

Southington Education Foundation
Board Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2025
6:30 PM on Zoom

In Attendance:

14 Directors: Lisa Cammuso, Katie Wade, Ellen Bellinger, Jerry Belanger, Trish Kenefick, Nancy Garry, Ann Taylor, Jan Galati, Michelle LeBrun-Griffin, Nancy Rogers, Paula Knight, Dianne Quinn, Patricia Gagliardi and Julie Barnofski
1 Volunteer: Judi Spreda
1 Administrator: Frank Pepe

Welcome/Call to Order:

Lisa called the meeting to order at 6:31.

Nancy G introduced Judi Spreda who is joining the meeting as a volunteer.

Approval of the March 2025 Minutes: (Nancy R)

Trish moved acceptance of the June 3, 2025 minutes as distributed. Michelle seconded the motion and it was approved.

Treasurer's Report (Michelle)

The current balance is \$90,555.67, of which \$34,839.94 is in the Goralski Fund.

Michelle is in the process of setting up both a checking account for SEF transactions and a savings account for the Goralski Fund at M&T Bank in Southington. Interest on the Goralski Fund accrues for SEF. A discussion ensued as to re-investing the principle of this fund. Paula will reach out to the family to get their opinion.

The SEF Budget for 2025-2026 was presented and approved as follows:

Michelle moved Operational Expenses be set at \$2000. Nancy G seconded the motion and it was approved.

Katie moved Grants and Programs be set at \$25,000. Trish seconded the motion and it was approved.

Paula moved Scholarships be set at \$6000. Michelle seconded the motion and it was approved.

Trish moved donations be set at \$3000. Paula seconded the motion and it was approved.

Administrator's Report:

Frank expressed a "debt of gratitude" to SEF for the time and effort given that directly impacts students. He reported a "strong" start to the school year, with the Board Chair and Superintendent visiting every school on the first day, and Frank visiting every school in successive days.

The focus for professional development will be on restorative practices, with 70% of efforts given to building community and 30% on dealing with behaviors. Frank said that the vision of the graduate at Southington High School, i.e. to be "college or career ready and prepared for life beyond by mastering the knowledge and demonstrating the skills to communicate effectively, think creatively and critically, and contribute to the global community," will be of the "highest priority" for the district.

Committee Work:

Scholarship: (Ann)

Ann will notify the district about the increase in scholarship dollars that SEF will offer.

Grants: (Jan)

Jan and the Grants Committee will update the application and timeline to reflect the increase in dollars now available for grants and will report back to the full board. Also, future reports from grant recipients will be included in the minutes.

Events: (Nancy G and Paula)

There will be no Trivia Night this year.

The SEF basketball event is now scheduled for November 23. The Cyber Knights will perform at halftime. There will be a meeting at the Southington Library on Monday, 9/15 at 10 to further plan for this event.

Board Development: (Jan)

Jan announced that Patricia Gagliardi and Julie Barnofski have joined the SEF Board as full members, and that Judi Sprega has joined as a volunteer.

Other Business:

The Main Street Community Foundation's 30th anniversary celebration, "Meet Us on Main Street," will be held on September 13th.

Megan Albanese has stepped down from STEPS as Youth Prevention Coordinator.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Nancy R moved the meeting be adjourned at 7:54. Judi seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Next SEF Board Meeting: October 14 at 6:30 on Zoom

Grants Committee Meeting: September 23 at 6:30 on Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Rogers
Recording Secretary