

The Emereau Foundation
d/b/a Emereau: Bladen
Meeting of the Board of Directors
Tuesday, January 10, 2023
995 Airport Road, Elizabethtown, North Carolina 28337

Minutes

The Emereau Bladen Board of Directors met in regular session on Tuesday, January 10, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. Members present: Ashley Dowless, Chair; Phil Byrd, Treasurer, Maurice Williams, Dennis Troy, Dan Allen and Whitley Ward, Board Attorney.

Participating virtually was Sandra Lewis, Vice Chair and Christy Nickolauson with Prestige School Solutions.

Member absent was Jennifer Whittington.

Administrative staff present were Elizabeth Cole, Executive Director, Polly Hancock, Dean of Academics and Terri Raynor, Administrative Associate. Other staff present were Amanda Garner, Cassie Hancock and Rodney Morrison.

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 November 1, 2022 meeting for approval. Mr. Allen motioned to approve the minutes presented. Mr. Troy seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

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

Mrs. Christy Nickolauson presented the financial report for the months of October, November and December. She reported that there is 50% remaining and that County Revenue payments were still lagging behind which was normal. She reported that our Security line item for SRO is over but that funds will be moved to cover. Mr. Byrd motioned to approve the financial report for December. Mr. Troy seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously. Mr. Byrd made a motion to approve the financial report for October and November. Mr. Williams seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Mrs. Cole reported that the audit has still not been received from Petway Mills and Pearson. We have asked multiple times for a completion date with no answer. There was a letter sent to DPI asking for an extension of the deadline. DPI stated that we would not be penalized. We were advised not to start over with another company at this time. Mr. Faunce was considering other audit firms for the future and recommended that we use someone that specializes in charter schools. Christy reported that Prestige provided all needed documentation to Petway on August 14th. Mrs. Ward stated that the Letter of Legal Representation had not been received at this point in time. Mrs. Cole stated that we are keeping documentation on all matters dealing with the audit. The vote was tabled until the Audit could be presented.

Mrs. Cole asked for approval on enrolling students for open slots we have so we can keep our local allotments. She informed the board that we will fill them as long as we do not go over the DPI cap for our school. Mr. Troy made the motion to allow open slots to be filled. Mr. Byrd seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

In the Executive Director's report Mrs. Cole recognized the Board of Directors, thanking them for their time. Cards and gifts were presented from the school, parents and students. Mrs. Cole informed the board about our lottery numbers. We currently are at 69 which is down from last year. She informed them that we have already started working on ways to improve our numbers. We started by dispersing Emereau Brochures throughout the community, are looking at what we can do during "School of Choice" week, we are planning an Open House in February, and the School Improvement Team will be meeting to discuss what else can be done to get our numbers up. Board members shared that adding Parent/Student testimonies, our Winter/Spring Breaks, and some facts about how Charter Schools run would help get parents interested. Mrs. Cole also reported on meeting with a group which included the County Manager, The Superintendent of Bladen County Schools, Bladen Co. Librarian, ECA, BCC, and the County Economic Development. She talked with them about partnering with the county to advertise on their website. Mrs. Cole stated that she plans to go to a commissioners meeting to talk with them as well about how charter schools operate financially. Mrs. Cole updated the board on the progress of the new sign. She presented the designs and explained she is waiting on firm prices before presenting to the donor. There was discussion on letting the sign be a landmark to start with, then we could add digital later when prices came down if we still wanted to. Mrs. Cole informed the board that we would have drafts of the 2023-2024 school calendars at our next meeting for approval.

Mr. Byrd motioned to go into closed session at 6:38 p.m. Mr. Troy seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Byrd motioned to come out of closed session at 7:04 p.m. Mr. Troy seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

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

Under Motion on Leave Committee, Mr. Williams motioned to uphold the recommendations for the committee members. Mr. Troy seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

The February meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 21, 2022, at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Williams motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 p.m. Mr. Byrd seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Terri Raynor
Administrative Associate