

The Emereau Foundation
d/b/a Emereau: Bladen
Meeting of the Board of Directors
Tuesday, September 12, 2023
995 Airport Road, Elizabethtown, North Carolina 28337

Minutes

The Emereau Bladen Board of Directors met in regular session on Tuesday, September 12, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. Members present: Dan Allen, Chair, Sandra Lewis, Vice Chair, Phil Byrd, Treasurer, Jennifer Whittington, and Ashley Dowless

Members absent were Dennis Troy and Maurice Williams

Administrative staff present were Polly Hancock, Interim Head of School, Terri Raynor, Dean of Operations, and Whitley Ward, Board Attorney

Other staff present were Amanda Bunch, Amanda Garner, Theresia Wright

The Chair, Dan Allen called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Everyone joined in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Allen.

Mr. Allen asked if there were any Conflict of Interests for tonight's meeting, there were no conflicts of interest noted.

Mr. Allen presented the minutes from the August 8, 2023 meeting for approval. Mr. Byrd motioned to approve the minutes presented. Mrs. Dowless seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Allen opened the floor for public comments. No comments were given.

Mrs. Christy Nickolauson presented the financial report for the month of August. Mrs. Nickolauson expressed again that it was typical to see losses in the budget at the beginning of the year due to local funds not in yet. She stated that we are at 84% and that finances looked good. She reported that there were no findings to report. There was no other discussion. Mr. Byrd motioned to approve the financial report for August. Mrs. Lewis seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously. .

Mrs. Garner, SIT Chair, gave a report to the Board. She told the board that we are working on our community presence by attending the upcoming Peanut Festival Parade and Bladenboro Beast Feast. And on the school level we are working on Red Ribbon Week, Pacing Guides, Interventions, MTSS folders, Professional Development needs and school needs.

Mr. Allen showed the board members the initial drawings of the proposed multipurpose building. The members would like to see added to the plan: a bandroom, an auxiliary gym and classrooms. They asked the Facilities team to talk numbers, to start a plan for a capital campaign, and to talk with Four County Electric about a loan.

In the Interim Head of School's report Mrs. Hancock reported our ADM for the first 20 days was 575 and enrollment is now 582. She presented to the board a fundraising idea from Aleigh King that would need board approval since it is being marked specifically for the building fund. She asked the Board Attorney about the Paid Maternity Leave, are Charter Schools being included

in this or can we opt out? Should we opt out? What are our options? Mrs. Ward said she would review and get back to us at the next meeting. Mrs. Hancock shared the School Report Card. Emereau was a Grade D/54, one point from a C. We increased from 49 last year. However, we did meet Growth. She let the board know that they have challenged the middle school to take pride in themselves and to do better. Mrs. Hancock reminded the board of upcoming events: Peanut Festival Parade, September 16th, Grape Festival, October 14th, and Bladenboro Beast Feast, October 27th & 28th. We are celebrating staff with "Shout outs" on social media, team lunches and birthday celebrations. Teachers are working on boosting attendance with attendance competitions by grade levels. Mrs. Hancock asked for clarification on whether the board wanted to continue with amending the Bylaws and Charter by changing Executive Director to Head of School, they agreed to go forward with the changes. Two dates for the January Training with Dave Faunce were chosen, January 18th as first choice, January 17th as second choice. Mrs. Hancock will let the board know which date he chooses.

Mrs. Hancock presented the SEL Plan for approval. Mrs. Lewis motioned to approve the plan as presented. Mrs. Whittington seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Byrd motioned to go into closed session at 6:10 p.m. Mrs. Lewis seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mrs. Lewis motioned to come out of closed session at 6:37 p.m. Mr. Bryd seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Under Personnel Recommendations, Mrs. Dowless motioned to uphold the recommendation of the administration. Mr. Byrd seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 10, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

Mrs. Lewis motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:38 p.m. Mrs. Whittington seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Terri Raynor
Dean of Operations