



Southington Education Foundation

December 12, 2023

6:30 p.m. on Zoom

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance

11 Directors - Jerry Belanger, Ellen Bellinger, Lisa Cammuso, Jan Galati, Nancy Garry, Paula Knight, Joyce McAloon, Nancy Rogers, Ann Taylor, Dianne Quinn, and Katie Wade

1 Volunteer – Julie Portfolio

A. Welcome/Call to Order –

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

Katie reported that Bob Brown would be stepping down from SEF due to BOE commitments and Susan Reisman would be stepping down from scholarship co-chair due to family circumstances.

B. Approval of November Minutes

There were no additions or corrections to the 11/14/23 minutes.

Paula moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Nancy R. The corrected minutes were approved.

C. Treasurer's Report – Dianne Quinn

- The treasurer's report was shared on Google Drive.
- Checking account balance = \$65,179.51
- Expenses include Chamber membership fee (\$200) insurance payment (\$595) and trophy repair (\$30).
- Income includes \$89 in donations from Sip & Shop, a \$25 Honor-an-Educator donation, and \$3,000 earned from working the drive-in.
- Dianne reported that Constant Contact will be charging a 16% increase in their fee (for 13 months of service). Members agreed that this was a rather high cost for a non-profit.
- A donation of \$10,000 is expected for the Goralski scholarship fund.
- Ellen moved approval of the treasurer's report, seconded by Paula. The treasurer's report was approved.

D. Committee Work

1. Scholarship – No report

2. Events Committee – Paula

- a. Next Meeting – January 10th, 6:30 on Zoom.
- b. Just-For-You – No numbers yet.
- c. Pickleball – Paula is looking into a possible pickleball event in February. It would need to be arranged with the Y.
- d. Historical Scavenger Hunt – Nancy R.
 - This is a new event proposal for the end of April.
 - Purpose: to give families a fun and informative activity exploring both historical and present-day downtown Southington while raising awareness of SEF and encouraging donations.
 - The event could be free or have an optional donation request.
 - Families will walk from point to point in the downtown area based upon a scavenger hunt concept, identifying various landmarks and even local businesses and then receive recognition upon completion.
 - Help will be needed to organize and run the event. Funds will be needed for passports, token prizes, and a possible grand prize item.
 - Local historians and business owners will need to be contacted.
 - A committee to work on the scavenger hunt was formed.
- e. Direct Mail Fundraiser
 - Julie composed a fundraising letter that might be blasted out this month via constant contact and other sources – a “test run”.
 - Paper letters can be considered for future drives.
 - There is interest in starting off the next school year with an even bigger campaign.
 - Paula suggested possibly tying local businesses to a specific type of grant.
 - Julie, Paula and Katie will meet to discuss further.

3. Honor-An-Educator

Publicity has been pushed out to parents and staff to consider SEF honor-an-educator cards for their holiday gift-giving.

4. Program Committee – No report

5. Grant Committee – Jan

a. Vote of Approval on Fall Grants

- The grant committee met and after the two applicants made the requested adjustments, both grant applications were forwarded to the directors to review for board approval.
- Paula moved to accept the \$999.98 *Diving Into History Wig First* grant, seconded by Ellen. The motion passed unanimously.
- Joyce moved to accept the \$532.18 *PostCrossing* grant, seconded by Jerry. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Grant Application Assistance

In order to help teachers with the grant application process, Julie has offered to assist via Zoom. Jan will discuss with Stave or Frank.

c. Partnership with Main Street Community Foundation (Secret Donor)

Jan would like to reach out to MSCF with an idea for a grant proposal that might be of interest to them. A new grant application was recently submitted that has potential to be extended across the entire district - with financial assistance from MSCF or their *secret donor*.

d. Grant Recognition Celebration

- Date: March 20th, 6:30-8:30.
- Location: DePaolo Middle School
- Six past grant recipients will be invited to present.

6. Marketing Committee – Jan

Sip & Shop was a success. Token “hugs” turned out to be a good conversation starter and brought in \$89 in donations. A \$25 Honor-An-Educator donation was also received.

7. Honor An Educator

An e-blast was sent out to all parents with a suggestion to make holiday gift-giving easy by acknowledging educators with an SEF donation in their honor.

E. Other - SHS First Robotics Team Sponsorship

- Dianne indicated that we can afford to sponsor the robotics team at the same \$2000 level as last year.
- Paula moved to sponsor the 2023-24 robotics team at the \$2000 level, seconded by Jerry. The motion passed unanimously.

F. Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm.

Next general meeting ~ January 9th – 6:30 on Zoom

Other Dates:

- Jan. 10th ~ Event Committee – 6:30 on Zoom
- Jan 22nd ~ Grant Committee, 6:30 Zoom
- March 20th ~ Grant Celebration 6:30-8:30 JAD

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.