on December 7 if shoppers mention SEF to Flo Legat, the store owner. Trish will contact Flo to clarify if a poster or a sign can be displayed on that day to inform shoppers about this fund-raising effort.

C. Board members suggested March 20, 2025 as target date for a **Basketball Event** featuring local talent. Trish will explore both Derynowski Elementary School and the high school for possible locations.

D. Steve will review the school calendar to help determine whether May 14th or May 21st would work best for the **Cider Tasting**.

### **3. Program Committee - Michelle**

Jan received an email requesting SEF give \$5000 so school personnel involved with the Reading With Hearts and Minds program can attend a conference. Consensus was that

SEF has completed its current commitment to the program, but will be involved in future developments.

#### **4. Grant Committee- Jan**

Jan reported receiving two Letters of Intent: one from middle school science teachers requesting SEF grant \$500 per teacher to attend a STEM conference. Jan reported telling them that SEF grant guidelines do not include funding conferences.

The second request came from the lead mentor of the high school robotics team, Stacy Hilton, who requested a donation to cover various expenses. After discussion, the consensus of the board was to take no action now, but to consider a donation at a future date.

With regard to marketing, Jan also reviewed past efforts to engage teachers in applying for grants. Steve suggested that SEF put up posters in teachers' lounges with QR codes linked to grant information. Lisa and Katy said they would take on that task.

#### **5. Board Development - Jan**

Jan again urged board members to consider taking leadership positions for the 2025-2026 year, noting that specifically the positions of Chair or Co-Chair and Treasurer will be open. She reminded the board that nominees are presented in April, elections held in May and installations in June.

#### **Other Business:**

Paula reported concerns that the Cyber Knights had not met their obligation fully to the Silver Level donation made by SEF, specifically by not including the SEF logo on their t-shirts and website. Jerry will ask them to follow through on that expectation.

#### **Upcoming Meetings and Events:**

**General Meeting: November 12, 2024**

**Committee Meeting: Grants Committee on November 25 at 6:30 on Zoom.**

**Event: Trivia Night on Wednesday, October 23rd at 5:30 at Cadillac Ranch**

#### **Adjournment -**

There being no other business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:24..

**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