

**Minutes of a Meeting**  
**Somerville I.S.D. Education Foundation (SEF)**  
**Wednesday, February 21, 2024**

A regular meeting of the Somerville Education Foundation was called to order at the Somerville I.S.D. administrative offices at 6:35pm by President Ben Flencher.

**Present:** Ben Flencher (President), Melissa Tharp, Mark S. Browning (Secretary), Linda Pinkerton, Niki Neuendorff (Treasurer)

**Absent:** Quienshia Griffin Theresa Perez, and Joni Urbanosky (Vice President)

**Guests attending:** Eric Holton, Justin Lindsey, Dr. Amy Wallace, Katy Webb and two unannounced guest from the community

Upon motion duly made by, Melissa Tharp seconded by Linda Pinkerton, the minutes of the January 24, 2024 meeting were unanimously approved as corrected.

Financial report: Niki Neuendorff reported that the Foundation's checking account balance is \$22,681.07 as of today. There are no outstanding items. We are receiving regular payroll deduction contributions and a \$75.00/mo donor contribution. There will be follow up with Joni Urbanosky getting a QR code to Ninfa Stevens at Somerville I.S.D. to include on our website page to facilitate donations from supporters. On motion by Mark Browning, seconded by Linda Pinkerton, the financial report was unanimously approved.

Further discussion was held from the December 2023 approval for grants to teachers pursuing a Master's degree and paraprofessionals in the district to further their education credentials. We will add support staff as eligible to receive a grant to improve credentials benefitting the district. A Google form online application for both staff and students was reviewed and various amendments suggested were added. Teacher/staff applications will be due March 27, 2024 and student scholarship applications will be due on March 31, 2024. May 23, 2024 will be the teacher scholarship awards date and the annual senior banquet on May 16, 2024 will be the student scholarship award date.

Theresa Perez has tendered her resignation from the Board for personal family reasons. Upon motion by Mark Browning, seconded by Linda Pinkerton and passed unanimously, her resignation was accepted, with regret, and the hope she will be able to rejoin the Board at a future date.

Ben Flencher distributed written notes from his meeting with Brenham I.S.D. Education Foundation and Dr. Kyle Mertens with ideas we might want to consider incorporating into our future fundraising. Discussion was held on these ideas.

The Board discussed the opening of a brokerage account with Kory Ashcraft at Edward Jones in Bryan, TX to facilitate receipt and sale of stock gifts to SEF. Discussion was held on this type of gifting method and that we had had interest from a donor in making this type of gift. On a motion by Linda Pinkerton and seconded by Melissa Tharp, Treasurer Niki Neuendorff was authorized to open such an account and be the signatory.

Sonic in Somerville is interested in a profit share in the spring 2024 but date has not been set.

The next meeting of the SEF is set for the fourth Wednesday, March 27, 2024, at 6:30pm in the SISD administration offices.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mark S. Browning  
Secretary