



Southington Education Foundation

July 14, 2020

6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

E-Meeting on Zoom

Meeting Minutes

(Amended 8/18/20)

Quorum= 7

9 of 13 Directors Present: Jerry Belanger, Ellen Bellinger, Denise Carabetta, George Fournier, Jan Galati, Trish Kennefick, Paula Knight, Ann Taylor, and Dianne Quinn.

1 Volunteer Member Present: Lisa Cammuso

1. **Welcome/Call to Order** – Paula called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

2. **Approval of Minutes** (Ellen)

Trish moved approval of the June 9, 2020 minutes, seconded by Ann.
All in favor. The minutes were approved.

3. **Treasurer's Report** (George)
 - a. **Monthly report**

CHECKING-- \$18,075.49
BALANCE/ASSETS—\$18,906.91

 - The bank charged a \$3 service charge that will be eliminated next month.
 - Ellen moved acceptance of the treasurer's report, seconded by Denise.
All in favor. The report was accepted.

 - b. **2020-21 Operating Budget** (Paula)
 - The operating budget proposal was discussed.
 - It was noted that \$3,000 needed to be budgeted for scholarships awarded in the 2019-2020 fiscal year, as payment to the those winners will come up in January, 2021, following review of first semester grades.
 - A decision on any changes to future scholarships will be made in the fall.
 - There was consensus to budget \$2,000 for operating expenses.
 - There was consensus to budget \$5,000 for mini grants this year.
 - Paula talked to the Chamber of Commerce about our limited resources. They offered to charge us to half the price of Chamber dues.

- Below is the Budget Proposal. Jerry moved to accept the proposed budget for the 2020-2021 school year, seconded by Trish. All in favor. The budget passed unanimously.

Operation Costs		Fund Raising		Profit Projection	
Expenses	Budget	Events	SEF Lead Board Member	Event	Profit
Mini Grants	5000.00	Virtual Fund Raising Trivia Bee Beautiful Baby Spin-A-Wheel	Jerry Sandra Lisa	Virtual Fund Raising Trivia Bee Beautiful Baby Spin-A-Wheel	1,500.00
Programs	0	Just for You/Small business partnership	Joyce, Nancy	Just for You	300.00
Scholarships 3X 1,000	3,000.00	Thank an Educator/ Honor an Educator	Jan, Ellen	Thank an Educator/ Honor an Educator	5000.00
Yearly Expenses	2,000.00	Recognition Dinner Celebrating Education Possible partnership with Wall of Honor	TBA Possible contact person- Bob Brown	Recognition Dinner Celebrating Education Possible partnership with Wall of Honor	6,000.00
total	10,000.00	Sponsorship Campaign	TBA	Sponsorship Campaign	5,000.00
				Total	17,800.00

SEF Budget worksheet 2020-2021

4. Approval of the SEF statement on the SPS Coalition for Social Justice- (Jan)

A letter of SEF's support of the Southington Public School's Coalition for Social Justice Committee Statement was presented. The Coalition committee statement on 6/8/2020 requests educators, students, and families to create a movement, a movement that brings an end to systemic racism in our own community. The intent of the proposed SEF letter was to publicly support this effort bridging a connection to the five Core Values of the Foundation.

The proposed SEF statement in part:

The Southington Education Foundation (SEF) feels compelled to speak out regarding our organization's values: equity, innovation, integrity, life-long learning, and school-community partnership. We ask you to reflect on these five values and their definitions below. Together, we can support a quality education for each and every child by freeing our community of implicit and explicit biases and discrimination. We call your attention to the communication, rich with resources, from the SPS Coalition for Social Justice. Please take the time to read it and consider the steps you might take personally, and we might take collectively, to be part of a movement that ends systemic racism and defeats its affects beginning here in Southington. We'd love to hear your thoughts as to how we can proceed, together.

Jan made a motion, seconded by Ellen: *I move that the Southington Education Foundation support the SPS Coalition of Social Justice Committee's call for educators, students, and families to be part of a movement to end systemic racism by issuing the SEF's own statement of support.*

Discussion involved whether this letter adhered to the Foundation's mission and concern was expressed about the appearance of SEF taking on a political position. A suggestion

was made to keep only the first three sentences of the draft, eliminating any reference to the original coalition letter. The motion was not modified. The secretary took a roll call vote. The result was 3 in favor, 6 opposed. The motion failed.

5. Committee Work - Grant Committee – Denise

(i) *Rationale for Mini-Grants*

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Foundation's ability to fundraise has been curtailed. As a result, we have limited funds to award for grants to teachers for the next school year. Paula, Jan, and Denise sent a letter to the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent requesting their input on the use of grant funds for the upcoming school year. They responded that they prefer the funds go to teachers to support digital needs or diversifying classroom libraries.

(ii) *Mini-Grant Application*

A new simplified mini-grant application was presented; Trish moved approval of the Mini-Grant Application, seconded by George. All in favor. The motion passed.

See the Mini-Grant Application on the SEF website:

<https://southingtoneducationfoundation.org/documents/Grants/Grant%20Application.doc>

(iii) *Fall 2020 Grant Timeline*

A revised rolling timeline with monthly submission dates and approval dates until the allocated grant funds are expended was presented. Jerry moved approval of the revised timeline, seconded by Trish. All in favor. The motion passed.

See revised timeline on the SEF website:

<https://southingtoneducationfoundation.org/documents/Grants/Grant-Timeline.pdf>

Letters will be drafted to send out to teachers. Information on mini-grants will go onto the website.

Paula informed the group that Home Depot has money available for the community (teachers). She suggested the committee look into the possibility of Home Depot covering some of our grant expenses.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Next Zoom Meeting: August 11, 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Bellinger, 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