

The Emereau Foundation  
d/b/a Emereau: Bladen  
Meeting of the Board of Directors  
Tuesday, November 14, 2023  
995 Airport Road, Elizabethtown, North Carolina 28337

Minutes

The Emereau Bladen Board of Directors met in regular session on Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. Members present: Dan Allen, Chair, Phil Byrd, Treasurer, Maurice Williams, Secretary, Whitely Ward, Board Attorney, Jennifer Whittington, Ashley Dowless, and Dennis Troy.

Members absent were Sandra Lewis, Vice Chair

Administrative staff present were Polly Hancock, Head of School, Theresia Wright, Dean of Upper School, and Terri Raynor, Dean of Operations

Other staff present were Amanda Bunch

Visitors in attendance: None

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 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 October 10, 2023 meeting for approval. Mrs. Dowless motioned to approve the minutes presented. Mr. Troy 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 October. She reported that the budget was approved late so she will update everything by next month. She also stated that we can only "order" cash once a week now, and that local money was starting to come in. There was a question about areas that are under spent. She said that we could rebudget those areas if needed. Mrs. Nickolauson said that we are at 69%, that finances looked good and that there were no findings to report. There was no other discussion. Mr. Byrd motioned to approve the financial report for October. Mrs. Dowless seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Mr. Allen gave the Facilities report. He reported that we wanted to move forward on adding classrooms onto the middle school building since plans were already made and the ground had already been prepared for it. We need to meet with Mr. DeVane again to get a better understanding of the gym layout and get a more definite price to build. Mr. Allen is meeting with Four County EMC in January to discuss the loan. Finance is meeting in December.

Ms. Wright, Dean of Upper School, gave the Curriculum report. She reported the Abbreviated observations were complete and that all others would be complete before winter break. Benchmarks are completed, data is being reviewed and adjustments are being made where needed. Sixth grade schedules are being changed so they can have small groups to work on

areas identified via benchmark data. Deans will be revamping the exploration schedule to add more educational support to those who need it. Cursive writing will start in January for K-5, training will be given to teachers on January 2 workday. iReady diagnostics will be given January 8-29, once data is collected they will be meeting with teachers.

Mrs. Hancock reported on the Paid Parental Leave. There was a change and we can opt in yearly now. Emereau does not have a policy in place. We will use temporary policy, after policy is set we can bring it to board for a vote. Board voted to opt into the State Paid Parental Leave Plan for one year.

In the Head of School's report Mrs. Hancock reported that Benchmark Scores were up in 5th and 8th grades. They are meeting with other grade level teachers to work on small groups and student engagement. We will be having 6th and 7th grade Parent Meetings to ask for help with discipline and apathy. Parents will be given strategies to work on with their students. We are working on staff morale with the 12 Days of Emereau. Staff PD will be on January 2nd at the Lake Church. Discussed Winter Break Hours, Tuesday - Thursday 9:00-1:00. There was a discussion about holding the December Board Meeting since the school will be on Winter Break, Finance/Building are meeting in December, we are having a board meeting January 9th and Board Training January 17th. Mrs. Dowless motioned to cancel the December meeting. Mr. Williams seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Troy motioned to go into closed session at 6:19 p.m. Mr. Williams seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Troy motioned to come out of closed session at 6:26 p.m. Mrs. Whittington seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

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

The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Troy motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:31 p.m. Mr. Williams seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Terri Raynor  
Dean of Operations