



Euclid Public Schools Alumni Association

2021 Annual Meeting

January 16, 2021

Facilitated by Michelle Connavino, Executive Director and
Jess Walters, Vice President & Treasurer on Zoom.

A quorum of 40 members were in attendance virtually.

All meeting materials are available at euclidalumni.org/annualmeeting

WELCOME (Slides 1-2; Meeting Recording 00:00:00-00:02:52)

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am by Beth Radisek, Board President, who welcomed all who were joining the webinar online, by phone, and on Facebook. She explained she had another Zoom meeting and wouldn't be able to stay with us, so she introduced Michelle Connavino, who would chair the remainder of the meeting with Jess Walters.

OVERVIEW AND INTRODUCTIONS (Slides 3-9; Meeting Recording 00:02:52-00:13:37)

Michelle did a quick Zoom overview, explaining the chat box and its function, adding the [agenda](#) for all to see. While she introduced the leadership team, she shared a school poll and asked everyone to fill it out to get a sense of who was joining us. She then introduced the current Trustees Beth Radisek, Jess Walters, Greg Fondran, Kenny Godnavec, Patrick Delaney and Patrick McLaughlin; Committee Members Brittany Baker and Anna Jeffries; Rosemarie Wright, today's Note taker; Chris Papouras, Superintendent, Darryle Torbert, Director of Public Relations, and Tony Basalla, President of the Euclid Schools Foundation.

PROGRESS REPORT (Slides 10-19; Meeting Recording 00:13:37-00:29:30)

Michelle gave a Membership Update showing 1,024 Lifetime, 563 Memorial, and 26 Annual memberships. In 2020 there were 50 new memberships, many coming from two weekend promotions offering a discount. There were 6 transfers from Lifetime to Memorial. In the first two weeks of January 2021, there were 9 new memberships.

STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW AND UPDATE

Recent activity was the initiation of new member packets.

NEAR TERM GOALS

Michelle stressed the importance of identifying and implementing a new database software. She is also working to plan virtual events and shared a poll asking for feedback on the types of virtual events members would be interested in. Euclid History forums and Student Performances received the most votes.

QUESTIONS

There was a question as to how many Euclid has graduated. Greg Fondran answered more than 40,000.

Another question: what's being done regarding memorabilia currently in the school? Pictures, plaques and trophies from the old high school are being stored for display in the new offices.

FINANCE UPDATE (Slides 20-22; Meeting Recording 00:29:30-00:37:27)

The association holds investments of more than \$77,000 and \$13,500 in cash. Recent purchases were storage and archive supplies to showcase and preserve memorabilia. For 2021, Trustees will review and update their investment strategy, determine how best to display memorabilia, review staffing needs, and how best to grow membership, which is the primary fund-raiser.

QUESTIONS

There was a question about memorabilia from other schools besides Euclid High School. EPSAA maintains a collection of memorabilia from all schools and has an especially significant collection from Shore and Central high schools.

COMMITTEE UPDATES (Slides 23-29; Meeting Recording 00:37:27-01:00:30)

Michelle gave an overview of committees begun in 2020 (Membership & Alumni Relations, Communication, Memorabilia) and those we wish to add in 2021 (Events & Fundraising, Community & School Relations, Ad Hoc Reunion). She shared [this link](#) for people interested in getting more involved.

MEMBERSHIP & ALUMNI RELATIONS

She introduced Brittany Baker '07, representing the Membership & Alumni Relations Committee. Brittany stated that this committee decided that the 2021 goal was to increase membership by 100, or 25 per quarter. Membership dues were suggested to change to \$20 for Annual, \$150 for Lifetime, \$350 for Family Lifetime, and \$100 for Legacy and adding various perks to each. The group also suggests giving graduates a free 10-year membership to give them an idea of what the Association is about and to encourage transferring to Lifetime memberships after 10 years. An Ad Hoc Committee could be set up for Reunion best practices and supportive services like budget setting, planning timelines, and a contact database. There was a question regarding reunion information. Michelle responded we will be improving services to Reunion Representatives and providing mailing lists. This committee will be meeting again on March 6 at 10:00 am for a Zoom meeting and anyone wishing to join can contact her by email.

COMMUNICATION

Michelle introduced Anna Sudar Jeffries '05, representing the Communication Committee. Some of the items discussed at the meeting were to engage more people through Zoom, the importance of communicating in different ways with new grads and older members, using social media channels, throwback pictures, promoting attendance at school district programs, touring the new building to engage the whole community. Their main goal is to create two publications by May 2021, one for new grads to welcome them to the Alumni Association at graduation and one for the office visitors to share with family and friends in the community. There were no questions.

MEMORABILIA

Michelle then introduced Greg Fondran '83, representing the Memorabilia Committee. Memorabilia collection was started in 1991. The collection currently has yearbooks from when they first started in 1920, Surveys, newspaper articles and videos, uniforms, class photos pre 1950 from Shore and Central High Schools, and trophies. These are housed at the High School and at Shore Cultural Centre, thanks to Pat Delaney '83. There are some items also at the

Euclid Historical Society, which is closed due to the pandemic. Currently we are waiting to move into new offices in the High School in the athletic wing. Our goal is to catalog everything and preserve the items, working with people knowledgeable in archiving, to display reunion photos and class activities. Ron Kates is a photographer who is helping to catalog photos. Greg mentioned he has three polo shirts for sale for \$15 each if anyone is interested. There was a question regarding online payment for membership. Michelle replied they will consider.

QUESTIONS

A suggestion was made that memorabilia can be requested and gathered at reunions, as well as class reunion photos taken and donated to the Association office.

There was a question about a listing of different class Facebook pages. Michelle asked that if you know of them, let her know by email.

EUCLID SCHOOLS UPDATE (Slide 30-35; Meeting Recording 01:00:30-01:19:04)

Michelle then introduced Chris Papouras '86, Superintendent. He began by saying he is a product of the Euclid School system, K-12, Glenbrook, Central, Euclid High, then Miami University and Cleveland State. He's very proud of the progress of all the schools, the Early Learning Village, the elementary schools which won two awards in achievement, grades 6-8 and 9-12 which will be housed in the new building.

In a study by Cleveland State University, the elementary schools ranked 6th and the high school 22nd in overall progress. We have the only in-school career tech welding program, which has been recognized state-wide. Our system has also been recognized for social and emotional support for kids. Next year a new strategic plan will be reviewed as to the mission of the district. He invited all to join in that process.

Chris introduced Darryle Torbert, the Director of Public Relations. He shared he's a graduate of Collinwood. He started part time in July 2020 and became the Director in November. He has a team of four leading community relations and student registration. February 1 is the target date for students to be back in school if they desire, but the virtual school will also be offered. An air purification system has been put into the schools to help keep everyone healthy, provided by the Euclid Schools Foundation.

The Euclid Schools are growing partnerships with non-profits and have supplied 300 wi-fi access hot spots to those who qualify. 90% of students qualify for financial aid. They are partnering with the Euclid Public Library and the Cleveland Browns Foundation, encouraging student attendance. Articles about the Euclid Schools and their progress are in the Observer, Euclid's only newspaper, now being mailed to every household in the city.

EUCLID SCHOOLS FOUNDATION UPDATE (Slide 36; Meeting Recording 01:19:04-01:26:52)

Michelle introduced Tony Basalla, President of the Euclid Schools Foundation, a 501c3. He is a 2001 graduate of Euclid and many years ago Doc Daugherty introduced him to Lowell Davis, who influenced him in his career path. The Foundation was started in 1991 to provide scholarships to students and grants to teachers. He calls it 'an organization of generosity.' A substantial donation was made to the Foundation by the estate of Tom Baker, a long-time friend. It is continuing to partner with families and businesses and has five new donor sources.

The Foundation recently provided a grant to the High School drum line and provided the ionization of the schools.

TRUSTEE ELECTIONS (Slides 37-40; Meeting Recording 01:26:52-01:48:27)

Michelle reviewed the election process and made the candidate introductions:

NOTE: Full bios of incoming Trustees can be viewed [here](#).

Greg Fondran '83
Dr. Dametraus Jagers '04
Anna Sudar Jeffries '05
David Jeffries '07
Beth Steele Radisek '83
James Tusoch '04
Jessica Oslund Walters '04

Michelle moved to elect the presented slate of trustees. Jess seconded.
Voting took place and Michelle announced the results. All were elected with no objections.

She thanked the three outgoing trustees, Ken Godnavec, Patrick Delaney, and Patrick McLaughlin.

ADJOURNMENT (Slides 41-43; Meeting Recording 01:48:27-01:54:12)

Michelle thanked everyone for attending. She dropped the euclidalumni.org/annualmeeting link into the chat box and announced the Virtual Office Hours starting next Saturday, January 23, February 20, and March 20 from 10am – 12pm. The Virtual EHS walk-thru will be February 20 at 12pm – 1pm. Attendees were asked to stay if there were any further questions. There were none.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:58am.

Respectfully submitted,
Rosemarie Schulz Wright '60

Reviewed and amended,
Michelle Connavino '04