



Southington Education Foundation Board Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2026

6:00 PM

Zoom

In Attendance:

12 Directors: Patricia Gagliardi, Michelle LeBrun-Griffin, Dianne Quinn, Ellen Bellinger, Jerry Belanger, Lisa Cammuso, Jan Galati, Trish Kenefick, Paula Knight, Nancy Rogers, Judi Sprea, Katie Wade

1 Volunteer: Jill Battaglia

1 Administrator: Steve Madancy

Welcome Call To Order:

Patricia called the meeting to order at 6:07.

Approval of June 2026 minutes:

Katie moved the minutes to be approved as distributed . Lisa seconded the motion and it was approved without objection.

Treasurer's report:

The Treasurer's report may be accessed on Google.

Michelle closed out the 2025-26 Treasurer's report by discussing the income and expenses through June 30th. The available funds to finish out the 2025-26 year were \$25,477.08.

Nancy G. moved to approve the 2025-26 Treasurer's report and Judi seconded the motion and it was approved without objection.

Michelle discussed the reserved budget for the 2026-27 year which is \$38,500, including operational costs (\$2,000), grants/programs (\$25,000), donations (\$2,500) and scholarships (\$9,000) paid after the first semester for the current scholarships awarded in May. She shared that the Barnes Trust has provided dollars for the STEPS ABC grant program year 2 and a check will be delivered to the district. Available funds for the 2026-27 fiscal year are currently \$19,436.03.

Nancy R moved to approve the 2026-27 reserved budget and Trish seconded the motion and it was approved without objection.

Superintendent's Report:

Steve Madancy reported that projects have been completed: The barn at Pleasant Valley Farm has been raised and some site work will be completed soon, the tennis courts are now regulation size, and additional student parking has been completed.

Steve thanked the group for their show of support during the Budget process.

The district received a special education grant for high quality instruction for a lead teacher in structured literacy, in order to build capacity and structured literacy across the 8 elementary schools over time.

Steve addressed the reserved coalition funds held by SEF, that were in place to address social justice work as a community. He reached out to the Community Foundation to say that the funds can be returned, but they said as long as they continue to be used accordingly, the district may keep them. An opportunity tied to Bread For Life and food insecurity has now come about. A Community Read using the book *An Invisible Thread* will be used to raise awareness in our community using some of the available funds to purchase books and possibly host an author event.

Committee Work:**a. Scholarship Committee : (Ann)**

Ann was not present at this meeting but a discussion was brought up concerning the lack of applicants for the Arts scholarship. It was decided to stay the course and have the scholarship committee do some research on the three scholarships to see if changes need to be made moving forward.

Paula moved to approve this action and Michelle seconded. It was approved without objection.

b. Grant Committee: (Jan)

Discussion took place as to how to word the amount awarded for the grants on the application should the applicant have an idea that exceeds the \$3,000. limit. It was decided that the grant committee would meet to discuss this before the first grant cycle which is November 6th.

c. Board Development: (Jan)

Jan congratulated the slate of officers (Patricia, Michelle, Dianne, and Ellen). She explained that we are missing a Vice Chair and asked if there was anyone interested at this time. No one stepped forward. Jan spoke about our need to increase our membership and prepare members to take on leadership roles as goals for the coming year.

d. Events Committee (Nancy G. and Judi)

There was a discussion about doing a Trivia Night possibly in November. Members offered to reach out to several locations for availability and cost. Places mentioned were: Kinsmen, Craft Kitchen, and a new winery in town. Information will be shared at the next Events meeting on September 16th.

The other event in the planning works is a Meet and Greet to bring in new members. Nancy G. stated that a chairperson is needed for this event to take place. Lisa has created a video that may be used. Discussion will continue at the Events meeting on September 16th.

New Business

Draft of updated bylaws

Jan shared a highlighted draft of the bylaws that once approved will be changed. A final copy will be completed and shared with the group prior to our October 14th meeting when a vote will be taken.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Trish moved that the meeting be adjourned at 7:34. Judi seconded the motion and it passed without objection.

Next general meeting October 14, 2026 at 6:00 PM on Zoom.
Events meeting September 16th at 6:30 PM on Zoom

Respectfully submitted,
Dianne Quinn, Recording Secretary

