



Town of Belchertown
SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
School Central Office
14 Maple Street
Belchertown, MA 01007
Tel: 413-323-0425

Final Minutes of April 3, 2019
(Lawrence Memorial Hall, Rm.104)

Members Present: Lisa Aiken, Erica Rose, Ruby Bansal, Lorraine Alves, Sarah Edwards, Karol Coffin, Donna Lusignan. Minutes prepared by D. Lusignan.

5:31pm –Open Meeting

- **Minutes** – R. Bansal motioned to accept the minutes of February 6, 2019, as written, E. Rose seconded. Vote: 4:0:3

Discussion Items/Updates:

- **Welcome New High School Council Member:** Committee members welcomed Ms. Sarah Edwards to the Scholarship Committee as the new High School Council member.
- **Scholarship Fund Account Balance:** as of April 3, 2019 is \$3927.72
Private Donation Match Challenge- \$1817.95
Total Account Balance: \$5745.67
- **Match Challenge/Press Release:** D. Lusignan sent a press release to The Sentinel with hopes of raising further awareness and funding to reach our \$2500 match challenge goal.
- **Websites** –K. Coffin worked with the school IT Dept. to post to have the 2019 scholarship application posted to the Belchertown High School website. D. Lusignan posted up-to-date information under the Scholarship Committee town website which provides information on where students may find the application.
- **Pathfinder (PRVTHS)** – D. Lusignan provided the scholarship application and information to Pathfinder School contact Ms. Brenda Turner who will assist students wishing to apply
- **Action Items:**
Begin Review of Scholarship Applications: As of this meeting, the Committee has received a total of 19 applications consisting of 16 from BHS, 2 from Pathfinder and 1 from a BHS student who does not reside in Belchertown.

The Committee held in-depth discussion as to how many scholarships to award in 2019. Due to the fund account balance and pending meeting our private match challenge the Committee voted unanimously (7:0) to award two scholarship awards in 2019.

Chairman Lusignan provided each committee member with 19 copies of each student application in paper format. D. Lusignan explained to the committee that unlike last year's procedures whereas applications were allowed to be scanned to committee members, both the school and town IT Departments have since stated this method is no longer acceptable due to privacy law(s).

The Committee held further discussion as to strict adherence of the application filing procedures when reviewing 2019 applications; as previously set forth in prior meetings, applications that failed to meet the required criteria were not going to be accepted. The Committee voted unanimously (7:0) to eliminate those applications that were not in compliance and removed four(4) applications thereby decreasing the number of accepted applications from 19 to 15. The Committee will further narrow down the field to 6 then ultimately down to 2 awardees for 2019.

- **Senior Awards Nite:** Chairman D. Lusignan received an annual invitation from BHS Principal, Mrs. Christine Vigneaux to attend and present scholarship awards at the Belchertown High School Senior Awards Nite, slated for Wednesday, June 5, 2019 at 6pm. D. Lusignan and K. Coffin will present awards at this year's event.
- **Next Meeting Date:** The Committee voted unanimously to set the next meeting date of Thursday, May 2, 2019 to begin at 5:30pm at the Central School Office location.
- 6:35pm – L. Alves motioned to adjourn the meeting, R. Bansal seconded. All in favor 7:0.