

The Emereau Foundation  
d/b/a Emereau: Bladen  
Meeting of the Board of Directors  
Tuesday, August 8, 2023  
995 Airport Road, Elizabethtown, North Carolina 28337

Minutes

The Emereau Bladen Board of Directors met in regular session on Tuesday, August 8, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. Members present: Dan Allen, Chair, Sandra Lewis, Vice Chair, Phil Byrd, Treasurer, Maurice Williams, Secretary, Dennis Troy, Jennifer Whittington, and Ashley Dowless

Participating virtually was Christy Nickolauson, Prestige School Solutions.

Administrative staff present were Polly Hancock, Interim Head of School, Terri Raynor, Dean of Operations, and Whitley Ward, Board Attorney

Other staff present were Amanda Bunch, Amanda Garner, Jennifer Russ, Cassie Hancock

The Chair, Dan Allen called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Everyone joined in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Allen.

Mr. Allen asked to amend the agenda to add Amanda Garner, SIT Chair after the PTO report. Mrs. Dowless motioned to approve the amendment. Maurice Williams seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Allen asked if there were any Conflict of Interests for tonight's meeting, there were no conflicts of interest noted.

Mr. Allen presented the minutes from the July 11, 2023 meeting for approval. Mr. Troy motioned to approve the minutes presented. Mrs. Lewis seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Allen opened the floor for public comments. No comments were given.

Mrs. Christy Nickolauson presented the financial report for the month of July. She reported that the 2022-2023 Audit has been submitted. Mrs. Nickolauson explained that it was typical to see losses in the budget at the beginning of the year due to local funds not in yet. She also added that ESSER and G5 Grant funds were not added to the budget as well. She stated that we are at 92% and that finances looked good. She reported that there were no findings to report. There was no other discussion. Mr. Byrd motioned to approve the financial report for July. Mrs. Lewis seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Mrs. BonHomme, PTO Chair, gave a report to the Board. She informed them they are currently having a membership drive, selling PTO shirts and Emereau Bracelets. Mrs. BonHomme listed some of the fundraisers they had scheduled; Fall Festival, Oct.20th, Spirit night at San Jose, Giorgios and Barefoot Sandwich, Dress Up Days for the students, Leveled Sponsorships for businesses, etc. She also informed the Board how the proceeds would be spent, EOG Baskets, Support field day, Beta, the Arts, school improvement, 8th grade celebration, picnic tables. Mrs. BonHomme also informed the board that PTO purchased insurance to cover PTO functions and money. She also reported they were using a program to help manage the organization.

Mrs. Garner, SIT Chair, gave a report to the Board. She explained the teams, indicators and goals the SIT team has put into place to help us reach our goal of 65% proficiency this year. She explained how each teacher is using data to reach our goal of 3% growth across all areas.

Mr. Allen asked for a Board vote for Maurice Williams to serve another term. Mr. Troy made the motion for Mr. Williams to serve again. Mrs. Dowless seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Mrs. Ward, Board Attorney, provided the amended bylaws per discussion in the July meeting. The Board reviewed them, there was no discussion. Mr. Byrd made a motion to approve the amended bylaws. Mr. Williams seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

In the Interim Head of School's report Mrs. Hancock reported on enrollment vs. attendance. PowerSchool enrollment was currently showing 607 students but 561 were in attendance and that Mrs. DeVane was calling those on the waiting list to fill open slots. She reported that Blackout shades would be arriving the following week and teachers would be receiving safety training August 25 on our required workday. Mrs. Hancock reported that teachers were looking at data and responding by incorporating small groups within the classroom and that teachers would be doing a book study to work on "buy in" from everyone.

Mr. Allen gave an explanation on Standing Committees. He asked that four committees be formed. He appointed the following members to each committee. Finance, Mr. Byrd (Chair), Terri Raynor, and himself. Curriculum, Mrs. Lewis (Chair) and Mrs. Whittington. Facilities, Mr. Troy (Chair). Grievance, members would be appointed as needed. Mr. Allen asked the Chairs of each committee to choose others (parents, staff) to help serve.

Mr. Allen asked if there were any concerns. Board Training was discussed. Mr. Allen asked Mrs. Hancock to contact Dave Faunce for dates that he was available and to email the Board with those dates. Background checks for volunteers at the school were also questioned. Mrs. Raynor will look into the most cost effective way of doing those.

Mrs. Whittington motioned to go into closed session at 6:14 p.m. Mr. Troy seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Williams motioned to come out of closed session at 6:52 p.m. Mr. Troy seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

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

The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 12, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

Mrs. Lewis motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:53 p.m. Mr. Byrd seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Terri Raynor  
Dean of Operations