

Minutes of Somerville Municipal Scholarship Committee - Open Meeting (Online)

Thursday, September 28, 2023 at 7pm

In Attendance:

Eric Lopez (President)

Shari Pitkin (Vice President)

Darci Hanna (Secretary)

Cindy Lee

Ruben Carmona (SPS Superintendent)

Linda Dubuque

Quorum Attained

- Approval of minutes: Last meeting quorum not attained, no minutes
- Introductions of committee members to new Superintendent
- Superintendent Carmona not sure who on his team will join our committee moving forward, but a representative will join
- Committee explained to Superintendent Carmona a little about last years' process and awardees, also discussed some of the issues with Dollars for Scholars as a platform and our concerns: privacy of students, onerous process for students (extra essays and confusing platform), only in English, etc...
- Eric asked Linda if it's possible to create a singular email for the committee so that we could streamline the creation of our own application process (scholarship@somervillema.gov?)
- Shari raised a motion not to renew our contract with Dollars for Scholars, Darci seconded it and Cindy expressed her support
- Next steps: Receive the final versions of the policies and guidelines from Dollars for Scholars and send them to Linda so that we have them in our records before we end our contract with the organization
- Shari proposed meeting in-person again for the next few meetings, Linda will ask the library if we can use their space again for Thursday 6pm meetings in October
- Committee members will fill out availability schedule, proposed next meeting: October 12th at 6pm, in person at the Central Library