

The Emereau Foundation  
d/b/a Emereau: Bladen  
Meeting of the Board of Directors  
Tuesday, June 21, 2022  
995 Airport Road, Elizabethtown, North Carolina 28337

Minutes

The Emereau Bladen Board of Directors met in regular session on Tuesday, June 21, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. Members present were: Ashley Dowless, Chair, Sandra Lewis, Vice Chair, Dennis Troy, Dan Allen, and Maurice Williams. Jennifer Whittington and Board Attorney Whitley Ward attended virtually.

Members absent: Phil Byrd, Treasurer.

Also, participating virtually was Christy Nickolauson with Prestige School Solutions.

Alan West with Lacy West Insurance was also in attendance.

Administrative staff present were Elizabeth Cole, Executive Director, and Polly Hancock, Dean of Academics. Staff present was: Ted Wisniewski, 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher.

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 May 10, 2022 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, but there were none.

Mrs. Christy Nickolauson presented the financial report for the month of May. Mrs. Nickolauson reviewed the balance sheet and the Profit and Loss statement for the month. We are right on target with our budget. She stated that all state funds have been ordered. She sees no issues or concerns with expenses. Christy told the Board we would have a healthy net income for the end of the year. She also reported that next year may look different because we will not have the extra funds from Covid and we will not be held harmless on our enrollment. Mrs. Cole pointed out that we are over budget in transportation due to the last two months of school. It was discussed that we may have to reallocate funds for transportation in the 2023 budget if fuel prices stay where they are now or get worse. Christy told the Board that everything should be sent to the Auditor by the third week of August. Mr. Allen made a motion to approve the financial report as presented. Mrs. Lewis seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Mr. Alan West from Lacy West Insurance in Elizabethtown presented the Premium Break Down sheet for his proposal for Emereau's insurance. There was discussion about the Crime part of the policy which is the Employee Dishonesty Policy. He also presented the Wind and Hail Buy Back part of the policy which would be an added cost.

Mr. John Ramsey from Utica presented the proposal from Utica. He pointed out that there is not a separate wind and hail policy and that the Crime policy has \$100,000 added in by Utica. He also discussed that he thought the amount for the Crime policy was based on the required amount for the Loan agreement. He explained that we had received \$2200 back last year as a dividend. He shared that Utica offers Safe-Schools on-line training for teachers at no additional cost to the school. The Board discussed that they would like to see a side by side comparison of the two companies. Mrs. Cole will get it to them by lunchtime tomorrow. Mrs. Lewis made a motion to approve after reviewing the comparison quotes and each Board member would provide feedback on their preference to Mrs. Cole. Mr. Troy seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. This will be added to the agenda and ratified at the July meeting.

Mrs. Cole presented the Year End Audit Contract. The Board discussed reviewing the costs and getting input from Mr. Byrd before having a final vote. Mrs. Lewis made a motion that they would review the costs and allow all Board members to give feedback to Mrs. Cole. Mr. Williams seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. This will be on the agenda and ratified at the July meeting.

Mrs. Cole presented the Acadia Northstar Contract for renewal. Mr. Williams motioned to approve the contract. Mrs. Lewis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Mrs. Cole shared the Prestige School Solutions contract with the Board. There is a slight monthly increase in cost. The Board said the formatting of the presentation each month has improved and the narrative is very helpful. Mrs. Lewis made a motion to continue with Prestige School Solutions. Mr. Troy seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Mrs. Cole presented the Authorization of Submission of Title Grant Application to the Board. This is a certification authorizing Mrs. Cole to sign and submit information on behalf of the school. Mr. Troy made a motion to authorize Mrs. Cole to sign on behalf of the school. Mr. Allen seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

In the Executive Director's report, Mrs. Cole shared unofficial EOG scores with the Board. She explained how we are planning to combat the deficits in learning with tutoring, pushing multiplication tables, and with Summer School. She shared data from iReady that showed a lot of growth for the Summer School session. Mrs. Cole updated the Board on the status of enrollment, stating we had 42 enrollment packets returned, and Mrs. DeVane is calling daily to check on the status of packets that are still not returned. She informed everyone that we are aware that we are losing some 7<sup>th</sup> graders due to them wanting to play football. She gave the Board an update on policies and school safety. We are working on policies to have ready for approval at the July meeting. Governor Cooper has instructed State Law Enforcement to be more involved and to actively check on schools periodically. Mrs. Ward told the Board she had received the signed deed for the remaining land. She told the Board that it needs one signature, and then we can ratify the signature at the next meeting.

Mr. Troy made a motion to enter Closed Session. Mr. Williams seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. The Board entered Closed Session at 6:41 p.m.

Mr. Williams motioned to return to Open Session followed by a second from Mr. Troy. The motion was approved unanimously. The Board returned to Open Session at 7:01 p.m.

Personnel recommendations made in closed session were voted on. Mr. Allen made a motion to approve all personnel recommendations. Mrs. Lewis seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

The Emereau Board of Directors will meet again on July 12, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Williams made a motion to adjourn at 7:03 p.m.. Mr. Troy seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Polly Hancock,  
Dean of Academic Initiatives