

The Emereau Foundation
d/b/a Emereau: Bladen
Meeting of the Board of Directors
Tuesday, January 11, 2022
995 Airport Road, Elizabethtown, North Carolina 28337

Minutes

The Emereau Bladen Board of Directors met in regular session on Tuesday, January 11, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. Members present via zoom were: Ashley Dowless, Chair; Sandra Lewis, Vice Chair, Phil Byrd, Treasurer, Maurice Williams, Dan Allen, Jennifer Whittington, Dennis Troy, and Board Attorney, Whitley Ward.

Also, participating virtually was Jennifer Laney with Prestige School Solutions.

Administrative staff present were Elizabeth Cole, Executive Director, Polly Hancock, Dean of Academics;
Staff present were Pia Jessup, 6th grade teacher, Amanda Garner, 3rd grade teacher, and Jennifer Russ, nurse.

Also in attendance was Sarah Murphy, Secretary of the Bladen County Law Enforcement Association.

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

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 November 9, 2021 meeting and the special called meeting December 2, 2021 for approval. Mr. Troy motioned to approve the minutes presented. Mr. Allen seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

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

Bladen County Law Enforcement Association representative, Sarah Murphy gave a brief summary of the non-profit organization and how they are working to reach out to the community. She presented Trauma Kits that will be donated to Emereau as soon as a training kit arrives and staff are properly trained. Emereau will receive two kits, one for each building to be housed in the emergency lock boxes.

Ms. Jennifer Laney presented the financial report for the month of December. Ms. Laney reviewed the balance sheet and discussed teacher bonuses and the payment of concrete for the outdoor classroom. Mrs. Cole explained that this outdoor classroom was a grant received by Alley Rich. Mr. Byrd motioned to approve the financial report presented. Mrs. Lewis seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

The year ending 2020 IRS Form 990 and Form 8879-EO was presented by Mr. Byrd. He stated he had reviewed it and it all looked correct. Mrs. Hancock stated she had the form for him to

sign. Mr. Byrd made a motion to approve the Form 990 and Form 8879-EO. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lewis, and was unanimously approved.

Mrs. Dowless and Mrs. Cole met with Chad DeVane of DeVane Builders to discuss Phase IIIB and the Lease Agreement Amendment with Bladen Community Services. Mrs. Cole reported that materials needed to be ordered quickly in order to begin the building process by February 14, 2022 and because of rising building prices, per Mr. DeVane. Mrs. Cole also presented that we are beginning discussion with Mr. DeVane to move ahead with the multipurpose building. Mrs. Ward explained the Lease Agreement Amendment with Bladen Community Services. A motion was made by Mrs. Byrd to approve the Lease Agreement Amendment pending final review by the financial committee. Mr. Williams seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

The Delta Dental Policy is up for renewal. Mrs. Cole stated that no changes have been made since the Board approved this company originally. A motion to continue with Delta Dental on going unless changes are made to the policy was made by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Allen. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mrs. Cole explained Release Time to the Board, which occurs once a month for students with parent permission. She also expressed concern to the Board about the current Covid situation and how none of our employees attend the Release Time. This would make contact tracing very difficult. Mrs. Ward asked about seeing the waiver for Release Time, and the Board decided to table approving Release Time for Emereau students until we see the waiver and until Covid numbers begin to decrease. Mr. Allen made the motion to table this decision, Mr. Williams seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Mrs. Cole presented a recommendation to remain with the mask mandate until Covid numbers begin to decrease. Emereau decided to move to remote learning for January 12th through January 14th, due to 27% of the student body, and 24% of the staff being absent. Mrs. Cole explained how we had adjusted schedules and made as many changes as we could to cover classes and with the number of staff absences we have, we cannot provide adequate student supervision. She explained how the NC School Tool Kit has been updated, and following these guidelines, we should have enough staff to reopen on January 18th unless more staff gets sick. Numbers will be checked on January 16th so the best decision can be made for Emereau. After board discussion, Mrs. Lewis made a motion to keep the mask mandate in place until the February board meeting. Mr. Williams seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Jessup gave an update on the upcoming Jr. BETA Convention. She reported the NC State Council had voted to remain hybrid for this year. She explained that BETA would have a mask mandate for the convention. Emereau has 63 students planning to attend with their parents. After some discussion, Mr. Williams made a motion to allow BETA students to attend the convention with their parents. Mr. Byrd seconded the motion, and was unanimously approved.

Mrs. Cole presented Emereau's Equity Plan. This plan explains how we provide an equitable education for all, and it shows how we are in compliance with federal funds and requirements. Mrs. Lewis motioned to approve the Equity Plan as presented. Mr. Williams seconded the motion, and was unanimously approved.

Under the Executive Director's report, Mrs. Cole reported to the Board that Emereau would be recommended to the State Board in February for a seven year Charter Renewal. To get a ten

year renewal recommendation, we needed to have three years of testing data, and Emereau only has two years, due to Covid. She also gave an update on the current number of students in our lottery, (102 students). She told them about the upcoming School of Choice week, and described what we would be doing to promote Emereau to the public.

Mrs. Lewis motioned to go into closed session. Mr. Williams seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Williams motioned to come out of closed session. Mr. Byrd seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Under Personnel Recommendations, Mrs. Lewis motioned to uphold the recommendations of the administration. Ms. Whittington seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

The February meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 8, 2022, at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Allen motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:03 p.m. Mr. Williams seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Polly Hancock,
Dean of Academic Initiatives