



**Southington Education Foundation**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
April 14, 2026  
6:30 PM on Zoom

**In Attendance:**

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

3 Volunteers: Judi Spreda, Cheryl Watson and Jessica Springer-Cap

1 Administrator: Steve Madancy

**Welcome/Call to Order:**

Lisa called the meeting to order at 6:31.

**Addition to the Agenda:**

Jan welcomed Cheryl Watson, who has expressed interest in becoming an SEF volunteer.

**Approval of the Minutes:** Nancy R

Nancy R noted an error in the minutes by misidentifying Jessica Springer-Cap as a board member instead of as a volunteer. Ellen moved acceptance of the March 10, 2026 minutes as corrected. Jan seconded the motion and they were approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Michelle

Michelle reviewed budget details and transactions during March. The current balance is \$89,913.11, with \$21,734.65 in available funds. She noted that even though the basketball event was not designated to be a fundraiser, SEF made \$362 on the day. For future reference, she noted that \$463 was spent on team t-shirts, which would be a recurring expense when SEF hosts the event in the future.

Nancy moved acceptance of the report and Ann seconded the motion. It was approved without objection.

Katie reported that she has spoken with a CPA who is willing to help Michelle with filing taxes.

**Superintendent's Report:** Steve Madancy

Highlighting "good news," Steve reported that the barn at Depaolo Middle School is in process and that he expects it will be completed by the start of the 2026-2027 school year. Additionally, the SHS Color Guard won the world competition and the Robotics team will complete in a national competition next week.

He noted that there will be a referendum on November 3rd regarding construction at two elementary schools.

Steve described the challenges with regard to the school budget for 2026-2027, particularly with regard to state funding, which has remained level even though costs have risen, such that towns have to make up the difference from tax income. Steve explained that the budget already does not allow for any new programs, and that cutting staff would be a possible but undesirable outcome without adequate funding. He emphasized the importance of citizens attending Board of Education and Town Council meetings, noting that the next council meeting is on April 27 at 7 pm.

A question was asked related to the status of the STEPS Program, and Steve provided an update.

### **Committee Work:**

#### **Scholarship: Ann**

Ann expressed thanks to all the readers who successfully completed the work of determining this year's scholarship recipients. Ann submitted their names to Southington High School, where the award ceremony will take place on May 20th.

#### **Grants: Jan**

The board discussed a personal request made to SEF from an individual SHS student for help with transportation to an SHS robotics event. The consensus was that such a donation does not meet the SEF mission criteria.

Jan presented two grant applications that were approved in committee.

Jan moved that 2026 Summer RISE: A Multilingual Summer Enrichment Program be fully funded at \$2994. Lisa seconded the motion. A discussion followed as to whether this initiative should become a program grant due to this being the second time this program was funded as a grant. Michelle explained the process of a one-time grant developing into a program grant. Jan will contact the recipient at a future date to determine if the needs of this program will be recurring. The motion then passed without objection.

Jan moved that the SEF Assistive Technology Lending Library be fully funded at \$2886.85. Jerry seconded the motion. A discussion followed as to how this program interfaces with special education funding. Steve spoke to the value of having such a resource for students to be able to try out devices before the district buys them. The motion passed with Michelle abstaining due to her perceived conflict of interest as a SERC employee.

#### **Board Development: Jan**

Jan moved the nomination of Jessica Springer-Cap to become a board member. Lisa seconded the motion and it was approved without objection.

Jan presented a grid of proposed officers for 2026-2027. She noted that some positions have either been filled, i.e. Patricia Gagliardi as Chair, or continuing, Michelle as Treasurer, and that the two Secretary positions are currently open. Jan will email members to detail the job descriptions for these positions. Installation of officers will occur at the in-person Annual Meeting to be held on June 2.

#### **Events: Nancy G and Paula**

Paula recapped the Basketball event, calling it a "huge success". She noted the positive comments from community members and the enthusiasm expressed for another event next year. She thanked Trish and Jan for organizing the day so effectively.

Nancy G reported that there will be an Events meeting on Wednesday, April 22 at 6:30 on Zoom to discuss progress with securing donations and contributions and to determine the tasks ahead. Nancy R reminded members to contact donors for either a follow-up ask or a new request for support.

Jessica reported that she will seek a donation of apples to add to her effort with Teacher Appreciation. She is working with a budget of \$300.

Michelle urged members to sign up for duties at the Drive-In fundraiser, scheduled for Saturday, June 6 from 5:30-9:30. SEF has signed on to provide 20 volunteers for this event.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business, Trish moved that the meeting adjourned at 8:08. Judi seconded the motion and it passed without objection.

**Meetings and Events Scheduled:**

Events Committee: Wednesday, April 22 at 6:30 on Zoom

SEF Board Meeting: Tuesday, May 12 at 6:30 on Zoom

Annual Meeting: Tuesday, June 2 at a location TBD

Cider and Wine Tasting: Wednesday, June 3, 5:30-8:30 at Long View Ciderhouse

Drive-In Fundraiser: Saturday, June 6, 5:30-9:30 at Southington Drive-In

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Rogers, Recording Secretary