

***Williams-Rockwell Educational Gift
Foundation Committee
Minutes***

**Mayor's Conference Room 128, 95 Pleasant Street
Gardner, Massachusetts**

January 30, 2018
3:00pm

Committee Members present:

Michael Nicholson, Executive Aide and Designee of Mark Hawke
Charline M. Daigle, City Treasurer
Theresa Thompson, Trustee
Dr. James Faust, Trustee
Atty. Robert Rice, Trustee
James R. Abare, Representative of the Gardner School Committee
Mark Pellegrino, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Paul Damour, Trustee

Members absent:

Mark P. Hawke, Mayor
Atty. James M. Walsh, City Council Designee

Also present:

Rachel Stephano-Secretary

- I. **Call to order:** Chairman Michael Nicholson, called the Meeting to order at approximately 3:00 p.m.
- II. **Approval of Minutes:** meeting of December 19, 2017.
Theresa Thompson/Paul Damour - All in favor.
- III. **Old Business –**

Chairman Nicholson indicated that the purpose of the meeting was to follow up on three outstanding grant requests that the Committee had asked for additional information. Committee members noted that one of the three applications, submitted by Lynn Berthiaume, for a Dissecting Kit was withdrawn as the teacher had already purchased it. The next application reviewed was Ripp Charters's request for snowshoes and lawn

games. While the consensus of the Committee as a whole was that supporting programs promoting physical activity is beneficial, the cost of the snowshoes was prohibitive. Members voted to award \$3,000. Theresa Thompson/James Abare – All in favor.

Pamela LeBlanc's request for science lab equipment was reviewed next. The Committee was informed that the Vernier LabQuest 2 would give students a unique opportunity to measure respiration, blood pressure, heart rhythm with electrocardiography, muscle strength, and the amount of oxygen and carbon dioxide a plant releases into the environment using several types of sensors and monitors. Member James Faust said, "This is the type of program that would put Gardner schools ahead of the rest." Members voted to award the full request of \$12,429.30. James Faust/Robert Rice – All in favor.

There were thirty-four Applications reviewed with \$45,814 (63%) being awarded to General and \$26,369 (37%) awarded to the Arts for a total distribution of \$72,183. The Mayor's Office would be in charge of notifying the recipients as well as notifying those that were denied. The Treasurer's Office would be in charge of requesting a distribution from Raymond James and paying out the Awards through the Purchasing Dept.

Motion to accept the percentages to the categories of General and Arts as dictated.
Robert Rice/Theresa Thompson – All in favor.

- IV. New Business** – The Committee discussed awarding scholarships this year due to the extraordinary growth of the fund. Discussion ensued regarding the total amount to be awarded, the number of scholarships, the application method, and whether it would be renewable. Members voted to award eight scholarships of \$500 each. Gardner High School teachers will determine the winners utilizing the General Application, which will be split among students seeking to study the Arts and students seeking to study other subjects. The awards are to be made payable to the students directly. Future scholarship awards will be dependent on how well the fund performs. **Motion to convert \$4,000 this year for not more than eight non-renewable scholarships.** Robert Rice/Theresa Thompson – All in favor.

Adjournment: The meeting closed at approximately 4:00 p.m.

Motion to Adjourn Theresa Thompson/Charline Daigle – All in favor.

- V. No new meeting time was scheduled.**