

The Emereau Foundation
d/b/a Emereau: Bladen
995 Airport Road, Elizabethtown, North Carolina 28337
Meeting of the Board of Directors
Tuesday, June 15, 2021
6:00 p.m.

Minutes

The Emereau: Bladen Board of Directors met in regular session on Tuesday, June 15, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Board Members Present: Eddie Madden, Chair; Sandra Lewis, Vice Chair; Maurice Williams, Secretary; Phil Byrd, Treasurer; Ashley Dowless, Dennis Troy; David Wall, Attorney

Board Member Absent: Dean Hilton

Others Participating Virtual: Jennifer Laney, Prestige School Solutions.

Administrative Staff Present: Elizabeth Cole, Executive Director; Polly Hancock, Dean of Academic Initiatives; and Wanda Everette, Administrative Associate, Amanda Garner, 2nd Grade Teacher; and Julie Sasser, 7th Grade Teacher and Athletic Director.

Pledge of Allegiance: Mr. Williams led everyone in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance

Mission Statement: Mrs. Hancock read the Mission Statement.

Conflict of Interest Statement: Mr. Madden read the Conflict of Interest statement. There were no conflicts of interest noted.

Minutes: Mr. Madden presented minutes from the May 18, 2021 meeting for approval. Mrs. Dowless motioned to approve the minutes presented. Mr. Troy seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Public Comments: There were no comments given.

Financial Report: Ms. Jennifer Laney with Prestige School Solutions gave a financial update and presented the May financial report. Mr. Williams motioned to approve the financial report presented. Mr. Troy seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

USDA Update: Mr. Madden gave an update on the USDA financing. USDA Loan closing is tentatively scheduled for June 24th.

- Phase IIIB Discussion: Mr. Madden gave an update on Phase IIIB construction stating that construction was on hold. Direction will need to be provided on how to move forward. Construction is ahead of schedule allowing time to make decision. Mrs. Lewis asked for input from Mrs. Cole. Mrs. Cole stated having Phase IIIB would be great to have more space for Band and PE classes. Mrs. Cole also stated the board would need to consider space for eight additional classrooms or move forward with a multi-purpose building. Mr. Madden stated that the board would need to seek financing or move forward with financing with Bladen Community Services. It was the consensus of the Board to close on the USDA Loan before moving forward on financing Phase IIIB construction.
- Employers Insurance Policy: Mr. John Ramsey with The Insurance People shared a comparison spreadsheet for renewal with Utica Insurance for property and liability; Employers Preferred for workers comp; and Philadelphia for student insurance. Mrs. Dowless motioned to approve the insurance renewals. Mr. Williams seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.
- Beginning and Ending Terms for Board of Directors: No action was taken. Mrs. Cole will contact Epicenter to correct and update the beginning and ending term dates and present to the board at the June 29th special called meeting.
- Board Seat Appointment: Mrs. Lewis shared the nomination committee had met and recommended Jennifer Whittington to fill the seat of Eddie Madden. Mrs. Lewis also informed the board that due to conflicts in meeting dates that Dean Hilton is resigning from the board and recommended Dan Allen to fill his seat. It was the consensus of the board that Mrs. Cole arrange terms to present to the board at June 29th special called meeting. Mr. Madden informed the board that the nomination committee had met previously and recommended Ashley Dowless to serve as Chair, Sandra Lewis to serve as Vice Chair, Phil Byrd to serve as Treasurer and Maurice Williams to serve as Secretary for the upcoming year. Mr. Troy motioned to approve Jennifer Whittington to fill the seat of Eddie Madden, Dan Allen to fill the seat of Dean Hilton, and the slate of officers presented to serve for the 2021-2022 school year. Mrs. Lewis seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.
- Student Attendance Policy: Mrs. Cole informed the board an attendance policy was included in the Family Guide Handbook under the North Carolina Compulsory Attendance Law. No action was taken.
- Math Curriculum: Mrs. Cole asked for board approval to purchase a K-8 Math Curriculum using COVID Relief funds. Mrs. Dowless motioned to authorize Mrs. Cole to select and purchase a K-8 Math Curriculum. Mrs. Lewis seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

- Executive Directors Report: Mrs. Cole informed the board that Emereau received a GO Grant \$14,800, written by Alley Rich, to help build an outdoor classroom environment. Petway Mills & Pearson will conduct an annual on-site audit Tuesday, June 22nd. The Department of Public Instruction requires all Charter Schools to have a mental health plan approved by July 1, 2021. Mrs. Cole shared a draft of playground samples with drawing and diagrams. Estimated completion is around 10 weeks. Smith Brothers has quoted paving at \$111,000. Speed bumps will be added with a stop sign. Mrs. Cole gave an update on test scores. A new school wide report will not be available this year. Mrs. Cole shared test scores stating that 3rd grade reading test scores is at 50% proficient. Highlight of test scores was 8th grade science score with 76.92% proficient. Mrs. Cole shared re-opening plans for the 2021-2022 school year. Mr. Madden asked for a motion to amend the agenda to add Re-Opening Plans for 2021-2022. Mrs. Lewis motion to amend the agenda and add Re-Opening Plan for the 2021-2022 school year. Mr. Troy seconded and the motion was unanimously approved. Mrs. Dowless motioned to approve the Re-Opening Plan for 2021-2022. Mr. Troy seconded and the motion was unanimously approved. On behalf of the school and Board of Directors, Mrs. Cole thanked Mr. Madden and presented him with a gift for serving on the Emereau Board.
- Closed Session: Mr. Troy motioned to go into closed session. Mr. Williams seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.
- Motion to Return to Open Session: Mrs. Dowless motioned to return to open session. Mr. Williams seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.
- Personnel Recommendations: Mrs. Cole presented the following personnel recommendations: Don Whittington, Health and PE Teacher. Mrs. Dowless motioned to approve the personnel recommendation. Mr. Troy seconded and the motion was unanimously approved. Mr. Madden asked for a motion to amend the agenda to add renewal of the Executive Director's Contract. Mrs. Dowless motioned to amend the agenda to add Renewal of the Executive Directors Contract. Mrs. Dowless motioned to extend the Executive Director's contract to four years beginning July 1, 2021. Mr. Troy seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.
- July Meeting: Mr. Madden informed the board a special called meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 29, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. The July Board of Directors Meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 13 at 6:00 p.m.

Motion to Adjourn:

Mrs. Lewis motioned to adjourn. Mr. Williams seconded and the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maurice Williams, Secretary

Wanda Everette, Administrative Associate