

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

Thursday, November 21, 2024 at 6pm at the Somerville Central Library

In Attendance:

Darci Hanna (Secretary)

Cindy Lee

Melanie Kessler, Representative of the Superintendent

*Quorum Attained*

- Approval of past minutes from 10/17/24 approved
- Shari Pitkin (Vice-President) submitted her letter of resignation from the committee due to personal reasons as of 11/20/24
- Cindy Lee is willing to take on the role of vice-president, to be discussed at the next meeting
- \$26,000 has been paid to awardees of Somerville High School Scholarship Foundation, 1 student is still non-responsive, so \$2000 is still awaiting their response to be awarded
- Linda has asked if final award can be given to another student instead to complete the award cycle this year, Paul Murray at SHSSF is looking into it
- Committee has questions for Linda moving forward: Do we need to find a replacement member for Shari's position? Is the fund drawing interest? Is there a minimum balance to maintain? When will we know how much has been donated via the request in the excise tax notification flyers?
- If we are going to align better with SHS scholarship schedule we should aim to post our application on January 1 (the high school releases their general application on January 1, the deadline is in February, and they tell students in mid-May)
- Agenda for next meetings: Confirm with Linda about replacement member and fund details, discuss increasing individual scholarship award amounts to \$2000 or awarding \$1000 to more students, review questions that seemed confusing or unnecessary for students (school lunch question, more clarity about financial need) and update application 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: December 19, 2024

Notes submitted by Darci Hanna, SMSC Secretary