

BILLERICA SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

February 5, 2025

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A meeting of the Billerica Scholarship Foundation was held on February 5, 2025, in the Evelyn Haines Room at the Town Hall.

Brenda MacDonald called the meeting to order at 7:03PM. A trivia planning meeting was held prior to the regular meeting.

Members present who constituted a quorum: Sharon Ferris, Sean Simonini, Denise Salemme, Larry Norman, Jim Spinale, Patty Membrino, Brenda MacDonald, Jim Gately, Mary Anne Durand, Tracy DeJoy, Al Tassone, Mike Rosa, Darlene Torre, and Dana Reardon.

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the January meeting by Larry Norman, seconded by Jim Spinale. All voted in favor of accepting the minutes.

Corresponding Secretary's Report – Sharon Ferris said that it is up to date, except for what has just come in-tax insert donations; donations for Gerard Jacobs fund coming in; and funds in memory of someone, which will be talked about later.

Treasurer's report – Sharon Ferris reported that money mentioned at last meeting has been moved to Town Accounts. After trivia, money from December 31 through February will close out for class of 2025.

Scholarship updates – Sharon Ferris reported that as of right now, scholarships funded and ready to go: 81, \$82,300. This does not include scholarship foundation awards. Funding requests have all been sent out. She will be writing a scholarship for Ian Wilcox. She is working with his sister Gwen. It will be for a MassArt student. We also have a culinary scholarship. Brenda MacDonald asked if we should reach out to the Tech about this. Sharon said yes, but not every student is from Billerica, and not all are going to college. As far as Foundation scholarships- Tax insert has \$1617, plus \$78 that was just received. Will make a scholarship for \$1500 and the rest of the funds will go into the general fund. Mary Ann Durand asked when the tax insert money stops. Sharon said we get money all year but our cut off is March 1<sup>st</sup>. Funds after that go to the next graduating year. We will have a scholarship named after the winner of the Trivia Challenge. We raised \$2312.80 in Savers drives but that was voted on at the last meeting to go into the general fund. Brenda said we do not want to look like we are promoting Savers. We have nine named foundation scholarships, plus unnamed from remaining foundation money raised. Sharon is proposing to change the name: "Billerica Scholarship Foundation Award honoring. . . " Sharon asked Larry Norman what he thought since one of the named scholarships is after his mother. Named scholarships: Barbara Norman, Dale and Bernie Hoar, Mary Sheldon Green, Robert Prest, Robert Wollask, Maureen Sullivan, Paula DeSimone. Larry made a motion to change the name as Sharon stated, seconded by Mike Rosa; all in favor. The foundation awards are \$1500. Sharon said there are two awards that she wanted to talk about: Dr. Calabrese and Yankee Doodle Homecoming. How did we end up with that name of Yankee Doodle? The Yankee Doodle award is supposed to be for someone involved with Yankee Doodle. Larry suggested we table the discussion until we can talk to the Yankee Doodle committee about this award. The Dr. Calabrese award was named for him because he was a superintendent, and he was the MC for trivia. Darlene Torre suggested we rename or eliminate this as there has been controversy around Dr. Calabrese. Jim Gately suggested that we could change it to Superintendent's Award. Larry said it would honor all superintendents. Brenda said we should not limit it to BPS. Jim Spinale made a motion to name it

Superintendents Award (plural); seconded by Mike Rosa; Larry opposed, and the rest voted in favor of name change. Darlene messaged Yankee Doodle chair-we get a donation from them for that award. Sharon let us know that Rotary changed their criteria-all 3 scholarships are open to everyone (not limited to one for each school and private). We need to have a disclaimer for our new situation regarding free tuition. Our scholarships have to go to a learning institution, not directly to a student. Mary Ann Durand came up with terrific wording. Our affiliation with Dollars for Scholars requires money to be paid directly to an institution. We are not permitted to give money to the student. Funds will be reallocated. We will put this on our website. Mike Rosa had an update on the Kent Scholarship. He talked to Ralph McKenna, and Ralph had his daughter bring a check to us for \$8000. Mike has checked with various offices to see if they have the check. Ralph will check with his daughter to find out where she brought the check. The results of money raised at Trivia will determine how many foundation scholarships we will be able to award. We will open the applications listing one, and update when we know the number.

Savers Kick Off Drive 3/2025 – We have another drive ending March 22. The last day for drop off is March 21. This is to help with the class of. The Giroux family is the 2026 sponsor. Mary Ann Durand asked if books would be collected. Sharon Ferris said yes, definitely. Do not pack the books too heavily. One flyer has gone out. We will promote it more after trivia. Savers will reimburse us for the rental truck if we reach a certain benchmark.

Class of Fundraiser – Darlene Torre said we need more people to help out. She will not be able to help as much as she thought now that she is back to work and running a campaign. April 14 is the midpoint so we will need a pickup at the schools. The final pick up will be May 6. The drawing will be on May 15. Mike Rosa will ask if we can do the drawing again at O'Connor's. The fundraiser starts April 1. Brenda MacDonald said we need to get all the information and packets to the schools a week before. Marshall's AutoBody is confirmed for second prize. Brenda told everyone that we all (whoever is able) contribute to the gill prize to make a package. We could use more little prizes for the superlatives. The PTO prize has been confirmed-\$250 to winning school's PTO. All the letters are prepared and ready to go. A flyer with information about becoming a class of sponsor will be included- half-page and colorful. Sharon Ferris will put everything together. Mary Ann Durand will handle all driving and drop-offs to the schools. She will be the liaison. Darlene said she would be willing to shadow again. She said we should have multiple people shadow to learn. Tracy DeJoy said she can help stuff envelopes. Brenda has the number of totals of students for each grade at each school. Darlene said she will count what we have left for tickets. Books need to be recounted and stapled back together.

Football Raffle – Brenda MacDonald told us that Jim Spinale wants to go forward with the raffle of his Rob Gronkowski autographed football. Brenda feels it is not the right audience at Trivia to do this raffle. Asked the committee what they thought about what the best venue would be. Al Tassone asked if we could do a raffle on Facebook like we do for the lottery raffle. Brenda said her husband Vinnie suggested we do not set a drawing date but instead sell a certain number of tickets. He thinks we would get more money that way. Sharon Ferris asked what value we should shoot for. Jim said Gronkowski should be going into the Hall of Fame, so the ball should be valuable. There was discussion on what to do. It was decided to sell 100 tickets for \$20 a ticket. Tracy DeJoy suggested that we start it on Superbowl Sunday. We can mention it at Trivia-our "kickoff" on Superbowl Sunday. Post it on social media-venmo to BSF. Jim Gately mentioned that he has an autographed Pete Rose baseball hat that could be a possibility at another time.

Misc. other business – It was asked if we do venmo for the 50/50 raffle at Trivia. Darlene Torre did not think we accepted it last year. Brenda MacDonald said she would have the venmo code on the cards that the ticket sellers will have. We also should have enough cash on hand so that it should not be a problem to issue the prize. We spent \$750 on 120 ad books-\$6.25 per book. Jim Gately does not think the printer broke it down by color.

Motion made to adjourn the meeting by Mike Rosa, seconded by Sean Simonini; all in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:19PM.

The next regular meeting will be held on March 5, 2025, at 7 PM in the Haines Room at the Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Membrino, Secretary