

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

Thursday, December 19, 2024 at 6pm via Zoom

In Attendance:

Darci Hanna (Secretary)

Cindy Lee

Melanie Kessler, Representative of the Superintendent

Linda Dubuque

Quorum Attained

- Approval of past minutes from 11/21/24 approved
- Linda has confirmed that the final scholarship has been distributed for 2024
- \$75,708.50 is current account status, excise tax bills go out in February and come back in March, a flyer asking for donations will be included, Linda is expecting the account to grow then
- Linda has submitted a job description for a replacement member and asked the Mayor to send out a thank you note to Shari Pitkin for her service
- Committee discussed increasing award amount to \$2000 for next year, Melanie suggested that we also consider sustained awards where applicants can receive more funds to support their academic journey in future years
- In the personal info, we only ask for legal name, Melanie suggests asking for their preferred name as well, we also need to include a non-school email address for contacting them after graduation
- Melanie says from the student side, the transcript part was confusing, we need to make it clear that the unofficial transcript is optional and they need to agree to send their official transcript to the City
- There are several GPA-related questions, committee needs to confirm if all are necessary (some may be back end, or appear only if you select that you have a weighted GPA?) Need to check with Eric
- Intended College is a required question but some might be attending trade programs, which is listed separately as required, so committee agreed to change the required question to "Intended College or Postsecondary Program"
- Agenda for next meetings: Continue our review of application questions and update them for clarity and alignment with our stated parameters, follow up with city to make the application live as soon as possible in January, discuss advertising strategy to let students know about the opportunity
- Next meeting: January 21, 2025 at 6pm (via Zoom)

Notes submitted by Darci Hanna, SMSC Secretary