

The Emereau Foundation  
d/b/a Emereau: Bladen  
Meeting of the Board of Directors  
Tuesday, May 10, 2022  
995 Airport Road, Elizabethtown, North Carolina 28337

Minutes

The Emereau Bladen Board of Directors met in regular session on Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. Members present were: Ashley Dowless, Chair, Dennis Troy, Dan Allen, Maurice Williams, and Board Attorney Whitley Ward. Sandra Lewis, Vice Chair, and Phil Byrd, Treasurer, attended virtually.

Members absent: Jennifer Whittington

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

Administrative staff present were Elizabeth Cole, Executive Director, and Polly Hancock, Dean of Academics. Staff present was: Pam Taylor, EC Director, Amanda Garner, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher, and Amanda Bunch, EC 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 April 5, 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 April. Mrs. Nickolauson reviewed the balance sheet and the Profit and Loss statement for the month. We are right on target with our budget. She reported that we are gradually using up the state revenue, and we are doing a cash analysis so we can use it all by June 30, 2022. The ESSER funds are able to be rolled over. She presented that we can order the USDA money, once the payment has been made. Mrs. Cole shared the transportation grant information. Once we finalize this grant money, we can allocate money elsewhere which helps the bottom line on our current budget. Mr. Troy made a motion to approve the financial report as presented. Mr. Williams seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Mrs. Nickolauson and Mrs. Cole presented the 2022-2023 projected budget. The upcoming budget is built conservatively on an enrollment of 582 students. We have a current enrollment of 550 students. Our budget for 2021-2022 was based on 700 students, but we were held harmless due to Covid. Mrs. Dowless requested that we look at the upcoming budget to allot more money for the Board to be able to do more for teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week and throughout the year. Mrs. Lewis suggested to use a calendar to plan for the upcoming year for teacher appreciation, and to move line money from other line items as

needed. Mr. Allen made a motion to approve the 2022-2023 Budget. It was seconded by Mr. Williams and approved unanimously.

Mrs. Dowless discussed the possibility of using marketing to share with parents a construction update. She suggested using the Strategic Plan that is in progress to share this information. Parents are wanting to know when we will have a building for athletics, programs, concerts, etc. Mrs. Cole shared an email with the Board from Bladen Community Services about a proposal for the land remaining in their name.

The Strategic Plan was discussed in the conjunction with the Construction Update.

Mrs. Taylor presented the contracts for the Exceptional Children's services. Mr. Williams motioned to approve the contracts for the EC Services. Mr. Troy seconded and it was unanimously approved.

Mrs. Cole presented the McKinney-Vento Dispute Resolution Policy. She shared that Mrs. Jarvis, our new school counselor had completed this policy and it needed to be approved so she could finalize with the state. Mr. Troy made a motion to approve the McKinney-Vento Dispute Resolution Policy and Mr. Allen seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

In the Executive Director's report, Mrs. Cole reminded the Board about the Utica Insurance Policy, and that it would be tabled until the June Meeting. We will have a proposal from West Insurance and Utica Insurance at that meeting. Mrs. Cole discussed the Benchmark Scores. She shared the importance of focusing on the Growth rather than the Proficiency. Proficiency in the early elementary grades are higher than the late elementary and middle grades. Since the accountability was missing for students during Covid with remote instruction, we are having to really focus on changing the mindset of the 6-8 grade students. Mrs. Cole shared about upcoming Awards Day ceremonies and about the Open House scheduled for May 12, 5:30-7:30. This Open House is for prospective students we sent enrollment packets to. Mrs. Cole shared that our Book Fair had taken in \$14,000, which gives the school approximately \$7,000. She also shared that Dr. Wray from Paul R. Brown wants the two of them to get together a presentation for the County Commissioners for Teacher Supplements for Charter school teachers.

There was no business to be discussed in Closed Session.

The June meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 14, 2022, at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Allen motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m. Mr. Troy seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Polly Hancock,  
Dean of Academic Initiatives