

From: John & Nancy Rogers <johnnancyrogers@gmail.com>
Subject: Draft for your approval
Date: May 23, 2023 at 7:44:13 AM EDT
To: Ellen Bellinger <bellinger@cox.net>

Southington Education Foundation

May 9, 2023

6:30 p.m. on Zoom

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Meeting Minutes

In Attendance

10 Directors - Ellen Bellinger, Lisa Cammuso, Denise Carabetta, Nancy Garry, Paula Knight, Joyce McAloon, Nancy Rogers, Ann Taylor, Dianne Quinn, and Katie Wade

1 Volunteer Member - Peg Lewis

1 Administrator – Steve Madancy

Call to Order – Paula Knight called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

1. Approval of February Minutes

There were two corrections to the April 2023 minutes: The Drive-In fundraiser is on June 10th not the 9th. The SEF Scholarship award will be presented on May 18th and not the 8th. Nancy R moved acceptance of the minutes as corrected. Ann seconded the motion and it was approved with Lisa abstaining. The minutes were approved as corrected.

2. February Treasurer's Report

Deposits included a \$619.53 for gala sponsorships; \$923.12 in donations; \$7.62 in interest; and \$100.66 to Honor an Educator.

Expenses included \$250 for insurance; \$194 for our post office box renewal; \$24.56 to Ellen for gala expenses and \$50 for filing with the Secretary of State.

CHECKING BALANCE-- \$46,026.58.

TOTAL ASSETS— \$77,909.03.

Ellen moved acceptance of the treasurer's report, which was seconded by Katie. The

motion passed unanimously.

3. Committee Work

a. Program Committee - Book Tasting – Katie and Michelle

On May 4th, Paula, Denise and Katie attended the Book Tasting event at Paul Gregory's and described it as "inspirational". Twenty plus K-1st grade teachers from every school chose four books each from a cross-section of diversity topics. The books each carried SEF stickers inside them. Committee representatives felt that the grantees did an outstanding job with organizing the event and said that there was "a good feeling all around".

b. Grants - Partnership Opportunity with Main Street Community Foundation

Paula reported that Susan Sadecki of MSCF has learned that an unnamed couple who wish to remain unnamed until their passings would like to donate \$900 to foster creativity in educating Southington students in grades K-8. The parameters for securing this donation would include that it fund directly activities that are non-sports, non-competitive, not uniform or clothing related, and that they highlight the personal accomplishments and self expression of students. These activities must start or be sustained by September 2023. Susan asked Paula if SEF could identify a granting opportunity that meets these parameters and if we would be willing to put something together in such a short time frame.

Denise made a motion that the Southington Education Foundation seek a partnership with the Main Street Community Foundation to identify projects that meet the following criteria: Non-sport, noncompetitive programs and activities for students in grades K-8. Programs must involve direct and active participation by the students with the goal of promoting and encouraging self-expression and personal accomplishment. Lisa seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

In the discussion, Steve Madancy suggested that we reach out to the Unified Theater directors at the middle schools. Denise offered that a customized grant application could be drawn up according to the parameters that these donors want.

c. Events -

i. Gala Recap - Paula

Paula thanked everyone for the time and energy put forth for the event and noted the appreciation people expressed for the quality of the location, food, music, desserts and company. A preliminary report of the net profit for the evening was \$6,886.01 prior to two outstanding sponsorships totaling \$1,750.00 not yet received. She reported that SEF did not make as much money this year as last year, in part because the live auction was not as successful. She suggested that members debrief on the Gala on our Google documents page prior to the Events Committee meeting on Monday, May 15th.

ii. Southington Drive-In - Katie

The Drive-In fundraiser will be held on Saturday, June 10 in cooperation with the STEPS Program. Katie said we need to supply twenty volunteers and asked members to assist in signing people up to help.

iii. Trivia Night - Jerry

Much of the groundwork for this event has already been done: location is Cadillac Ranch and same DJ/Trivia Host is lined up. Steve Madancy said he would help with reaching out to internal school departments and PTO teams.

d. Scholarship Committee - Ann

Ann reported that her committee has chosen the recipients and that she is waiting to receive a letter from the school as to when the presentations will be. She expects it to be on May 18th.

e. Board Development – Paula

In accordance with SEF bylaws, the Slate of Officers for 2023-2024 were announced in advance and are:

Co-Chairs - Lisa Cammuso and Katie Wade
Vice-chair – Jerry Belanger
Treasurer – Dianne Quinn
Recording Secretary – Ellen Bellinger
Corresponding Secretary – Nancy Rogers

Paula asked if there were any additional nominees from the floor. There being none, the

nominees were elected unanimously.

k. Honor an Educator – Joyce

COCC created a basket of goodies for each of our schools, which Joyce reported that she delivered yesterday. She also left in every teachers' room the book *Because I Had A Teacher* along with a thank you note from SEF. She said the baskets and books were received with excitement and gratitude.

5. Other

Steve Madancy thanked SEF members and volunteers for the persistence to function through the pandemic. He shared some of his own goals and ideas for the district, including using the land next to DePaulo Middle School for a working farm with a potential for a farm to table program and donations to Bread for Life. He reported that support for an AI Camp from Dr. Zang fizzled, but that he and STEM teachers would pursue other avenues, such as using students and pursuing Calendar House as a location.

The next meeting will be at Paula's house on June 13, 2023 from 6-7:30.

The meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Rogers
Corresponding 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.