

The Emereau Foundation  
d/b/a Emereau: Bladen  
Meeting of the Board of Directors  
Tuesday, September 13, 2022  
995 Airport Road, Elizabethtown, North Carolina 28337

Minutes

The Emereau Bladen Board of Directors met in regular session on Tuesday, September 13, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. Members present: Ashley Dowless, Chair; Sandra Lewis, Vice Chair; Phil Byrd, Treasurer, Maurice Williams, Dennis Troy, Dan Allen and Whitley Ward, Board Attorney.

Participating virtually was Christy Nickolauson with Prestige School Solutions.

Member absent was Jennifer Whittington.

Administrative staff present were Elizabeth Cole, Executive Director, Polly Hancock, Dean of Academics and Terri Raynor, Administrative Associate.

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 August 9, 2022 meeting for approval. Mr. Allen motioned to approve the minutes presented. Mr. Byrd seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

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

Mrs. Christy Nickolauson presented the financial report for the month of August. She reported that everything had been sent to the auditors for the 2022 Year Audit. Mrs. Nickolauson also reported that we were in the red and told us to not be alarmed. The State funds came in late and were deposited twice. Both amounts were taken back and then the correct amount was redeposited. She reported that we were at 85% for the year in expenses and that other funds will be coming in. Cole asked about PMR-ADM 582 rate for allotments. Mrs. Nickolauson explained that she was waiting on all schools to get through their first 20 days to update us. Mr. Byrd motioned to approve the financial report presented. Mr. Troy seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

The nominating committee recommended nominating Ashley Dowless to remain Chairperson until June 2023. Mrs. Lewis motioned to approve the nomination. Mr. Troy seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Mrs. Cole presented a ratification of our IT contract. She discussed ending our contract with Emerge Consulting Group and beginning with Leonard Doliveira. Mr. Williams motioned to approve the ratification. Mr. Allen seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Mrs. Cole presented a Parent friendly version of Emereau's Disciplinary Code of Conduct. She explained that the chart makes it easier for parents to understand the violations and their consequences. There was discussion on Exclusion, being able to send students back to their home school if needed. Mrs. Ward asked if a disclaimer could be added to the bottom of the chart. After a discussion, the following will be added. "Emereau: Bladen has the right to add or amend as needed. Please see updated Code of Conduct on school website." Mrs. Lewis asked if the implementation date of 9/19/2022 could be added as well. Mr. Williams made a motion to approve the Code of Conduct Chart with the disclaimer and implementation date added. Mrs. Lewis seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Mrs. Cole presented the upcoming field trips by grade level. She clarified which trips were overnight trips and what the chaperone ratios were. Mr. Troy expressed his concern that for safety reasons there be sufficient chaperones on all trips. Mrs. Lewis made a motion to approve field trips. Mr. Williams seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

During the Testing and Accountability Report discussion, Mrs. Cole presented Emereau's Report Card. She stated that we received a D. She reported that 26.6% of our students score on level or higher (4-5's), and if you add the students that made 3's our percentage was 45.5%. Mrs. Cole reported that our African Americans and Students with Disabilities had the highest growth in our sub groups. 5<sup>th</sup> grade Science and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Math were low and that we have had a change in personnel in those grades. She praised our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, their Reading scores were the highest in the county and their Math was the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest in the county. 7<sup>th</sup> grade Reading and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Science were also the highest in the county as well as 8<sup>th</sup> grade Reading being the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest. Mrs. Cole reported that we have programs in place that if used with fidelity we should see improvements in Math scores. Mrs. Hancock talked about her monthly Science meetings and having everyone submit their lesson plans to make sure they are covering standards and implementing more hands on lessons in the classroom. She also explained that we have several non-certified teachers and that she is working closely with them for licensure and help with curriculum.

During the Facilities/Building Project Growth Plan discussion Mrs. Cole stated that we needed to earmark money to the Capital Campaign for our new gymnasium. Mr. Allen state that 1.4 million students have left public school due to school safety, curriculum, quality of education and flexibility. He feels that we are on our way to meeting these needs but wants to see us really stand out in the community and that to do this we need to add to our existing buildings. By adding a multipurpose building it would give us room to expand and offer other electives. He stated that we need to continue working on our strategic plan and to get the parents involved. Mrs. Dowless agreed and said that the Emereau community wants to see some action. She said we need to challenge the community to match money that we raise. She asked about grant money. There was discussion about adding high school and/or remaining a K-8 school. Mrs. Lewis discussed that being a K-8 school would be more profitable, it would make us standout among other schools in Bladen County. Mr. Byrd stated that the board needs to take the first step in the capital campaign. Discussion was held about when we can continue working on the strategic plan by contacting and scheduling a specific meeting with Dave Faunce to help point us in the right direction. There was discussion about visiting sites with similar buildings. Ideas on how to raise money were discussed as well.

In the Executive Director's report Mrs. Cole shared the current Discipline Report and stated that handling discipline is taking up a lot of time. She reported that she has 3-4 people to interview

for the Dean of Student Affairs position and that getting that person in place would help. While reviewing the incidents, Mrs. Cole noted that there were several out of school suspensions but that she stands firm on them due to safety of the other students. Mr. Troy asked if the SRO Officer was present and Mrs. Cole explained that he was here most of the day. Mrs. Cole reported that enrollment was 578, presented the Organizational Chart for Emereau, and shared about the \$500 donation from Bladen Bible Fellowship that will be used for uniform and lunch needs.

Mrs. Lewis motioned to go into closed session at 6:58 p.m. Mr. Troy seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Byrd motioned to come out of closed session at 7:11 p.m. Mr. Williams seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Under Personnel Recommendations, Mr. Allen motioned to uphold the recommendation of the administration. Mr. Williams seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

The October meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 11, 2022, at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Allen motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:13 p.m. Mr. Williams seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Terri Raynor,  
Administrative Associate