

BILLERICA SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

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October 1, 2025

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A meeting of the Billerica Scholarship Foundation was held on October 1, 2025, in the Evelyn Haines Room at Billerica Town Hall.

Jim Gately called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

Members present who constituted a quorum: Brenda MacDonald, Sharon Ferris, Tracy DeJoy, Jim Gately, Patty Membrino, Larry Norman, Alyssa Bartlett, Denise Salemme, Mary Anne Durand, Mike Rosa, and Dana Reardon. Those who were absent: Al Tassone and Jim Spinale.

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the September meeting by Larry Norman, seconded by Mike Rosa. All in attendance voted in favor of accepting the minutes.

Corresponding Secretary's Report – Sharon Ferris said that she is up to date with scholarship acknowledgements and confirmations. She has three thank you notes to do regarding Savers drive.

Treasurer's report – Sharon Ferris reported that she is up to date. She is still working with Elaine, the town treasurer, to consolidate two "problem" accounts. One has actually been resolved this afternoon and still tracing the other.

Calendar and Back-to-School Nights – Patty Membrino thanked all who have helped out. We did well, especially at the Middle Schools and the High School. Overall, we did great. We sold 39 at Yankee Doodle. We have 29 calendars left. Jim Gately asked about suggestions for next year's Back-to-school nights. Denise said there was a lot going on at the Kennedy, so having things to attract attention would be helpful: a big easel or something to draw attention; something to be able to "stand up" the calendar. Someone suggested names and/or pictures of scholarship recipients who went to that school to draw attention,

Fall Town Meeting Concessions – Brenda MacDonald will get there early to set up. Dana Reardon and Denise Salemme will also be there. They will talk with each other about specifics. Brenda will bake gluten free items. Sharon will get the ice. Jim Gately thanked all the bakers. Patty will get Brenda some of our calendars to have at the table.

October scratch ticket raffle – Sharon Ferris said that we normally do the raffle the third month of every quarter, but she noticed some Ghostbusters lottery tickets and thought we could do a Halloween themed raffle. The committee liked the idea. These raffle tickets will sell for \$10. Sharon will have them by the end of the week.

Savers Drive – Sharon Ferris said thank you to everyone. We had over 5 tons of items. We raised \$1500 (earned \$1194, rest from incentives). Chris Sennott donated the cost of truck. The next, bigger drive, is January 10. Brenda MacDonald has already confirmed the storage unit. The unit company donates it. Mary Anne Durand said she noticed the Senior Center is having a program about hoarding and decluttering- maybe we can see if we can partner with them. Sharon said we will do a heavy push on clothes (will take books but that will not be the focus). She said mid-December we will start collecting home goods, toys, etc. We will load them into her garage and then transport them by car- they take up too much space in the unit. Thank you to Alyssa Bartlett for getting a lot of books from the Hajjar School for the September drive.

Scrip (Gift Card) discussion – Sharon Ferris said she usually does orders in November and December-three or four orders. The first one is mid-November. We only made \$200-\$300 last year. She asked if we still wanted to do this. She explained how the program works, and said we really need to market and promote it more. We have our regulars who put in orders. Other schools groups do this fundraiser also. In order to make money, the amount of profit from the order has to exceed delivery charges. Alyssa said she will help Sharon with this. People buy gift cards, so why not buy cards that will help the students?

Yankee Doodle – Brenda MacDonald said it was a great day. Lots of people took the kids' craft. People loved the poster board with the scholarship recipients and their school's logo. The tent was great-we just need to work on our sign. We sold replicas and Gronk football tickets, as well as the calendars. The great weather was key; there was a lot of foot traffic. We broke our rainy streak! BATV did an interview with Jim Gately, and he covered many of our events.

Autographed Football Update – Brenda said the poster board was great-we sold 39 raffle tickets. We will continue selling throughout the whole football season. We can bring it to Trivia for a last push and draw the winner on Super Bowl Sunday. BATV said they could put something about the raffle during their Public Service Announcements. We could post on social media on Saturdays and Sundays-football game days. We could put up posters at Market Basket, do a time at O'Connor's.

Trivia Night – Brenda sent us electronic copies of the different forms. Sharon Ferris has paper copies if anyone wants them. Brenda will work with Alyssa on times that Alyssa can shadow Brenda. Restaurants would be great ideas for gift cards. Sharon suggested food experiences and supplies, such as pampered chef, etc. Sharon has two Bruins shirts for raffles, and game tickets, to make them silent auction items. She gave Brenda the shirts as well as a picture of the Patriots "snow game." As far as Round Sponsors, we have LaFauci and Rooter-man. Reach out to Brenda ASAP if you have someone interested in the other Round Sponsorship. We will add that it is a 21+ event to the forms.

Replicas – Brenda MacDonald did an inventory of what we have for replicas: 4 Bennett Library; 5 old High School; 4 new Parker; 8 Tech; 5 Bandstand. Recommended anything under 10 we should get more of. If they redo a school (Tech?) there will be a demand for them. Sharon asked Brenda to get prices, and we can reevaluate at the next meeting. People have requested new styles: Talbot School and the falls at North Billerica. Brenda said the market for replicas is finicky. We have sold 9 this year. Every new building there is a set up charge with the manufacturer. Mike Rosa suggested taking names and phone numbers of people who want them; need a certain number in order to order them. Darlene Torre would like to buy 30 of the Vining that we have sold out of. Will have to look into pricing for producing more.

Library Basket – Jim Gately said his daughter does crocheting and knitting of food items and has offered to donate some things for our basket. Dana Reardon and Denise Salemme said we will take donations for the basket next month. Dana told us they are going with a "Quesadilla" theme. They will email a list of what they have so far. Tracy DeJoy said she would get a gift card to a liquor store and some margarita mix. Brenda said add a gift card for a team at Trivia.

Misc. other business – Sharon Ferris brought up the Blood Drive, November 19. Tracy DeJoy will email the person in charge for verification and information. We have found out that the BMHS Awards ceremony will be held on May 27-the same day as Shawsheen Tech. The Tech will let us present first, as they did last year. Robert Keough, a longtime School Committee member, passed away. Sharon said we will be writing a scholarship for him.

Motion made to adjourn the meeting by Mike Rosa, seconded by Larry Norman; all in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:22PM.

The next regular meeting will be held on November 5, 2025, at 7:00PM in the Evelyn Haines Room in the Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Membrino, Secretary