



Town of Belchertown
SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
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Scholarship Committee Meeting

Final Minutes of Thursday, January 23, 2020

Members Present: D. Lusignan, B. Cameron, R. Bansal, S. Edwards, L. Alves,
BOS liason N. O'Connor ~ Minutes by R. Bansal

5:34pm –Open Meeting

- Minutes: L. Alves motioned to accept the minutes of December 5, 2019 as written, B. Cameron seconded – Vote 4.0.0

5:41pm-S. Edwards joined the meeting.

Discussion Items:

- Ethics Testing Requirements: Committee members were reminded to complete their individual Acknowledgement Forms and online testing Certifications which are to be returned to the town Clerks Office.
- Scholarship Account Balance: The current fund balance as of January 23, 2020 is \$8413.14.
- Social Media Policy/Response -Cont'd: The Committee continued discussion regarding the towns pending SMP. Board of Selectmen liason Nick O'Connor was present and provided clarification as to Article #13. Mr. O'Connor discussed rules about fundraising; the committee can associate with an existing 501c3 even though the group cannot fundraise on its own due to its designation. There are other examples of groups that may use this venue in the community. The Committee will hold further discussion on this matter once the SMP is enacted.
- Gift Account Funding; Seed Money-Cont'd: The Town Accountant will accommodate a small gift account for mailing supplies. All donations received under this title must come in the form of a check and with clear indication the money is for a "Gift Account". BOS liason Nick O'Connor confirmed language may be used in the tax insert document stating "Donate to Scholarship Fund Account and/or Operations Account", to separate the two accounts.
- The Olive Bridge Fund- D. Lusignan has initiated communications (via email on 1/8/20); no response has been received to date.
- Annual Town Report: D. Lusignan provided a draft SC Annual Town Report to committee members via email for their input. D. Lusignan submitted the final ATR on January 14, 2020.

Action Items:

- Quarterly Tax Insert: The deadline to submit an insert into the next tax round is March 5, 2020. The Committee will add/revise language to reference the "Gift Account/Operations Account". D. Lusignan will prepare a draft for committee review at the next meeting.

- Begin Review of Scholarship Application –Yr. 2020: The Committee began its annual application review process. D. Lusignan reached out to Belchertown Schools IT Supervisor Scott Karen to inform him that the committee will soon be ready to post this year’s application and associated documents/information. Mr. Karen has been most accomodable and stated he is ready and waiting to assist.

After review of the CY20, the committee changed the application deadline to Friday, March 27, 2020 due to the leap year two day adjustment. (From 3/29 to 3/27)

In addition, the committee revised the deadline for students to submit their proof of tuition to the Treasurer/Collector no later than Friday, November 20, 2020 due to Thanksgiving. (From 11/27 to 11/20). R. Bansal made a motion to change the deadline for proof of tuition payment to November 20, 2020, Second from B. Cameron. Vote; 5,0,0

Also, the Committee discussed potential changes to the applications essay and questions; specific to the proposed language for questions #1 & # 2 linking the rubric requirements together (i.e “Identify and describe up to 2 activities that demonstrate leadership roles and multiple responsibilities you’ve held”). D. Lusignan asked committee members to prepare new questions incorporating the rubric language as well as to propose a new “essay topic”/question.

- Set next meeting date/time/location: L. Alves motioned to set the next meeting date to Tuesday, February 4, 2020 @ 5:30PM at the Central School Office, B. Cameron seconded, All in favor 5:0:0.
- 6:51PM - L. Alves moved to adjourn, B. Cameron seconded. All were in favor; 5.0.0