

The Emereau Foundation
d/b/a Emereau: Bladen
995 Airport Road, Elizabethtown, North Carolina 28337
Board of Directors Public Hearing
Thursday, January 16, 2020
6:00 p.m.

Minutes

The Emereau: Bladen Board of Directors held a Public Hearing at the Cape Fear Farmers Market, 106 Martin Luther King Drive, Elizabethtown, NC on Thursday, January 16, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Members present were Eddie Madden, Chair; Lisa DeVane, Vice Chair; Phil Byrd, Treasurer; Ashley Dowless and Dean Hilton.

Members absent were Sandra Lewis and Maurice Williams, Secretary.

The Emereau Bladen staff and faculty were present at the hearing.

Mr. Madden welcomed everyone and stated the purpose of the meeting was to receive input on the possibility of adding ninth grade and beyond. Everyone joined in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Madden ask the Emereau staff and students to recite the Mission Statement.

Mr. Madden informed everyone that the Emereau Charter states that Emereau will add a grade each year up to grade 12 with no certainty of a time period. Mr. Madden shared Phase III plans and stated that construction will begin in the next few weeks.

Mrs. Elizabeth Cole, Executive Director, shared information on the survey sent home to parents of 6-8 grade students for what they were looking for in a high school for their student's future. Mrs. Cole shared flyers listing what makes Emereau: Bladen different, graduation requirements, highlighted sports being offered, and stressed the importance of the Arts Program.

Mr. Madden shared after talking to financial consultants that adding a ninth grade for less than 28 students would indicate a financial crisis with the number of teachers that is needed to support high school. Mr. Madden expressed that the Board supports adding a ninth grade as long as the minimum numbers can be met to prevent the school from experiencing a financial loss.

Mr. Madden opened the floor for public comment. Approximately 40 community members were present and expressed their desire to add ninth grade. Mr. Madden and Mrs. Cole expressed the importance of getting students interested in attending Emereau into the Lotterease program. Lotterease will close on February 28. A special called meeting may be held to determine if a ninth grade will or will not be added.

Mrs. Dowless motioned to adjourn. Mr. Hilton seconded and the public hearing adjourned at approximately 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maurice Williams, Secretary

Wanda Everette, Administrative Associate