

Elyria Schools Endowment Board Minutes

March 15, 2022

The Endowment Board met in person in the Pioneer Room at EHS. President Joel called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm. Members present were Jayna Anderson, Donna Backs, Jim Backs, Ashley Csata, Ernestine Lopes, Chad Schneider, Joel Sinegar, Nancy Smith, Ed Stewart, Patti Stiteler, Jim Vandemark, Deb Warden and Craig Willing. Absent were Leann Lattea and Mandy Lesner.

1. **New Business**. Jim Backs introduced Laura Malone, Development Officer of the Community Foundation of Lorain County. Laura provided an update on the Community Foundation and reviewed fundraising ideas that other local Endowment Boards are undertaking. A discussion was held about the 2022 Connect to a Cause event being held in September. This is similar to a crowd-funding event where people donate online to fund particular projects. Registration is required by March 31. Laura also distributed a packet of information relating to various gift giving options, proposed updated Elyria flyer, and other detail relating to growing endowment funds. A length discussion ensued about how our fundraising efforts have been stagnant the past couple years, mainly due to the pandemic, and ideas on how to better reach teachers, parents and the community at large about contributing to the Elyria Schools Endowment Fund. We should consider having a presence on social media and online (Facebook, school website, etc.), outreach to donors on a consistent basis, contact retired teachers, market grant allocations by creating a promotional video including testimonials from teachers who have received grants, and market the Endowment Fund to current teachers/administrators/staff. Patti will work with Amy Higgins to connect the Endowment Board with the ECS website.

After Laura left the meeting, further conversation was held about the 2022 Connect to a Cause. It was recommended that the Elyria Schools Endowment Board participate in the 2022 Connect to a Cause. A motion was made by Craig, seconded by Nancy, that Jim Backs register the organization prior to the March 31 deadline.

Discussion was also held regarding aligning with the Elyria Schools & Friends Alumni Association. If anyone is interested in attending their next meeting, it will be held on Monday, April 28, 6:30 pm in the EHS dining hall.

2. **Golf Outing** – Discussion was held on whether to hold a golf outing this year. It is too late to schedule for June, but perhaps a fall outing would work. No final decision was made and this will be discussed at the April meeting.

Next meeting will be at 5:30 pm on Tuesday, April 12, 2022 in the Pioneer Room at EHS. Enter the building at the Main Office Doors.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Deb Warden