



Southington Education Foundation

January 9, 2024

6:30 p.m. on Zoom

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance

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

1 Volunteer – Julie Portfolio

1 Administrator – Steve Madancy

A. Welcome/Call to Order –

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm.

Steve suggested a *Superintendent's Update* be added to future agendas.

B. Approval of December Minutes

There were no additions or corrections to the 12/12/23 minutes.

Katie moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Jan. The minutes were approved.

C. Treasurer's Report – Dianne Quinn

- The treasurer's report was shared on Google Drive.
- Checking account balance = \$62,171.11.
- Expenses included a \$1,000 scholarship payment and a \$2,000 donation to support the robotics team.
- Income included many donations and \$471.50 from Just-For-You.
- Jerry moved to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Paula. The motion passed.
- Paula questioned and a discussion took place about our improved treasury status and our ability to do more with it.
- Steve told us about three ideas that would need additional funding: 1) Continued expansion of robotics into the elementary schools with a possible park & rec. partnership. 2) Creation of a working farm on the Pleasant Street property for younger students. 3) Increasing multi-lingual resources for the growing number English language learners in our district.
- Michelle suggested that a program could be proposed and that we seek additional funding, possibly from the Main Street Foundation.

- Paula made a motion to set aside \$10,000 in seed money for a possible program grant, seconded by Katie. The motion passed unanimously.
- Paula, Katie and Steve will meet to discuss further.

D. Committee Work

1. Scholarship – Ann

- One scholarship award has been paid; the other two scholarship recipients have been reminded to submit their transcripts.
- Ann is forming a committee of readers for late March / early April.
- Email Ann if you can help.

2. Events Committee – Paula

- Next Meeting – TBD in March.
- Just-For-You – \$471.50 was raised.
- Historical Scavenger Hunt – Nancy R.
 - This proposal is intended to be a PR event, not a fundraiser.
 - Nancy will gather more information and look into a fall date – possibly October.
 - Nancy, Katie and Paula will help plan.
- Direct Mail Fundraising - Julie
 - Julie composed a fundraising letter that went out through Constant Contact on 12/21 as a test run. The timing wasn't great.
 - It will be worth pursuing a physical mailing.
 - Possibly target local businesses.
 - Interest in linking to Teacher Appreciation Week in May.
 - Jan suggested we might be able to get a grant for expenses like postage from CFGNB.
- Cider Tasting at Rogers Orchard – Nancy R.
 - Date is set for the evening of May 8th.
 - Nancy will connect with Bread For Life to see how their event was organized and staffed.
 - There was consensus to include a small auction at the event.
 - Justin Mirante has offered to build an Adirondack chair for the auction.

3. Program Committee – No updates.

4. Grant Committee – Jan

- a. Grant Recognition Celebration
 - New Date: April 30th to coincide with the arrival of baby chicks.
 - Location: DePaolo Middle School
 - Jan and Ellen will meet to plan a guest list, etc.
 - It was suggested that local elected officials be invited.
- b. Winter Grant Cycle
 - The grant committee will meet January 22nd on Zoom.
- c. Main Street Community Foundation (Secret Donor)
 - Jan reached out to MSCF with an idea for a grant proposal.
 - The *secret donor* wants to fund something out-of-the-box that isn't heavily focused on academics.
 - Jan will continue to approach with other grant proposals.

5. Board Development – Jan

The Board Calendar is set as follows: March – Leadership roles; April – Membership drive; May – Election of officers; June – Installation.

6. Marketing Committee – Jan

Jan reminded members to always be thinking of possible new members and marketing what we do for Southington students

E. Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 7:43 pm

Next general meeting ~ February 13th – 6:30 on Zoom

Other Dates:

- Jan 22nd ~ Grant Committee, 6:30 Zoom
- March ~ Event Committee ~ TBD
- April 30th ~ Grant Celebration at DePaolo Middle School
- May 8th ~ Cider Tasting at Rogers Orchard

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