

The Emereau Foundation  
d/b/a Emereau: Bladen  
995 Airport Road, Elizabethtown, North Carolina 28337  
Virtual Meeting of the Board of Directors  
Tuesday, March 16, 2021  
5:00 p.m.

Minutes

The Emereau: Bladen Board of Directors met on Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

- Board Members Participating: Eddie Madden, Chair; Phil Byrd, Treasurer; Ashley Dowless, Dennis Troy and Dean Hilton.
- Board Member Participating Virtual: Sandra Lewis
- Board Member Absent: Maurice Williams
- Others Participating Virtual: David Wall, Board Attorney; David Faunce, Senior Partner Prestige School Solutions; Michael Loiacona, Managing Director, Prestige School Solutions; Christy Nicholauson, Prestige School Solutions; Jennifer Laney, Prestige School Solutions.
- Administrative Staff Present: Elizabeth Cole, Executive Director; Polly Hancock, Dean of Academic Initiatives; and Wanda Everette, Administrative Associate, Julie Sasser, Coach/Athletic Director; Brittney Hester, Exploration Teacher; Amanda Garner, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher.
- Pledge of Allegiance: Mrs. Cole led everyone in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Mission Statement: Mrs. Hancock read the Mission Statement.
- Conflict of Interest Statement: Mr. Madden read the Conflict of Interest statement. There were no conflicts of interest noted.
- Minutes: Mr. Madden presented minutes from the February 16, 2021 meeting and Board Retreat minutes from March 7, 2021 for approval. Mrs. Dowless motioned to approve the minutes presented. Mr. Byrd seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.
- Public Comments: Mrs. Amy McDuffie addressed the board supporting high school at Emereau Bladen School and the success of her son.
- Financial Report: Mrs. Nicholauson with Prestige School Solutions gave a financial update and presented the February financial report. Mr. Byrd motioned to approve the financial report presented. Mr. Troy seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

- USDA Finance Update: Mr. Madden gave an update on the USDA financing. The application is being reviewed to be sent to Washington for approval, which is about a 30-day process.
- Budget 2021/2022 SY: Mrs. Cole shared a draft budget for the 2021-2022 school year. Discussion centered on revenue and expenses by line items. Increases may include salaries, athletics, safety and security, and marketing/public relations. Mrs. Cole shared that her target goal was to have at least 700 students enrolled by the beginning of the school year. No action was taken.
- High School 2021/2022 SY: Mr. Madden updated the board on discussion that took place at the retreat concerning moving forward with 10<sup>th</sup> grade. Mrs. Cole gave an update on the projected student count for the upcoming year to include 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade. Discussion centered on effects resulting from the pandemic, space available to support upper growth, projected enrollment, and the financial support needed to support high school. Mr. Madden asked for a motion to continue offering 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade for the 2021-2022 school year. No motion was made. Mr. Madden asked for a motion to limit grade level offerings for the 2021-2022 school year. Mr. Hilton motioned to limit grade level offerings for the 2021-2022 school year to K-8. Mrs. Dowless seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.
- Amerita's Plan Administrator/Trustee: Mr. Byrd informed the Board that a Memorandum of Understanding was drafted by board attorney David Wall to hold the 401K Plan Administrator/Trustee harmless of any liability. Mr. Madden shared from his discussion with John Taylor with Amerita's, that other options are available to protect the plan administrator/trustee from any liabilities. No action was taken.
- Calendar 2021-2022 SY: Mrs. Cole presented draft Calendar A and draft Calendar B for the 2021-2022 school year. Mrs. Dowless motioned to approve Calendar B for the 2021-2022 school year. Mr. Byrd seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.
- Health Policies: Mrs. Cole presented Health Policies and recommended approval. Mrs. Dowless motioned to approve the health policies as presented. Mr. Hilton seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.
- Crisis Plan: Mrs. Cole presented a Crisis Plan for approval. Mr. Hilton motioned to approve the Crisis Plan. Mr. Byrd seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

- Athletic Information/Update: Mrs. Sasser gave an update on the Athletic Program. Mrs. Sasser shared the fundraiser selling shirts had raised almost \$600. Masks are still available. Quotes are being taken to install a sprinkler system on the ball fields. Ten softball games and 12 baseball games have been scheduled with home games being held at the county park.
- Executive Director's Report: Mrs. Cole shared that three students tested positive for COVID and more than half of the staff has been vaccinated. Mrs. Cole gave an update on legislative requirements for the Testing and Accountability Program and the Read to Achieve Program. Mrs. Cole reminded the board that the Charter Renewal Site visit is scheduled for Thursday, March 18.
- Closed Session: No closed session was held.
- April Meeting: The April meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 20, at 5:00 p.m.
- Motion to Adjourn: Mr. Troy motioned to adjourn. Mr. Byrd seconded and the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maurice Williams, Secretary

Wanda Everette, Administrative Associate