

Southington Education Foundation
Board Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2025
7:15 PM on Zoom

In Attendance:

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

1 Volunteer: Judi Spreda

1 Administrator: Steve Madancy

Welcome/Call to Order:

Katie called the meeting to order at 7:17pm.

Approval of the October 2025 Minutes

Dianne noticed an error on the amount reported in the Goralski account. The corrected amount is \$35,560.43.

Ellen moved acceptance of the October 14, 2025 minutes as corrected. Trish seconded the motion and it was approved.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report was shared on screen.

The current balance shows \$89,158.84, of which \$25,292.33 are available funds beyond the budget allocation. The current balance in the Goralski Fund is \$35,560.43.

Nancy G questioned the listing of an anticipated budget amount of \$7,500 for the basketball event when it was not intended to be a fundraiser. Lisa said it was an error and she will remove it from the basketball column heading. Trish moved acceptance of the treasurer's report with the correction to the column heading. It was seconded by Anne and it was approved.

Lisa contacted a CPA about concerns raised on the legality of carrying over large amounts of funds in a nonprofit organization. She was assured that there is no limit to carryover funds. The CPA also shared some specific literature about it which will be saved for use as a board resource.

Katie asked about the status on the \$8,224.46 SEF is holding for the coalition. Steve said he would follow up with Missy Cipriano and report back to us.

Administrator's Report: (Steve)

Steve reported the following: Congratulations to Lisa on her election to the Board of Education and to Katie on her election to the Board of Finance.

A barn will soon be raised on Pleasant Street. It will be used by agricultural students for livestock and it will be a learning resource for elementary students. They hope to have the concrete poured before winter with erection of the structure to begin in the spring.

Now that the school roof referendum has passed there will be a push for construction of a new Kelley School.

An elementary kindness campaign is underway. A private donor will purchase seven "Buddy Benches" for the schools that don't already have them and they will be looking into related learning activities for students. Paula offered that Main Street Foundation could be tapped as a resource for this program.

Steve responded to a question about student cell phone use in schools: They are not allowed in the middle schools and in the high school there is a network lockdown in place so there isn't much that students can access from within the building.

Committee Work:

Scholarship: (Ann – no report)

Grants: (Jan)

The grant committee will meet on November 24th to discuss one application. If approved by committee, it will be forwarded to board members, and voted on at a special Zoom meeting that will take place on December 8th, 5:30pm.

Board Development: (Jan)

Jan thanked all those who are working on the meet & greet to increase our membership.

She reported that Val DePaolo will be an SEF volunteer, beginning with the basketball event in January.

Questions were raised about the value of being a member of the Chamber of Commerce. Is it worth the \$200 fee? Many pros and cons were discussed. It was agreed that there would be much benefit if we used it and attended their breakfast meetings. There was hope that by increasing our membership we might be able to work towards that. Nancy G made a motion to continue the annual \$200 membership fee. It was seconded by Trish and the motion passed.

Events: (Nancy G)

Meet & Greet Details:

- December 9th from 6-8. (No need to come earlier to help set up.)
- Will be held in Worldwide's upstairs "tasting room" (turn right at the door). They will provide wine.
- Katie will bring bottled water.
- Finger foods will be purchased. (Judi, Ellen, and Nancy G)
- Dianne will purchase paper goods.
- Judi and Nancy G will create centerpieces.
- Lisa will create a short video presentation. She is asking members to send her any photos they might have.
- Patricia and Jan will be creating an SEF-related BINGO game. Paula will bring some prizes for the winners.
- Katie created a colorful invitation flier that she will send out. Jerry will add it to Facebook.
- Members should wear their name tags at the meet & greet.

Basketball Event Details:

- January 25th from 2-4pm.
- A memo to teachers will go out before Thanksgiving.
- An events meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 5th.
- Members are asked to visit the basketball Google page (under Events) to sign up for jobs ahead of the Jan. 5 meeting.
- Water and candy will be sold
- Jerry will add a save the date to the website.
- SHS cheerleaders will be invited.
- Katie will create a cool flier.

New Business

Lisa asked if it might be cheaper to use Zeffy instead of Constant Contact for email contacts. Jerry will look into it.

Katie is working on a flier to promote our *Honor an Educator* program during Teacher Appreciation Week.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Jerry moved adjournment of the meeting, seconded by Katie. The motion was approved and the meeting adjourned at 8:19.

Coming Up:

Grant Committee: November 24 at 6:30 on Zoom.

Special Meeting: December 8 at 5:30 on Zoom to vote on grant approval (if put forward by committee)

Meet & Greet: December 9 from 6-8 at Worldwide Wine and Spirits' upstairs *Tasting Room*

Events Committee: January 5 at 6:30 on Zoom (visit Google page to sign up beforehand)

Next Regular Meeting: January 13 at 6:30 on Zoom.

Basketball Event: January 25 from 2-4 at Southington HS.

Respectfully submitted, Ellen Bellinger, Corresponding Secretary