



Southington Education Foundation

April 18, 2023
6:30 p.m. on Zoom

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance

12 Directors - Jerry Belanger, Ellen Bellinger, Denise Carabetta, George Fournier, Jan Galati, Nancy Garry, Trish Kenefick, Paula Knight, Joyce McAloon, Ann Taylor, Dianne Quinn, and Katie Wade

0 Volunteer Members

1 Administrator – Frank Pepe

Call to Order – Paula Knight called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

A. Approval of February Minutes

There were no additions or corrections to the 3/14/23 minutes.

Ellen moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Jan.

There were no abstentions. The minutes were approved.

B. February Treasurer's Report

- Deposits included a \$244.53 gala sponsorship; \$500 for gala tickets with a \$75 donation; \$7.67 in interest; and \$700 from Zeffy for ticket sales.
- Expenses included \$75.44 to Nancy Garry for gala expenses.
- CHECKING BALANCE-- \$44,439.77.
- TOTAL ASSETS— \$76,498.98.
- A discussion took place about the Goralski Scholarship, of which we have been the fiduciary. There is interest in moving the funds out of SEF as it was never intended to be a permanent arrangement for the family. Paula will look into finding another way for the family to keep their funds.
- Trish moved acceptance of the treasurer's report, seconded by George. All in favor. The motion passed.

C. Committee Work

1. Grant Committee Report / Book Tasting Grant – Jan

- This grant had been previously board approved without an itemized budget list contingent upon the submission of a list for approval by the grant committee co-chairs.
- An itemized list has since been approved and the books have been ordered.
- Jan and Denise have been invited to the May 4 book tasting event, which will take place at Paul Gregory's.

2. Program Committee – Katie

- If approved, the program's title will be "Reading with Our Minds and Hearts".
- Katie met with Main Street CEO Susan Sedecki, a Barnes Trust committee, and SPS lit specialists to give an overview of the proposal. We will find out if the program is approved in the 2nd week of May.
- Funds from the Barnes Trust are managed by Main Street Foundation. If approved, SEF will be the fiduciary for the program's funds which will go to the district.
- We are seeking \$35,000 for diverse decodable books for all K-2 classes; \$5,000 for professional development; and \$5,000 for read-aloud books.
- The program can be extended further by applying again next year.

3. Gloria Brown Memorial – Jan

- There was support for honoring Gloria's memory with a tree and plaque in the YMCA Memorial Forest at Sloper.
- SEF funds cannot be used for this purpose. Jan will be collecting contributions from members. The total cost will be about \$400.
- Details will be emailed to members for consideration.

4. Board Development – Jan

a. Director Term Status

- According to the by-laws: *"No Board member shall serve more than three (3) consecutive three (3) year terms"*.
- Michelle and Jerry will be completing their third consecutive 3-year terms.
- There was general agreement that the by-laws should be revised to eliminate that rule. Jan will speak to our attorney.

b. Officer Election / Installation

- Officers will be elected in May and installed in June.
- If there are no other nominations, the slate will be:
 - Co-chairs - Katie Wade & Lisa Cammuso
 - Vice-chair – Jerry Belanger
 - Treasurer – Dianne Quinn

Recording Secretary – Ellen Bellinger
Corresponding Secretary – Nancy Rogers

5. Scholarship Committee – Ann

- Ann thanked the readers for their work to select the 3 scholarship winners.
- Their names have been submitted to the high school.
- Ann and Paula will present the awards on May 18th.

6. Gala Update

- Ticket sales have been slow! Go to the website to order gala tickets if you haven't done so.
- Sponsorships and auction items have been coming in. Let Ellen or Jan know if you have additional items.
- The evening's schedule is posted on the Google doc.
- Help is needed *during* the evening. To sign up go to:
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1EjZytpSt0WziLjI2doaamzmsXtrNvXJA3CD7dW4UI-Q/edit#gid=672080164>
Click on the *2023 Schedule & Job Volunteers* tab at the bottom.
- Paula will be going to a dessert tasting (for the gala) at the SHS Café on Monday at 1:30. Let her know if you'd like to go.
- The gala's check-out procedure needs some streamlining. Nancy G will take the lead on forming a committee to make some changes.

7. Southington Drive-In – Katie

- SEF will work the drive-in on June 10th for a share of the profits.
- Our commitment is from 5pm to the start of the movie.
- Last year our share was about \$3,000.
- We need you! Let Katie know if you are available to help.
- Twenty volunteers are needed - 18 or older.

8. Honor an Educator – Joyce

- COCC (in addition to being a gala sponsor) is creating a basket of goodies for each of our schools. Joyce will pick up and deliver to schools this Thursday for *Bring-Your-Child-To-Work* day.
- For teacher appreciation, Joyce proposed purchasing a book, *Because I Had A Teacher*, to leave in every teachers' room with a thank you note from SEF.
- Jerry moved to allot \$150 for the purchase of 12 books, seconded by Katie. All were in favor. The motion passed.

D. Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 7:41pm.

Next Meeting: May 9, 2023, 6:30 pm on Zoom

Other Dates:

- **May 1** – Event/Gala Committee – 6:30 Zoom
- **May 5** - *Cinco de Mayo* - SEF Gala, Mt Southington Ski Area, Mountain Room.
- **June 10** – Southington Drive-In

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.