

The Emereau Foundation
d/b/a Emereau: Bladen
Meeting of the Board of Directors
Thursday, November 9, 2017
995 Airport Road, Elizabethtown, North Carolina 28337

Minutes

The Emereau Bladen Board of Directors met in regular session on Thursday, November 9, 2017. Members present were: Mr. Eddie Madden, Chairman; Ms. Carla Jacobs, Treasurer; Mrs. Lisa DeVane and Mr. Maurice Williams.

Board Members absent: Mr. Calvin Stevens, Vice Chair, Ms. Rhonda Coyne, Secretary Ms. Kelly Caprian;

Also present were: Mrs. Kate Alice Dunaway, Executive Director; Mrs. Polly Hancock, Dean of Academic Initiatives; Mrs. Lillian Bryant, Dean of Operations; Mrs. Wanda Everette, Administrative Associate; and Mr. Gardner Altman, Bladen Community Services, Inc.

Board Chair Eddie Madden called the meeting to order at approximately 5:15 p.m.

Board Member Maurice Williams read the Conflict of Interest Statement. No conflicts of interest were noted.

Ms. Carla Jacobs asked that the approval of minutes be postponed to research the purposed Emereau: Bladen Retirement Plan contribution. Questions arose if the school would match up to 4% as stated in the minutes or 5%.

The floor was opened for comments at approximately 5:20 p.m. No one in attendance offered any comments.

Under Executive Director Report, Mrs. Kate Alice Dunaway gave the Board an update on programs and activities at Emereau since the September 14th Board Meeting.

Chair Eddie Madden presented the minutes from the September 14, 2017 meeting for approval.

Mrs. Carla Jacobs made a motion to approve the minutes with the following correction: ~~With the purposed plan, the school would match up to 4% in contributions, existing plans from previous employers could be rolled over into the new school plan, and Roth after tax contributions would be made available.~~ With the proposed plan, the school would match up to 5% in contributions; existing plans from previous employers could be rolled over into the new

school plan, and Roth after-tax contributions would be made available. Mr. Maurice Williams seconded and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Under Budget Report, Mrs. Carla Jacobs gave the Board an update on the budget stating that payroll expenses had been under budgeted. Mrs. Dunaway shared the need to increase bus drivers and informed the Board of plans to apply for a \$100,000 Transportation Grant to help with the cost of maintenance and fuel. The grant monies can only be used for maintenance and fuel cost and is due December 31, 2017. Mrs. Dunaway also explained the need to hire more Associate Teachers.

Upon a motion by Mrs. Lisa DeVane, seconded by Mr. Maurice Williams the budget report was unanimously approved.

Mrs. Carla Jacobs gave an update on the Emereau: Bladen Employee Retirement Plan. Mrs. Jacobs thanked everyone for getting all the staff enrolled. Questions arose if the plan would be retroactive from July 2017 or if it would begin on January 1, 2018. Mrs. Jacobs stated she would check on this and report to the board.

Mrs. Kate Alice Dunaway and Mrs. Lillian Bryant gave the Board an update on the buses. Mrs. Bryant shared that approximately 223 students are assigned to buses that travel up 867 miles a day. Mrs. Dunaway shared information received from Mr. Phil Loftin with Thomas Bus. Mrs. Dunaway stated the cost of a new bus is approximately \$82,000 with a lease payment of \$1200 a month for five years. At the end of five years, the remaining balance can be refinanced.

Upon a motion by Mr. Maurice Williams, seconded by Mrs. Lisa DeVane, the Board unanimously approved to authorize Mrs. Dunaway and Mrs. Jacobs to contact Thomas Bus Company for a lease purchase agreement to consider the purchase a new bus.

Mrs. Lisa DeVane gave the Board an update on Curriculum stating that the Educational Program Committee met twice in October and the next meeting is planned for January 2018.

Chair Madden welcomed Mr. Gardner Altman, with Bladen Community Services to the meeting. Mr. Gardner Altman congratulated the Board and staff and stated the process of building new facilities to accommodate enrollment for the 2018 school year has started. More information will be provided at the January meeting.

Chair Eddie Madden gave an update on the Nominating Committee stating that he had received resignation letters from the following Board members: Ms. Rhonda Coyne, Ms. Kelly Cipriani and Mr. Calvin Stevens.

Mrs. Lisa DeVane nominated the following individuals to replace the three outgoing Board members: Mr. Dean Hilton, Mrs. Sandra Lewis and Mrs. Ashley Dowless.

Upon a motion by Mrs. Carla Jacobs, seconded by Mr. Maurice Williams, the Board voted unanimously to approve Mr. Dean Hilton, Mrs. Sandra Lewis, and Mrs. Ashley Dowless to the Emereau: Bladen Board of Directors; and for Mrs. Lisa DeVane to replace Calvin Stevens as Vice Chair and Mr. Maurice Williams to replace Rhonda Coyne as Secretary.

Ms. Carla Jacobs will get awards to outgoing Board Members.

Upon a motion by Mrs. Lisa DeVane, seconded by Mr. Maurice Williams, the Board unanimously voted to go into closed session, as per the NC General Statute 143.318.11(a): 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 of 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 of an employment contract or a proposed employment contract.

The Board returned to Open Session at 7:30 pm.

Chair Madden called for a motion to Adjourn.

Respectfully submitted by:

Wanda Everette,
Administrative Associate