

Minutes of Somerville Municipal Scholarship Committee - Open Meeting (In Person)

Monday, May 20, 2024 at 6pm at the Somerville Central Library

In Attendance:

Eric Lopez (President)

Shari Pitkin (Vice-President)

Darci Hanna (Secretary)

Cindy Lee

Melanie Kessler, Representative of the Superintendent

Quorum Attained

- Approval of minutes: Past minutes from 4/29/24 approved
- Committee discussed questions that seemed confusing for students (based on their answers) and will work to clarify them for next year
- Committee will rethink how we ask for info that is weighed in our scoring system but not asked for explicitly enough in the application
- Committee will ask Linda for fundraising totals at next meeting from tax forms
- Committee discussed scholarship applicants
- 3 candidates received the highest possible score from all 5 members, discussion started with their applications
- Discussion continued to next highest scoring applicants
- Committee found 8 applicants who met our highest criteria and wrote impactful essays
- Committee decided to award 8 scholarships this year for \$1000 each, photo opportunity at graduation will be discussed with the Mayor's Office
- Agenda for next meetings: Finalist notification and acceptance confirmation, review of application questions that can be improved next year, confirmation of fund totals and amount raised from city tax flyers
- Next meeting: TBD

Notes submitted by Darci Hanna, SMSC Secretary