

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

Thursday, October 17, 2024 at 6pm at the Somerville Central Library

Committee Members in Attendance:

Eric Lopez (President)

Shari Pitkin (Vice-President)

Darci Hanna (Secretary)

Cindy Lee

Melanie Kessler, Representative of the Superintendent

Quorum Attained

Also in attendance: Linda Dubuque (City Treasurer & Committee Liaison)

- Approval of past minutes from 5/20/24 approved
- Photo op was arranged with Mayor at graduation, all 8 awardees received their payments, sent to Bursar's Office of the schools they're attending
- \$24,000 paid to awardees of Somerville High School Scholarship Foundation, 2 students have non-responsive, \$4000 still awaiting their response to be awarded
- \$79,124 currently in the bank account for the fund
- Flyer will go in the excise tax notices again in mid-February, maybe we could advertise in the newspaper as well to let people know we're raising funds, city press release and email?
- Shari brought up that a notice from the city via email previously said it was merit-only, which is incorrect since it is also need-based, we'll need to check future info
- Possibility to align better with SHS scholarship schedule, the high school releases their general application in January, receive them back in February, tell students in mid-May
- Agenda for next meetings: discuss increasing individual scholarship award amounts to \$2000, review questions that seemed confusing for students and work to clarify them for next year, discuss how we ask for info that is weighed in our scoring system but not asked for explicitly enough in the application, Somerville High School Foundation follow up
- Next meeting: November 21, 2024

Notes submitted by Darci Hanna, SMSC Secretary