

The Emereau Foundation
d/b/a Emereau: Bladen
Meeting of the Board of Directors
Tuesday, August 9, 2022
995 Airport Road, Elizabethtown, North Carolina 28337

Minutes

The Emereau Bladen Board of Directors met in regular session on Tuesday, August 9, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. Members present were: Ashley Dowless, Chair, Sandra Lewis, Vice Chair, Dennis Troy, Maurice Williams, Phil Byrd, Dan Allen and Board Attorney Whitley Ward. Jennifer Whittington attended virtually.

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

Administrative staff present were Elizabeth Cole, Executive Director, and Polly Hancock, Dean of Academics, and Terri Raynor, Administrative Assistant. Other staff present were Jennifer Russ, nurse, Amanda Garner, 3rd grade teacher, and Pia Jessup, 7th 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 July 12, 2022 meeting for approval. Mr. Troy motioned to approve the minutes presented. Mrs. Lewis 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 July. Mrs. Nickolauson reviewed the balance sheet and discussed how the funds drop at the end of the month, and money will be ordered in August. The state funds show as amounts due because of when the money can be ordered. The Bank Reconciliation and Journal entries for the month are now being included in the financial report. Mr. Byrd requested that we add some columns to the Balance sheet: current month, prior month, and difference in the current and prior month. Christy will check on this, and she and Mr. Byrd can set this up through the online access. Mr. Byrd would like the Finance committee to meet 30 minutes prior to each Board meeting to review the Reconciliation Report. Mrs. Cole shared about fuel costs and how a charge is being made each time they deliver to the school. The Board requested something in writing from Campbell Oil and we will look at Fuel costs next month. Mr. Byrd made a motion to approve the financial report as presented. Mr. Williams seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Mrs. Cole presented a new proposed calendar with only 4 grading sessions. In our Charter, it states that we will have 5 grading sessions. However, after reaching out to the Office of Charter Schools about whether an amendment to the charter needed to be made, Mrs. Cole was told that the Board just needs to approve the change. The State recommends the 4 grading sessions. The only calendar change will be to move the workday on March 24th to March 17th. Our grading sessions will change from 33 days in a grading period to 40 or 41 days. Mrs. Cole made a recommendation to make the change from 5 grading sessions to 4 grading sessions. Mrs. Lewis made a motion to approve the 4 grading sessions as recommended by Mrs. Cole. Mr. Byrd seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Mrs. Cole presented some fundraising ideas that had been suggested by the Beta Club. Ideas include a Fall Color Run, an Eat with Emereau week in November with local businesses, the Spring Extravaganza and Penny Wars, and a weekly concession stand for Middle School. Once a month, the entire school will be able to purchase from the concession stand and funds will be shared with Theater, K-2 classrooms, fieldtrips, and other areas throughout the school. Soccer is proposing a raffle for Air Pod Pros to raise money for Athletics.

We are also selling school Tshirts now. Mr. Troy motioned to approve the suggested fundraisers. Mrs. Lewis seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

In the Executive Director's report, Mrs. Cole shared an update on current Covid cases. We have had some students with positive results. The CDC recommends staying home for 5 days with a positive diagnosis. There is no contact tracing at this time. Mrs. Cole shared that we had a very good turn-out for our Open House. As of today we have, 606 in PowerSchool. We added 3 students today, yet project about 19 leaving. Mrs. Cole also shared that Grade levels are working on planning overnight trips that will need to be Board approved. We are trying to increase Parent Involvement. We have a few teachers and parents working to determine our best options of PTO versus PTA. Mrs. Cole shared with the Board that per our bylaws, we need to elect our Chair in June of each year. They can serve 3 consecutive terms. Once this is complete, it will be recorded in the minutes and will be retroactive to June. The Nominating Committee, consisting of Sandra Lewis, Maurice Williams, and Phil Byrd will work on this. Mrs. Cole informed the Board of Curriculum Night on August 25th at 6:00 p.m. She shared that the opening of school have been very smooth, car traffic is heavy, but we are working to improve the turn-around time each day. Mr. Troy asked about our student population, specifically about number of girls, boys, and race. Mrs. Cole explained how our lottery does not ask for race because we are nondiscriminatory.

Mrs. Dowless asked if Mrs. Cole had anything for closed session. She did so Mr. Williams motioned to enter closed session, Mr. Byrd seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. The Board entered Closed Session at 6:14 p.m.

Mr. Troy made a motion to come out of closed session at 6:42 p.m. It was seconded by Mr. Byrd and unanimously approved.

Mrs. Lewis made a motion to approve all personnel recommendations made during closed session. Mr. Troy made a second, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Before the end of the meeting, Mrs. Cole shared that she and Mr. Allen had attended a meeting at the Disabled Veteran's Hut. They had asked Mr. Allen for her to come and speak. They are looking for ways to help the community and donate. BCC is have a special event for school supplies for students on August 13th, and release time for our students begins August 16th.

Our next Board meeting will be September 13, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Troy made a motion to adjourn, followed by a second from Mrs. Lewis. It was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Polly Hancock,
Dean of Academic Initiatives