

The Emereau Foundation  
d/b/a Emereau: Bladen  
Meeting of the Board of Directors  
Tuesday, October 12, 2021  
995 Airport Road, Elizabethtown, North Carolina 28337

Minutes

The Emereau Bladen Board of Directors met in regular session on Tuesday, October 12, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. Members present: Ashley Dowless, Chair; Sandra Lewis, Vice Chair; Phil Byrd, Treasurer, Maurice Williams, Dennis Troy, Dan Allen and Board Attorney, Whitley Ward.

Member absent was Jennifer Whittington.

Participating virtually was Christy Nicholauson and Andrew Cilone with Prestige School Solutions.

Administrative staff present were Elizabeth Cole, Executive Director, Polly Hancock, Dean of Academics; Amanda Garner, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher; Pia Jessup, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher and Wanda Everette, Administrative Associate.

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

Mrs. Dowless presented the minutes from the September 14, 2021 meeting for approval. Mr. Allen motioned to approve the minutes presented. Mr. Byrd seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

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

Mrs. Christy Nicholauson presented the financial report for the month of September. Mr. Byrd motioned to approve the financial report presented. Mr. Troy seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mrs. Cole presented a Resolution for Debt Service Reserve Funds required for the USDA Loan. This is a reserve account that will be setup as a separate fund for the USDA Loan for an annual loan payment due in June of each year. In addition, within 10 years there has to be 10% of the total loan amount in reserve. Upon a motion by Mr. Troy, seconded by Mr. Byrd, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mrs. Cole gave an update on the Beta Club and asked if Beta students would be able to travel to the Beta Club Convention in February. A Hybrid option is available because of COVID to participate virtually. Mrs. Lewis asked if any communication had been made with parents to determine interest in attending. Mrs. Hancock informed the Board that in the past students had been transported to the conference by parents and chose which hotel to stay in. Mr. Byrd expressed concern with this request and the board's action taken on field trips on how it differs.

After much discussion, Mrs. Lewis motioned to table the Beta Club Convention until parents are surveyed. Mr. Byrd seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Under Executive Director's report Mrs. Cole informed the board that WECT was reporting incorrect numbers. Numbers reported to WECT were cumulative numbers that the news station failed to report. The playground will be installed next week and will take approximately two weeks. Student enrollment is 576. Mrs. Cole informed the board that a Safe Return Plan will be posted on website required for receiving federal funds. The Safe Return to Plan is information the board has discussed and shared with parents. A comment period is given for parents to respond. Mrs. Cole shared that she has an interview scheduled for a counselor on November 5, 2021.

Mrs. Lewis motioned to go into closed session. Mr. Troy seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Byrd motioned to come out of closed session. Mr. Williams 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.

The Board then recognized Mrs. Lauren Campbell for saving a student's life during class by performing the Heimlich. The student was choking on a cap from a water bottle.

The November meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 9, 2021, at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Troy motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m. Mr. Williams seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Wanda Everette,  
Administrative Associate