

The Emereau Foundation
d/b/a Emereau: Bladen
Meeting of the Board of Directors
Tuesday, July 12, 2022
995 Airport Road, Elizabethtown, North Carolina 28337

Minutes

The Emereau Bladen Board of Directors met in regular session on Tuesday, July 12, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. Members present were: Ashley Dowless, Chair, Dennis Troy, Maurice Williams, Jennifer Whittington, Phil Byrd, and Board Attorney Whitley Ward. Sandra Lewis, Vice Chair, attended virtually.

Members absent: Dan Allen

Also, participating virtually was Christy Nickolauson with Prestige School Solutions.

Administrative staff present were Elizabeth Cole, Executive Director, and Polly Hancock, Dean of Academics.

Board Chair, Ashley Dowless called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Everyone joined in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mrs. Dowless.

Mrs. Cole read the Mission Statement.

Mrs. Dowless read the Conflict of Interest Statement. There were no conflicts of interest noted.

Mrs. Dowless presented the minutes from the June 21, 2022 meeting for approval. Mr. Troy motioned to approve the minutes presented. Mr. Byrd seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mrs. Dowless opened the floor for public comments, but there were none.

Mrs. Christy Nickolauson presented the financial report for the month of June. Mrs. Nickolauson reviewed the balance sheet and the Profit and Loss statement for the month. We are right on target with our budget. She reported that we had used all the state and federal money that would not roll over after June 30th. She explained how our local funds would rollover and that we were in a good position of excess cash at the end of the year. Mr. Byrd questioned the reserve account amount, based on a requirement for percentage of the USDA loan payment. The reserve account is correct at this time. Mr. Byrd made a motion to approve the financial report as presented. Mr. Williams seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Mrs. Dowless asked for a motion to ratify the decision to accept the Insurance bid from The Insurance People. Mr. Troy made a motion to approve and ratify the insurance decision. It was seconded by Mr. Byrd and approved unanimously.

Mrs. Dowless asked for a motion to ratify the decision for the Year End Audit Contract with Petway Mills and Pearson. Mr. Williams motioned to ratify the Year End Audi Contract as previously discussed. Mr. Byrd seconded the motion and the Board approved it unanimously.

Mrs. Dowless called for a motion to ratify the renewal with Prestige School Solutions (Financials). Mr. Byrd made a motion to ratify the renewal with Prestige, Ms. Whittington seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Mrs. Ward presented the Board with the deed from Bladen County Services for the remaining 4.75 acres of property. In bold type, there is a mutual release for both sides for the agreement, and Emereau now owns the property. Mr. Troy made a motion to accept and approve the deed for the property, Mr. Byrd seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

Mrs. Cole shared email correspondence for a maintenance contract on our HVAC system. We have had some repairs that could have possibly been prevented if periodic maintenance would have happened. This contract would take care of catching problems earlier in the future. Mr. Williams motioned to approve the Loyalty Agreement HVAC Preventative Maintenance Program. Mr. Byrd seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

In the Executive Director's report, Mrs. Cole shared with the Board about the success Emereau had at the National Beta Convention. The Jr. Division had a 4th place finish with Convention Invention. The Elementary Division had a 9th place finish in Drawing. We also had 8 Premier Performers that either danced or sang on stage at the National Convention. She also shared current vacancies in 5th grade, 6th grade Science, and 7th grade ELA. We have made some in house moves with 8th grade Science, 8th grade ELA, and 7th grade Science. We are holding Administrative Associate 1st round interviews tomorrow. Our current enrollment is 491 with 113 enrollment packets turned in, ready to enter in the PowerSchool system. We have a waiting list in 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th grades. Our Open House will be Thursday, July 28 from 2:00-7:00 pm. Staff returns July 21st. We will hold our Welcome meeting on Monday, July 25th at The Lake Church at White Lake. August 1st is the day students return to the building. Mrs. Cole informed the Board that a 4% raise had been approved by the State. She is investigating how that will look for Charter Schools. Mr. Troy asked about the 2% raises for all staff. Mrs. Cole recalled how the Board discussed at the February planning retreat that teachers not making a good faith effort to become licensed would not get the raise until they began the licensure process. Ms. Whittington shared that UNCP is offering a program for teacher assistants and teacher prep for the tests. Mr. Troy asked what our plans are to improve math scores and learning in our school. Mrs. Cole shared plans such as intentional interventions, and intentional planning among same grade levels and vertically. There was also discussion about Classroom Management and how that impacts learning. We have already given some teachers Classroom Management books to read over the summer in preparation for this school year. There was no business to be discussed in Closed Session.

The August meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 9, 2022, at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Troy motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 p.m. Mr. Williams seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Polly Hancock,
Dean of Academic Initiatives