

The Emereau Foundation
d/b/a Emereau: Bladen
Meeting of the Board of Directors
Tuesday, May 9, 2023
995 Airport Road, Elizabethtown, North Carolina 28337

Minutes

The Emereau Bladen Board of Directors met in regular session on Tuesday, May 9, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. Members present: Ashley Dowless, Board Chair, Phil Byrd, Treasurer, Dennis Troy, Jennifer Whittington, Maurice Williams, Dan Allen, and Whitley Ward, Board Attorney

Participating virtually was Christy Nickolauson, Prestige School Solutions

Members absent were Sandra Lewis, Vice Chair

Administrative staff present were Elizabeth Cole, Executive Director, Polly Hancock, Dean of Academics and Terri Raynor, Administrative Associate.

Other staff present were Amanda Bunch, Amanda Garner and Pam Taylor.

The Board Chair, Ashley Dowless called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Everyone joined in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mrs. Dowless.

Mrs. Cole read the Mission Statement.

Mrs. Dowless read the Conflict of Interest Statement. There were no conflicts of interest noted.

Mrs. Dowless presented the minutes from the April 18, 2023 meeting for approval. Mr. Allen motioned to approve the minutes presented. Mr. Troy seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mrs. Dowless opened the floor for public comments. No comments were given.

Mrs. Christy Nickolauson presented the financial report for the month of April. She reported that finances looked good, that we are above the 15% we should have at this time of the year, and there were no findings to report. Mrs. Nickolauson presented a draft of the 2023-2024 budget, she stated that we were waiting approval on the staffing schedule to finalize. Mr. Byrd motioned to approve the financial report for April. Mrs. Whittington seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Mr. Byrd reported on the 990 Tax Return. Mr. Williams motioned to approve the 990 Tax return. Mrs. Whittington seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Mrs. Pam Taylor presented the Exceptional Children's contracts for the 2023-2024 School Year. Mr. Troy motioned to approve all the contracts. Mr. Byrd seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Mrs. Cole presented the quotes from Carolina Thomas LLC for 3 new buses and cameras for all of our buses. Mrs. Nickolauson explained that we have state funds that will cover the cost of the buses. She explained that it would be a good investment since there would be no loans or interest to pay back. Mr. Troy made a motion to purchase 3 new buses and cameras for all buses. Mrs. Whittington seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Mrs. Cole presented the updated 2023-2024 Uniform Policy. She pointed out the major changes and explained that we do not have a contract with Leinwands. Mrs. Whittington made a motion to approve the 2023-2024 Uniform Policy. Mr. Williams seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Mrs. Cole updated the board on the search for a new auditor. She informed them that Potter & Company could not take on any more clients at this time but that Rebekah Barr could. Mr. Byrd made a motion to approve the contract with Rebekah Barr. Mrs. Whittington seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Mrs. Cole requested a vote on office hours for the summer. The hours would be Monday-Thursday 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. We would close the office the week of July 4th due to the holiday and the offices we work with would be closing out the 2022-2023 SY. Mrs. Whittington made a motion to approve Summer hours. Mr. Troy seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Mrs. Cole requested a vote on giving her authorization to apply for Federal Consolidation Grants. Mr. Allen made a motion to approve the authorization. Mr. Byrd seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Mrs. Hancock gave a Curriculum update. She presented a chart to the board showing data from I-Ready. She told them that 3rd, 4th and Math 1 proficiency was up. And that Reading % 's were rising as well.

In the Executive Director's report Mrs. Cole stated that we would have Board Training with David Faunce on June 20th from 12pm-4pm. She updated the members on enrollment. All grades levels with the exception of K and 3rd have a waiting list, we have 63 confirmed enrollments and packets are ready to go out. Mrs. Cole let the board know that we would have state testing May 16-20th, grade level Awards Ceremonies will take place May 19-23th, and the Athletic Banquet will be May 24th. She also updated them on PTO, they met May 8th and bylaws have been completed. She let them know that our new sign was on go, the permit had been approved and that we had received a donation for the sign from the DeVane's.

Mr. Troy motioned to go into closed session at 6:36 p.m. Mr. Byrd seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Allen motioned to come out of closed session at 6:59 p.m. Mr. Byrd seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Under Personnel Recommendations, Mr. Troy motioned to uphold the recommendation of the administration. Mr. Williams seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

The June meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 13, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Troy motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:01 p.m. Mrs. Whittington seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Terri Raynor
Administrative Associate