

The Emereau Foundation
d/b/a Emereau: Bladen
995 Airport Road, Elizabethtown, North Carolina 28337
Meeting of the Board of Directors
Tuesday, September 15, 2020
5:00 p.m.

Minutes

The Emereau: Bladen Board of Directors met in regular session on Tuesday, September 15, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

- Board Members Present: Eddie Madden, Chair; Lisa DeVane, Vice Chair; Phil Byrd, Treasurer; Maurice Williams, Secretary; and Board Attorney, David Wall.
- Board Member Absent: Ashley Dowless, Sandra Lewis, Dean Hilton
- Administrative Staff Present: Elizabeth Cole, Executive Director; Polly Hancock, Dean of Academic Initiatives; Alley Rich, PE Teacher and Wanda Everette, Administrative Associate
- Pledge of Allegiance: Mrs. Lisa DeVane led everyone in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Mission Statement: Mr. Maurice Williams read the Mission Statement.
- Conflict of Interest Statement: Mr. Madden read the Conflict of Interest Statement. There were no Conflicts of Interest noted.
- Approval of Minutes: Mr. Madden presented the minutes from the August 18, 2020 meeting. Mrs. DeVane motioned to approve the minutes. Mr. Williams seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.
- Public Comment: The floor was opened for public comments. No comments were made.
- Financial Report: Mr. Byrd presented the financial report for August and recommended approval. Mr. Hilton seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.
- USDA Financing Update: Mr. Madden updated the Board on the USDA Application. Mr. Madden explained the two ways to apply for a loan with USDA, a Direct Loan and a Guarantee Loan. The Direct Loan would be the better route saving in interest. The complication is that USDA will not finance construction and through the direct loan program, other financing will have to be made for construction or declare up front to go thru a construction process, which would lengthen the process.
- Approval of Feasibility Study: Mr. Madden presented an agreement from Thomas, Judy & Tucker, PA, to move forward with a Feasibility Study. In applying for a USDA loan a Feasibility Study is required. Mrs. DeVane motioned to approve

the Feasibility Study Agreement. Mr. Byrd seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Executive Directors Report: Mrs. Cole welcomed PE Teacher, Alley Rich, and informed the Board that Mrs. Rich is working on her Masters completing an internship. Mrs. Cole then gave a COVID update. 4th and 7th grade staff and students were sent home for virtual learning due to exposure. Mrs. Cole welcomed Terri Duncan from the Bladen County Health Department to the meeting. Mrs. Duncan gave an update on COVID 19 in Bladen County. Mrs. Duncan applauded the administration and staff for following guidelines in keeping everyone safe. Mrs. Cole shared pictures of classrooms on how teachers are teaching virtual. The board entered in to discussion about building a multi-purpose/gymnasium. Mr. Madden suggested moving forward with the USDA in purchasing the present property, continue with the Feasibility Study and have Bladen Community Services fund Phase 3B. This will employ moving forward with a multi-purpose/gymnasium. Mrs. Cole asked if a building committee needed to be formed to help with the building plan. Mrs. Cole, Lisa DeVane, Ashley Dowless, and Phil Byrd will make up the building committee.

Closed Session: Mr. Williams motioned to go into closed session at 6:20 p.m. Mrs. DeVane seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Motion to Return to Open Session: Mr. Williams motioned to come out of closed session at 6:35 p.m. Mr. Byrd seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Personnel Recommendations: Mrs. Cole presented personnel recommendations. Mrs. DeVane motioned to approve the personnel recommendations presented. Mr. Williams seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

October Meeting: The October meeting will be held October 20, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

Motion to Adjourn: Mr. Williams motioned to adjourn. Mr. Byrd seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Adjourned: The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maurice Williams, Secretary

Wanda Everette, Administrative Associate