



**Southington Education Foundation
Board Meeting Minutes**

June 16, 2026

6:00 PM

YMCA Conference Room

In Attendance:

12 Directors: Katie Wade, Lisa Cammuso, Patricia Gagliardi, Jan Galati, Michelle LeBrun-Griffin, Judi Spreda, Jessica Springer-Cap, Jerry Belanger, Julie Barnofski, Nancy Rogers, Dianne Quinn, and Nancy Garry

2 Volunteers: Jill Battaglia and Cheryl Watson

Welcome/Call to Order:

Lisa called the meeting to order at 6:04.

Additions to the Agenda:

Members were advised that the election of officers will occur before the installation. Jan distributed Conflict of Interest and Commitment forms for board members to sign.

Approval of the Minutes: Nancy R

Jerry moved the minutes of the May 12 meeting be approved as distributed. Katie seconded the motion and it was approved without objection.

Treasurer's Report: Michelle

Michelle reviewed income and expenses during the previous month. She reported \$7,030 in income from the Cider and Wine Tasting event. Income from the Drive-In is expected to be forthcoming, as the movie did play in spite of bad weather.

Jerry moved acceptance of the report and Jan seconded the motion. It was approved without objection.

Committee Work:

Scholarship: Ann

Lisa reported that Ann has photographed the three scholarship winners for the SEF online newsletter, which Jerry will publicize.

Events: Nancy G and Paula

Nancy G thanked SEF members who volunteered to work at the Drive-In on June 6. She commented on the good turnout for the Cider and Wine Tasting event as well.

Members discussed some aspects of the tasting event to consider for next year:

Members who solicit donations should make an effort to obtain contact information as well as the specific value of any in-kind donation in order to facilitate writing thank you letters.

It was noted that the live auction items were purchased almost entirely by SEF members or their family members. Thought should be given as to how to change this aspect of the event.

The administration would not permit notice of the event to be distributed within the district because alcohol was being served. Future planning will consider how to approach notifying more people who might be interested in supporting SEF.

Volunteers are needed for providing information about SEF at the “America 250” event to be held on the Southington green on Saturday, June 20 from 10-3:30. Paula has updated SEF brochures and will host a gathering to create visuals for the event at her home tomorrow.

Grants: Jan distributed a report detailing the grants awarded during each cycle of the 2025-2026 year. The six grants were awarded a total of \$15,622.23. Jan noted that over the past five years, SEF has consistently increased these awards from \$978.73 in 2021-2022 to \$2,000 in 2022-2023 to \$3,500 in 2023-2024 to \$7,919.57 in 2024-2025. Jan will provide members with a link on Google Drive to the list of all the grants that have been awarded by SEF over its history.

Jane concluded her report by noting that board members can look forward to a presentation to parents during the next school year 2026-2027 for the Building Thinking Skills in Math project (grades 3-5).

Board Development: Jan

Jan noted that SEF now has sixteen directors and twelve volunteers, six of whom joined after the Meet and Greet event in the fall.

Jan proposed the following slate of officers for 2026-2027:

Chair: Patricia Gagliardi

Treasurer: Michelle LeBrun-Griffin

Recording Secretary: Dianne Quinn

Corresponding Secretary: Ellen Bellinger

Michelle moved acceptance of the slate of officers as proposed. Judi seconded the motion and it was approved without objection. Jan then asked for members to vote on the slate. The vote was unanimously in favor. Jan then swore in each officer.

Jan identified a need for members to consider thinking ahead to becoming an officer and accepting a position as an “officer-elect” for a year in advance in order to prepare themselves.

Year in Review

Katie and Lisa led a discussion summarizing SEF's focus and accomplishments during this year, which included:

Increasing membership, which was achieved but must be continued.

Successful fundraising tasting event, with consideration to be given to holding Trivia Night again.

Programs, such as the extension of Building Thinking Skills and keeping STEP on the radar.

Collaboration with other funders, such as the Main Street Community Foundation.

Increased grant funding.

A well-received community basketball event.

Teacher appreciation day also well-received.

Increased scholarship awards.

Other Business:

After some discussion about being sensitive to officers' schedules, Michelle moved the following dates for board meetings to be held **on Wednesdays** during the 2026-2027 program year:

9/9, 10/14, 11/18, 12/9, 1/13, 2/10, 3/10, 4/21, 5/12 and 6/9.

Jerry seconded the motion and it was approved without objection. A summer planning meeting will be scheduled in July or August to determine a combination of virtual and in person meetings.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:40.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Rogers, Recording Secretary