

Southington Education Foundation
Board at Large Meeting
March 8, 2011

Call to order at 6:35 by Director Bill Lutz.

In attendance were: Kristin Freeman, Beth Pestillo, George Costanzo, Michelle Graveline, Dr. Erardi, Linda Flynn, Kim Fusco, Tony Sheffy, Bill Lutz, Alan DeBishop, Dawn Miceli, Rich Vielleux, Jan Galati

1. Secretary's Report revised attendance to add Dawn Miceli's name. Report accepted; motion made by A. DeBishop; seconded by B. Pestillo
2. Treasurer's Report: A. DeBishop reported recent deposits (\$750/\$150); present checking account balance (\$17,892.57). Discussion about renewal of 3 CD's coming due this summer (\$29,061.03). Alan is awaiting donation (\$1,000) from Wachovia. Treasurer's report accepted. B. Pestillo moved, seconded by G. Costanzo.
3. Chairman's Report: B. Lutz sincerely thanked Bethany Pestillo for her hard work, efforts and leadership as previous chairman. He then acknowledged Kelley Nolan-Mangione for her contributions as previous secretary and for her varied contributions to the SEF organization.
4. Grant Committee Report
 - a. Teacher Grants: G. Costanzo reported that 3 grants have been received for May deadline. Discussion followed about whether to consider a grant proposal that includes teacher payment for hours worked. Dr. Erardi indicated that this type of request should go to Professional Development at Central Office. George will contact the teacher to suggest he speak with Assist. Superintendent H. Thiery.
5. Fund Raising Committee Reports
 - a. Spelling Bee: A. DeBishop chairs this committee, comprised of D. Miceli, B. Pestillo. Date is set for June 16 (Thursday) at 7:00 at SHS auditorium. Dr. Erardi and Betsy Chester will serve as the referees (who monitor the time). No admission charge. Spelling Bee: 30 teams of 3; each team will raise \$300; team name and costumes. Still need a Bee Master.
 - b. Drive In Night: D. Miceli reported that the SEF date is June 25th.
 - c. Fan of the Foundation Gala: B. Pestillo reported that the gala will be at Aqua Turf on October 28th (Friday) at 7:00. Letters to be sent to town groups seeking donations for this event. Committee meeting dates will be emailed. She stressed there are many areas for member involvement.
 - d. Bertucci's: B. Pestillo has spoken with Bertucci's and they are interested in SEF fundraising. Discussion included a similar event such as previously done at the Outback. G. Costanzo suggested a distribution of coupons for percent- off meals that will provide SEF funds & Bertucci increased patronage.
 - e. STEM Initiative:
 - i. Curriculum: M. Graveline reported that Dale Redinger has met with teachers to develop curriculum. Michelle suggested that this group meet soon to organize concrete information for Curtiss Robinson.
 - ii. Progress on seeking funding & Curtiss Robinson (philanthropist): D. Miceli has made contact. Dawn will contact Mr. Robinson to maintain communication. Dr. Erardi offered a meeting place when the group is prepared to meet with Mr. Robinson.
 - iii. Progress on STEM Proposal: Discussion about STEM committee's readiness to present a concrete proposal to Mr. Robinson. G.

- Costanzo questioned about the importance of a more concrete proposal from the YMCA regarding building construction, maintenance, and student fees. T. Sheffy will request that Mark Pooler provide from his counsel a draft of such proposal.
- iv. STEM Mission: K. Freeman inquired about the stated mission and will contact M. Pooler for such information. Discussion transpired about a need for posting on SEF website. Kristen suggested that part of the STEM mission be to draw females and minorities into the sciences.
6. Public Relations Committee Report: D. Miceli reported that information will soon be going to media, email, letters, etc. regarding the Spelling Bee.
 7. Board at Large
 - a. Letter: Bill presented the “We Need You” letter as an invitation for membership to be posted on SEF website and used for mailings. Finished product will go to D. Miceli for posting on web.
 - b. Membership (See under new business)
 - c. Meetings
 - i. Dr. Erardi and B. Lutz will investigate future presentations at meetings (May 12th?)
 - ii. Dr. Erardi suggested Bob Lasbury, might demonstrate the technology program used in HS math classes.
 8. Meeting Schedule 2011-2012
 - a. BAL meetings will be held second Tuesday every other month at Hatton School
 - b. Executive Board meetings will be held second Tuesday on opposite months
 9. New Business: New Committees
 - a. Car Raffle committee (Dr. Erardi, T. Sheffy and K.Mancione) met with Richard’s Chevrolet representative, Frank Gaudio to discuss proposal: Richards will put \$3,000 towards purchase price of bio-fuel Camaro (\$31,000). T.Sheffy who will chair committee explained that 600 tickets sold at \$50 each would virtually break even. Richard’s Chevrolet will cover the cost of title and insurance and purchase tickets. Contingency contract discussed. Discussed how to sell tickets—different group of purchasers—various venues that draw a crowd (i.e. Graduation, Drive-In Night, Spelling Bee, Music on the Green, Apple Harvest, etc.). Dr. Erardi suggested that the push to sell be from present through August. In the fall the focus must be on the gala.
 - b. Outback Gift Certificates: B. Pestillo suggested that a committee be formed to determine the guidelines for awarding teachers
 - c. Membership Committee: R.Vielleux suggested that a committee be formed to formulate and organize ideas to increase SEF involvement. Suggestions: bring a friend, encourage a present member, etc. Ideas for increasing membership: presentations, invitation to big donors to see presentations (i.e. grant recipients), a celebratory meeting once a year
 10. Next Board at Large Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday May 10th Hatton School
 11. Executive Board Meeting: April 12th (Tuesday) place TBD

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Galati