

West Boylston
Town Scholarship Committee
Minutes
November 9, 2023

Attendees: Joyce Kujala, Chair; Richard Meagher, Superintendent of Schools; Elaine Novia, member

Meeting called to order at 12:35 by Chair.

Joyce informed the group that the minutes from our March 2023 meeting are missing. This is probably due to the resignation of two of our committee members and the subsequent transition.

Joyce, with reference to our Annual Town Report, gave a bit of background history of the Town Scholarship Committee. The committee has been in existence since 1987. Joyce came on board in 2007 and other committee members at that time were Kim Hopewell, Bernie Dow and the Major Edwards Librarian, Mrs. Richardson.

We reviewed the application and cover letter and made changes to apply to the 2024 packet. Unanimously Approved. EN, Second JK.

Question was brought up regarding the flier we placed at the October 2023 Town Meeting in which we asked for donations. Did this flier lead to any additional donations? It is impossible to tell. We did receive \$227.77 in donations in 2023. Investment income was \$36.17 for a total of \$7,304.20 in the account. Joyce sends out thank you notes for donations every January.

We had \$31,000 in 2007. In the following years there were scholarships awarded as follows: 5 @ \$500, 5 @ \$750, 6 @ \$1000, 5 @ \$1000. We then began to decrease the number of scholarships and amounts awarded.

Another issue is communicating to students that an OFFICIAL transcript must be submitted. Another issue is that there must be financial need. Also, individuals may apply more than once.

There are 68 students in Class of 2024. Total enrollment is over 900.

We need to decide how many scholarships should be awarded and for what amount.

RM - Do we want to spend down? JK - We do not want to deplete

It was decided to award two scholarships up to \$1000.00 each. Unanimously approved.
EN, Second RM.

EN - should we investigate putting letters out at May 2024 ATM? Put on cable TV? Ask Town Administrator to include a blurb in the letter that is mailed out prior to ATM? Elaine will ask the TA about these

RM - should we ask Leslie (town Accountant) to change the tax bills so that the minimum suggested donation is higher? It is presently \$5.00. Joyce will ask Leslie about this

RM - Will ask that notice will be included in the principals' weekly communications
General discussion - where else to put announcements - Library, website, Guidance office?

Next meeting: March 28

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm