

The Emereau Foundation
d/b/a Emereau: Bladen
995 Airport Road, Elizabethtown, North Carolina 28337
Board of Directors Retreat
Sunday, March 8, 2020
1:30 p.m.

Minutes

The Emereau: Bladen Board of Directors met for a Board Retreat on Sunday, March 8, 2020, at 1:30 p.m.

Board Members Present: Eddie Madden, Chair; Lisa DeVane, Vice Chair; Phil Byrd, Treasurer, Maurice Williams, Secretary; Ashley Dowless and Dean Hilton

Board Member Absent: Sandra Lewis

Administrative Staff Present: Elizabeth Cole, Executive Director; Polly Hancock, Dean of Academic Initiatives and Wanda Everette, Administrative Associate

Call to Order and Welcome: Chair Madden called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

The Mission Statement: Mrs. DeVane read the Mission Statement.

Conflict of Interest Statement: Chair Madden read the Conflict of Interest Statement. There were no Conflicts of Interest noted.

Scheduled call with Dave Faunce* A scheduled called with Dave Faunce, with Prestige School Solutions was made to discuss financial planning for the upcoming school year. Mr. Madden asked Mr. Byrd to give update on the financials for the upcoming year. Mr. Byrd gave an update on the financials stating that carryover funds from the prior year was \$57,622.00 and short-term loans were a little over \$400,000, in addition to the Bladen Community Services debt for the property. Mr. Byrd stated the school should break even or better with a possible surplus. Mr. Byrd asked Mr. Faunce to help the administration put together a budget for next school year. Mrs. Cole gave an update on enrollment. Currently there are 538 students enrolled. Projected enrollment for 20/21 is 692. Discussion centered on the cost to operate an elementary school verses the cost of operating a high school. Mr. Faunce stressed the importance of enrolling new students and not filling seats with existing students.

- Transportation: Discussion centered on the purchase of additional buses for the 20/21 school year. Mr. Madden shared now is the time to decide if buses need to be purchased for the upcoming school year.
- Curriculum Updates: Mrs. Cole shared that mini-retreats are being held with teachers. Title I funds are being used to buy Reading Horizons for K-2 teachers with training be held Monday, March 16. Meetings are being held with teachers to get an idea of needs for the 20/21 school year.
- Athletics: Mrs. Cole expressed concerns with having no playing fields for baseball, softball and soccer. Mr. Madden shared that a softball field was included in the new construction going on and should be ready by the beginning of the school year. Mr. Hilton stressed the importance of having a PTA, (Parent Teacher Association).
- 9th Grade: Mr. Madden gave an update on the balance sheet received from Acadia NorthStar that supports moving forward with ninth grade. Mr. Madden also stressed moving forward with adding ninth grade is a risk and more expensive. The public has been told and it is in the charter to add a grade each year. Discussion then centered on the effects of adding ninth grade and the effects of not adding ninth grade.
- Closed Session: A motion to go into closed session was made by Mr. Williams. Mr. Hilton seconded and the Board unanimously voted to go into closed session per NC General Statute 143.318.11(a) for the purpose of discussing potential personnel contracts: A public body may close a session for the following purpose: to establish, or to instruct the public body's staff or negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the public body in negotiating (i) the price and other material terms of a contract or a proposed contract for the acquisition of real property by purchase, option, exchange, or lease; or (ii) the amount of compensation and other materials terms or an employment contract or a proposed employment contract.
- Motion to return to Open Session: Mrs. Dowless motioned to return to open session. Mr. Hilton seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Motion to Adjourn:

Mr. Williams motioned to adjourn. Mr. Hilton seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Adjourn:

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maurice Williams, Secretary

Wanda Everette, Administrative Associate