

The Emereau Foundation
d/b/a Emereau: Bladen
995 Airport Road, Elizabethtown, North Carolina 28337
Virtual Meeting of the Board of Directors
Tuesday, January 19, 2021
5:00 p.m.

Minutes

The Emereau: Bladen Board of Directors met on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. The meeting was held virtually through Zoom due to COVID 19.

Board Members Participating Virtual:	Eddie Madden, Chair; Phil Byrd, Treasurer; Sandra Lewis, and Ashley Dowless.
Board Members not Participating:	Maurice Williams and Dean Hilton.
Administrative Staff Present:	Elizabeth Cole, Executive Director; Polly Hancock, Dean of Academic Initiatives; and Wanda Everette, Administrative Associate.
Other Members Virtually Present:	David Wall, Board Attorney; Jennifer Laney, Prestige School Solutions; Julie Sasser, Coach/Athletic Director; Ashley Bryant, Nurse; Brittney Hester, Exploration Teacher; Amanda Garner, 2 nd grade teacher; Alley Rich, PE Teacher; and Pia Jessup, 6 th grade teacher.
Pledge of Allegiance:	No action.
Mission Statement:	Mr. Madden 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 the December 15, 2020 minutes for approval. Mr. Byrd motioned to approve the minutes presented. Mrs. Lewis seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.
Public Comments:	There were no public comments.
Financial Report:	Ms. Jennifer Laney with Prestige School Solutions gave a financial update and presented the December financial report. Mr. Byrd motioned to approve the financial report presented. Mrs. Lewis seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.
USDA Finance Update:	Mr. Madden gave an update on the USDA financing. All information required for financing has been submitted. Construction work/site preparation began on campus for Phase IIIB in December by Smith Brothers Construction.

- Lease Agreement for Phase IIIB: Mr. Byrd gave an update on the Phase IIIB Lease Agreement. The Finance Committee was asked to review the Financial and Development Services Agreement and get clarification on the wording between Emereau Bladen and Bladen Community Services. All issues were resolved and corrected. Mr. Byrd motioned to approve the Financial and Development Services Agreement with corrections and the Lease Agreement for Phase IIIB as presented at the December 15, 2020 meeting. Mrs. Dowless seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.
- Replacement of Board Members: Mrs. Cole shared that the Charter School Bylaws states when replacing board members, a nominating committee made up of three board members and the executive director should be elected. Potential nominees must submit an application, a cover letter, resume and letter of reference. Mrs. Cole reminded the Board that Lisa DeVane has submitted a letter of resignation and a replacement is needed for her position. Mrs. Dowless motioned for Mr. Madden, Mr. Williams and Mrs. Lewis to serve on the nominating committee along with Mrs. Cole, Executive Director. Mr. Byrd seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.
- Ameritas 401K Administrator/Trustee: Mrs. Cole informed the Board that Lisa DeVane was the current plan administrator/trustee for the Ameritas 401K plan. With her resignation from the Board, a replacement is needed. Mrs. Lewis motioned that Mr. Byrd be appointed as the administrator/trustee to the Ameritas 401K Plan. Mrs. Dowless seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.
- Athletic Information Update: Mrs. Julie Sasser updated the board on the Athletic Program. Basketball practices are being held at the Elizabethtown Baptist Church Gymnasium. Emereau's website has a new athletic page and games are being streamed live. Mrs. Sasser informed the board that soccer would not be played in the Spring and gave an update on the irrigation system for the baseball fields. Mrs. Sasser asked for board approval on having a fundraiser in February selling sweatshirts and PE shirts. Mrs. Lewis motioned to approve the fundraiser. Mrs. Dowless seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.
- Conflict of Interest Policy (Upload to Epicenter): Mrs. Cole presented the Conflict of Interest Policy to upload in Epicenter. Each Board member has to approve and sign this annually. Mrs. Dowless motioned to authorize Mrs. Cole to upload the Conflict of Interest Policy in Epicenter. Mrs. Lewis seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

- High School Plans (2021-2022): Mrs. Cole asked to add the addition of 10th grade to agenda for discussion at the budget retreat. Discussions needing to take place during the retreat includes financial, human resources and courses required to help students become successful. No action was taken.
- Executive Director's Report: Mrs. Cole gave an update on enrollment and Lotterease. Currently 85 students are in Lotterease for the 2021-2022 school year. February is School of Choice month and plans are being made to promote Emereau Bladen. Mrs. Cole shared survey results received from staff on students returning face to face instruction. Discussion was held on recessing the meeting to Friday, January 22, 2021 to vote on students returning face to face.
- Board Retreat Date: The Board agreed to have a Budget Retreat on Sunday, March 7, 2021.
- February Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for February 16, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.
- Closed Session: No closed session was held.
- Motion to Adjourn: Mr. Byrd motioned to recess the meeting and reconvene on Friday, January 22, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. Mrs. Dowless seconded and the motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was recessed at 6:18 p.m.

Reconvened Meeting Minutes

The Emereau: Bladen Board of Directors reconvened virtually on Friday, January 22, 2021, at 8:00 a.m.

- Board Members Participating Virtual: Eddie Madden, Chair; Phil Byrd, Treasurer; Sandra Lewis, and Ashley Dowless.
- Board Members not Participating: Maurice Williams and Dean Hilton
- Administrative Staff Present: Elizabeth Cole, Executive Director; Polly Hancock, Dean of Academic Initiatives; and Wanda Everette, Administrative Assistant.
- Other Members Virtually Present: Dr. Terri Duncan, Bladen County Health Director, Ashley Bryant, School Nurse, and Brittney Dockery, Explorations Teacher.
- Students Return Face to Face Instruction: Terri Duncan, Director of the Bladen County Health Department updated the Board on the COVID vaccination process and current COVID cases in Bladen County. Discussion centered on students

returning to face to face instruction. Mrs. Lewis motioned for students to remain virtual through the end of February. After much discussion, Mrs. Lewis withdrew her motion. Mr. Byrd motioned for students to return to school for face to face instruction on either February 1 or February 8, deferring to Mrs. Cole with the decision. Mrs. Cole expressed she felt that based on current data, students did not need to return to campus until February 1, 2021. After more discussion, Mr. Byrd motion for students to return to face to face on February 1, 2021. Mrs. Lewis seconded. Voting in favor were Mr. Byrd and Mrs. Lewis. Due to a lack of participation by the board, Chair Madden voted in favor of students returning to face to face instruction on February 1, 2021.

Motion to Adjourn:

Mr. Byrd motioned to adjourn. Mrs. Lewis seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Adjourned:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maurice Williams, Secretary

Wanda Everette, Administrative Associate