



Southington Education Foundation

March 12, 2024
6:30 p.m. on Zoom

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance

11 Directors – Jerry Belanger, Ellen Bellinger, Lisa Cammuso, Jan Galati, Trish Kenefick, Paula Knight, Michelle LeBrun-Griffin, Nancy Rogers, Ann Taylor, Dianne Quinn, and Katie Wade

2 Volunteers – Patricia Gagliardi and Peg Lewis

1 Administrator – Steve Madancy

A. Welcome/Call to Order –

Katie called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.

B. Approval of the January Minutes

There were no additions or corrections to the 2/13/24 minutes.

Ann moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Paula. The minutes were approved with 3 abstentions and 8 in favor.

C. Treasurer's Report – Dianne Quinn

- The treasurer's report was shared on Google Drive.
- Checking account balance at this time = \$60,788.29.
- Expenses: \$979.06 grant payment and \$462.20 Constant Contact payment.
- Income: none.
- Trish moved to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Jerry. All were in favor. The treasurer's report was accepted.
- A suggestion was made to create an additional column to separate grant expenses from expenses like a donation to robotics.
- A discussion took place about the interest in the Goralski account that is intended to go to SEF. Those funds are in a separate bank account and need to be physically moved from one to the other. Dianne agreed to do move the funds twice a year.
- Ann has not yet issued a check for the Goralski scholarship as the student's transcripts have not yet been received.
- The PTOs have been asked to make monetary donations towards the Cider & Wine event in lieu of a gala donation (or raffle basket).

D. Superintendent's Report –

- Steve reported that a kindergarten info session has taken place because of the change in legal entrance age. They now have a good idea of class sizes.

- The robotics team won the prestigious *Impact Award* because of their work to help other schools get their teams off the ground.

E. Committee Work

1. Scholarship – Ann

- Ann will meet with others to vet the applications and Ann hopes to get them out to readers before the Easter weekend.
- Ann noted that the number of applications is about half that of last year. Many were missing the required second essay. A discussion took place about what the district does to promote scholarships and how we might be able to help. Steve will get more info to Ann.

2. Events Committee –

Cider Tasting at Rogers Orchard – Nancy R.

- Date - May 8th
- Time - 5:30-8:30
- Price - \$40 per person
- Size limit – about 100
- A flier for the event was created to go out with a link to online ticket purchase.
- Leveled sponsorships will be solicited similar to the gala.
- Auction – a second handmade Adirondack chair has been promised.
- Next Events Committee meeting - March 20, 6:30 on Zoom.

3. Program Committee No report.

4. Grant Committee

a. Update: Thinking Classrooms in Mathematics grant.

A required motion to approve a \$45 increase in the cost of the grant had taken place electronically. In the short period of time between approval and purchase the overage amount was reduced to a mere \$7.

b. Spring Grant Cycle –

- A grant application was received that was nearly 2X over the \$1,000 limit - not eligible for an SEF mini grant. It does seem to meet the criteria for a Main Street Community Foundation partnership grant with the “secret donor”. If accepted at their March 22 meeting, we would need to fund a portion of it (\$800-\$1200).

- The board is in full support of continuing a working relationship with MSCF and the secret donor. Jan expects to hear back from them towards the end of the month.
 - A discussion took place in light of our current treasury - ways to get more money out to teachers and students, and how to better market SEF grants to teachers.
- c. Grant Celebration – Ellen
- Date: April 30 at DePaolo Middle School.
 - Four grant awardees have confirmed that they are available to present.
 - Invitations will be sent to SPF administrators, BOE, PTO presidents, MSCF, and past SEF donors and sponsors.
 - Details to be worked out at the Events Committee meeting on March 20.

5. Board Development – Jan

- Receiving candidates for all offices up until the election at the May meeting.
- All present officers have been contacted to learn of their intentions (co-chairs, recording/corresponding secretaries, treasurer).
- Please consider a position as an officer or co-officer.

F. Other

- a. Trivia Bee - Michelle will lock in a date with Cadillac Ranch and *What Trivia* in either the first week of November or last week of October.
- b. Trish invited members to the Lions Club auction on March 23rd.

G. Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 7:49 pm

Next general meeting ~ April 16th ~ 6:30 on Zoom

Other Dates:

- March 20th ~ Event Committee, 6:30 Zoom
- March 25th ~ Grant Committee, 6:30 Zoom
- April 16th ~ General meeting, 6:30 Zoom
- April 30th ~ Grant Celebration at DePaolo Middle School
- May 8th ~ Cider Tasting at Rogers Orchard, 5:30-8:30

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Bellinger

Recording 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

