

The Emereau Foundation
d/b/a Emereau: Bladen
995 Airport Road, Elizabethtown, North Carolina 28337
Meeting of the Board of Directors
Tuesday, March 17, 2020
5:00 p.m.

Minutes

The Emereau: Bladen Board of Directors met in regular session on Tuesday, March 17, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

Board Members Present: Eddie Madden, Chair; Lisa DeVane, Vice Chair; Phil Byrd, Treasurer; Maurice Williams, Secretary; Ashley Dowless, Dean Hilton, Sandra Lewis and Board Attorney, David Wall.

Board Member Absent: N/A

Administrative Staff Present: Elizabeth Cole, Executive Director; Wanda Everette, Administrative Associate; Polly Hancock, Dean of Academic Initiatives, 5th grade teacher and Smiley Butler, Transportation Director.

Pledge of Allegiance: Mrs. Sandra Lewis led everyone in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mission Statement: Mrs. Ashley Dowless read the Mission Statement.

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

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Madden presented the minutes from the February 18, 2020 meeting. Mrs. DeVane motioned to approve the minutes. Mr. Hilton seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Public Comment: The floor was opened for public comments. Comments/questions were received via email. Landon and Shelly Bordeaux sent in a comment in support of Emereau High School; Kyle Bostic sent in a comment regarding Emereau Bladen having no sports facility to play sports and that it has been a constant battle trying to use facilities that do not belong to Emereau. Mr. Bostic stated other needs are a gymnasium and a covered walkway from the school office to the sidewalk. Mr. Bostic also expressed concern with the Bladen County Schools decision to not allow teams to scrimmage or play non-conference games against Emereau. Brittney and Ricky Woodell expressed concerns on adding ninth grade stating they have three children that will attend Emereau and that 9th grade brings many different needs such as Drivers Ed, Varsity sports, college courses, changing classes, and asked when and how classes will be determined for 9th grade.

- Adding of Ninth Grade: Mr. Madden opened the floor for comments. Mrs. Cole shared that twelve students were entered in Lotterease for ninth grade. Mr. Madden asked the board to consider the following in making a decision on adding ninth grade: Approximately forty-ninth grade students have expressed interest in attending Emereau in the fall; athletics are of great concern and could influence enrollment; operations and revenue going into K-9 is sustainable across the board but not independent of the ninth grade. Mr. Madden also shared the difficulty in the board's decision, in addition of adding a ninth grade, was the purchase and financing of the present facilities; and expressed the need to have a plan of action to start Phase IV of the campus facilities. Mrs. Cole expressed there would not be enough ninth graders to have a junior varsity team. Mr. Madden informed everyone that a softball/soccer field would be ready to play on in the fall. Mrs. Lewis expressed concern with adding ninth grade and how it would affect academics. Mr. Hilton expressed from a financial standpoint that Emereau is moving in the right direction and more parent participation is needed. Mrs. DeVane expressed concern with how adding ninth grade would affect the curriculum. After much discussion, Mr. Hilton motioned to move forward with adding ninth grade. Mr. Byrd seconded and the motion passed by a vote of four to two. Voting in favor were Dean Hilton, Phil Byrd, Maurice Williams and Ashley Dowless. Voting against were Sandra Lewis and Lisa DeVane.
- Legacy Funding, LLC Mr. Howard Sowell, Managing Director of Legacy Funding addressed the board regarding financing for the next phase of construction.
- Budget Report: Mr. Byrd presented the budget report for February and recommended approval. Mr. Hilton seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.
- Audit Contract 2020: Mr. Madden presented audit contract bids for the 2020 school year. Petway Mills & Pearson; Thompson, Price, Scott & Adams; and Rebekah Barr, CPA submitted bids. Mr. Hilton motioned to table the audit contracts to the April meeting. Mrs. Dowless seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.
- Acadia NorthStar Contract/PowerSchool: Mr. Madden presented the Acadia NorthStar Contract for PowerSchool for approval. Mr. Williams motioned to table the Acadia NorthStar Contract to the April meeting. Mrs. Dowless seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.
- Prestige School Solutions, LLC: Mr. Madden presented a contract for Prestige School Solutions for financial services. Mr. Byrd motioned to approve the contract for financial services with Prestige Financial Solutions contingent upon the approval of David Wall, Attorney. Mr. Hilton seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

- Contract for Leinwand's Park: Mrs. Cole presented a contract to approve an advertising sign to be added to the Leinwand Park. Mrs. Dowless motioned to approve a three-year contract to advertise Emereau Bladen at the Leinwand Park. Mr. Williams seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.
- 2020/2021 Calendar: Mrs. Cole presented a 2020/2021 school calendar to the board for approval. Mr. Hilton motioned to accept the calendar presented. Mrs. Dowless seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.
- Executive Directors Report: Mrs. Cole gave an update on the following:
- Due to the COVID 19 Virus, the following two weeks will be Spring Break with Good Friday and Easter Monday being holidays.
 - Enrollment update
 - Gave an update on the mini retreats with Mrs. Hancock that was held with teachers on site.
 - Training has been held for Reading Horizons Reading Program.
 - The North Carolina Charter School Association will be held in July 19-21, 2020 in Wilmington NC.
- It was the consensus of the board that if the state mandate schools to close and staff to stay home, due to the COVID 19 Virus, that staff would not have to use their leave days and they would be compensated.
- Building Facility for Events: Discussion was held on what facilities should be used for Emereau sports and events. Mrs. Dowless motioned for Mrs. Cole, on behalf of the board, to send a letter of appreciation to the Elizabethtown Christian Academy thanking them for allowing Emereau to use their facilities in the past and that we will be moving forward with the County of Bladen facilities and Bladen Community College. Mr. Byrd seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.
- Closed Session: Mrs. Dowless motioned to go into closed session at 6:35 p.m. Mr. Hilton seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.
- Motion to Return to Open Session: Mr. Hilton motioned to come out of closed session. Mr. Byrd seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.
- Personnel Recommendations: No personnel recommendations were made.
- April Meeting Date: The next Board of Directors Meeting is scheduled for April 21, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

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

Adjourned: The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maurice Williams, Secretary

Wanda Everette, Administrative Associate