



## Southington Education Foundation

September 17, 2019

6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

The Orchards

### Full Board Meeting Minutes

Quorum= 6

**9 Executive Board Present-** Jerry Belanger, Ellen Bellinger, George Fournier, Jan Galati, Paula Knight, Michelle LeBrun-Griffin, Joyce McAloon, Ann Taylor, and Tim Connellan

**2 Executive Board Members Absent-** Gail Duffy, Denise Carabetta

**5 Full Board Members Present:** Gloria Brown, Nancy Garry, Trish Kennefick, Dianne Quinn, and Susan Reisman

1. **Welcome/Call to Order:** Paula called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm. A quorum was present.
2. **Approval of Minutes** (Ellen)  
Ellen moved to approve the minutes of June 11, 2019, seconded by George. All in favor.
3. **Update on Summer Activities** (Paula)
  - Signatures were updated at the bank.
  - Paula had a conversation with United Way to see if donators could be earmarked for SEF. Talks will continue.
  - Paula acknowledged the By-Laws Revision committee for their hard work over the summer.
  - Paula arranged with the Chamber of Commerce for SEF to man a booth during the Apple Harvest Festival. It will be an opportunity to increase our visibility in the community, pass out brochures, answer questions, etc. The usual \$50 fee to provide a banner with the SEF logo was waved. Our assigned slot is October 12, from 9:45 - 2:00.
4. **2019-2020 Work Plan and Committees** (Paula)  
A work plan was emailed to the membership. Please let Paula know if you are listed but are unable to chair the committee.

**5. SoCCA/ SEF Arts Scholarship (Ann)**

- SEF continues to look into partnering with SoCCA to create a joint arts scholarship, which could double the amount to \$2,000.
- The committee proposed changing the focus of the arts and humanities scholarship to students intending to major in the fine or performing arts. Categories include Creative Writing, Music, Dance, Theater, and Visual Arts.
- Michelle moved to change the scope and title of the *Arts and Humanities Scholarship* to the *Fine and Performing Arts Scholarship*. Jerry seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**6. Treasurer's Report – (George)**

**a. Status of SEF treasury as of 9.17.19:**

CHECKING-- \$14,187.11

SAVINGS/MONEY MARKET--\$11,526.25

BALANCE/ASSETS—\$25,713.36

- Jerry moved to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Joyce. All in favor.
- The report shows \$10,000 transferred from savings to checking.
- A deposit of \$34,475 was made from Bradley Barnes, for which SEF is fiduciary sponsor in order to fund the Emotional Intelligence grant.
- Tim explained where the district was going with emotional intelligence training.
- Mark Brackett, the keynote speaker, was very well received at professional development.

**b. 2019-2020 Operating Budget**

George made a motion to set the 2019-20 Operating Budget at \$3,000, seconded by Ellen. Last year \$2,100 was spent for such expenses. George provided a list of expected operating costs. All in favor.

**c. Fall Grant Allocation:**

- Jan made a motion to allocate \$7,500 for fall grants, seconded by Jerry.
- Discussion involved how much we can afford to allocate with reduced funds in our treasury and large expenses coming up.
- The motion failed with 5 nays and 2 abstentions.
- Jerry made a new motion to allocate \$5,000 for fall grants, seconded by George. The motion passed unanimously.

## **7. Committee Work**

### **a. Board Development - SEF By-Law Revisions (Jan)**

- A committee worked during the summer to create proposed revisions to the By-Laws.
- Drafts had been written, shared electronically, and revised with member and legal input.
- Jan reviewed each of the proposed changes, calling for consensus after each section. Additional edits were made to some sections. Gloria recorded all the edits. Jan will consult with Attorney Denorfia on some of the changes.
- Joyce moved to accept the by-law revisions for approval at the October meeting. Ann seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

### **b. Program Development - Science at Sloper Program (Michelle)**

- Michelle explained how the Science at Sloper program has evolved and grown since its inception.
- There was no doubt among members that the program offers valuable educational experiences to students across the district.
- The YMCA is requesting \$11,000 to continue the program for another year.
- Questions were raised about the need for the BOE to assume the expense of this program as SEF has been funding it for longer than originally intended and our funds are limited.
- Michelle will talk to the science coordinator, John Duffy, about possible funding from the existing budget and adding it to next year's science budget proposal.
- Joyce moved to approach the district to fund or co-sponsor Science at Sloper and if the district is unable to contribute funds, SEF will allocate the \$11,000 to fund Science at Sloper for one more year. Ellen seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

### **c. Resource Development - Trivia Night (Paula and Jerry, Co-Chairs)**

- Paula urged all members to get teams together for trivia night.
- Ambassadors should talk to their principals about forming school teams. Teachers should not be asked to contribute out of pocket. Money can be raised through dress-downs or other means.

**8. Next Meeting** – October 8, 2019, 6-7:30 p.m., at The Orchards

**9. Important Dates to Calendar:**

- a. October 12, 9:45-2:00 Apple Harvest Booth (6 volunteers needed to fill two shifts)
- b. October 21st - Grant Committee Meeting
- c. November 7 - Trivia Night
- d. December - Holiday Shopping
- e. December 3 - Grant Recognition Night / SoCCA
- f. March 28 - Spring for Education Gala, Mt Southington Ski Area, Mountain Room

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Bellinger, SEF 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