

The Emereau Foundation
d/b/a Emereau: Bladen
Meeting of the Board of Directors
Tuesday, February 8, 2022
995 Airport Road, Elizabethtown, North Carolina 28337

Minutes

The Emereau Bladen Board of Directors met in regular session on Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. Members present were: Ashley Dowless, Chair; Phil Byrd, Treasurer, Dan Allen, and Board Attorney, Whitley Ward. Jennifer Whittington attended virtually.

Absent members were: Sandra Lewis, Vice Chair, Maurice Williams, and Dennis Troy.

Also, participating virtually was Jennifer Laney with Prestige School Solutions.

Administrative staff present were Elizabeth Cole, Executive Director, and Polly Hancock, Dean of Academics. Staff present were Amanda Garner, 3rd grade teacher, and Jennifer Russ, nurse.

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

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 January 11, 2022 meeting for approval. Mr. Byrd motioned to approve the minutes presented. Mr. Allen seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mrs. Dowless opened the floor for public comments. No comments were given.

Ms. Jennifer Laney presented the financial report for the month of January. Ms. Laney reviewed the balance sheet and the Profit and Loss statement for the month. Teacher bonuses were paid out in January, and Mrs. Cole discussed the different funds to cover Covid bonuses. Mr. Byrd motioned to approve the financial report presented. Mr. Allen seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mrs. Cole presented information about Bladen County Covid numbers and how Bladen County is above the state positivity rate. She discussed how contact tracing becomes an issue without masks, based on the NC School Tool Kit. Staff was surveyed, and of the 32 that responded, 71.9% said to remain in masks to keep students in school for face to face learning. Mrs. Cole made a recommendation to keep the mask mandate in place until we get further direction that says contact tracing will no longer be necessary. Mr. Byrd made a motion to keep the mask mandate in place until we receive different information concerning contact tracing. Jennifer Whittington seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

Mrs. Cole presented two proposed academic calendars for the 2022-2023 school year. She explained about the charter stating we have five grading periods. Most of the staff liked Draft 1 the best. Mr. Allen motioned to approve Draft 1 of the proposed calendars. Mr. Byrd seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mrs. Cole shared information about our Elementary and Junior Beta Clubs qualifying to attend the National Convention in June. The National Convention will be held in Nashville, Tennessee. She presented information about how the sponsors have met to discuss possible fundraising ideas. Our club does not want to charter a bus due to the expense. We are recommending students and parents travel in their own vehicles or car pool as they wish. We will be surveying parents concerning interest in attending and in helping with fundraisers. Mr. Allen made a motion to allow our Elementary and Junior Beta clubs to attend the convention pending survey results from parents. Mr. Byrd seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Mrs. Cole presented information to the Board concerning Phase IIIB. Our current funding source would rather wait until 2023 to begin construction to see the needs based on enrollment. This led to discussion about looking into possible funding from other sources, the need for a multipurpose building, and dates for Budget Planning and Strategic Planning. February 25th was set as the date for the Strategic Planning Retreat, and February 27th was set as the date for Budget planning. Mrs. Cole will reach out to Chad DeVane concerning feasibility and cost of a Multi-purpose building and Phase IIIB.

Bladen County Released time was discussed as to whether or not we should participate this year. Mrs. Cole made a recommendation to participate next school year due to all of the requirements of the NC School Toolkit for contact tracing. We do not send staff to Release time which would make monitoring for Covid and contact tracing very difficult. Mr. Allen made a motion to participate next year with Bladen County Released time. Mr. Byrd seconded and it was unanimously approved.

Under the Executive Director's report, Mrs. Cole reported that our Lottery closes February 25th at midnight. She shared current Lottery numbers. She gave information to the Board about having a company to provide the cost of a well for our sprinkler systems on our ball fields. She also talked with the Board about an upcoming meeting with Ms. Potter to discuss Marketing of our school. Mrs. Hancock and Mrs. Cole shared information about our iReady middle of the year data. Mrs. Cole finished her report by sharing information concerning how students are not adhering to our uniform policy. She presented her plan for communicating Uniform concerns with parents in an upcoming email.

Mr. Byrd motioned to go into closed session. Mr. Allen seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Allen motioned to come out of closed session. Mr. Byrd seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Under Personnel Recommendations, Mr. Allen motioned to uphold the recommendations of the administration. Mr. Byrd seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

The March meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 8, 2022, at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Byrd motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Mr. Allen seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Polly Hancock,
Dean of Academic Initiatives