

The Emereau Foundation  
d/b/a Emereau: Bladen  
Meeting of the Board of Directors  
Tuesday, June 13, 2023  
995 Airport Road, Elizabethtown, North Carolina 28337

Minutes

The Emereau Bladen Board of Directors met in regular session on Tuesday, June 13, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. Members present: Ashley Dowless, Board Chair, Sandra Lewis, Vice Chair, Phil Byrd, Treasurer, Maurice Williams, Secretary, Dennis Troy, Jennifer Whittington, Dan Allen, and Whitley Ward, Board Attorney

Participating virtually was Christy Nickolauson, Prestige School Solutions.

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

Other staff present were Joann Melvin, Stephanie Thompson, Stacie Bryan, Amanda Bunch, and Amanda Garner.

Others present were Brook Coleman and Trace Maxwell.

The 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 May 9, 2023 meeting for approval. Mr. Troy motioned to approve the minutes presented. Mr. Allen 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 May. She reported that finances looked good, that we are 8.33% which is where we should be at this time of the year, and there were no findings to report. Mrs. Nickolauson asked if the board was ready to vote on the 2023-2024 budget. The board discussed and Mr. Byrd made the motion to table the budget due to staffing changes. Mrs. Lewis seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously. Mr. Byrd motioned to approve the financial report for May. Mrs. Whittington seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Mrs. Cole informed the board that after she leaves June 30th, someone needed to be given the authorization to speak on behalf of the school for federal funds applications and grants. Mrs. Cole recommended that Polly Hancock be given the authorization since she will be the Interim Head of School. Mr. Troy made a motion to give Mrs. Hancock the authorization to speak on behalf of the school. Mr. Williams seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Mrs. Cole presented the Insurance Quote from Insurance People. After reviewing Mr. Williams made a motion to accept the quote. Mr. Byrd seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Mrs. Ward, Board Attorney, reminded the Board that according to our Bylaws, the 2023-2024 Officers were supposed to be elected at the June meeting. There were questions about "terms" of officers. Mrs. Ward said she could review the Bylaws and get clarification on those terms before we voted. Mrs. Lewis made a motion to table the election of officers. Mr. Williams seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

In the Executive Director's report Mrs. Cole updated the members on enrollment numbers and let them know that all grades levels have a waiting list. She informed them that Mrs. DeVane was making calls to those confirmed to make sure packets were being returned or to have them decline enrollment so we could move students on the waiting list. Mrs. Cole reported on the "unofficial" test scores. She told them that she and Mrs. Hancock made some moves in staff that would lead to growth and getting out of TSI status, and that SIT was also working hard to change things within the school that would lead to getting out of TSI status as well. Mrs. Cole thanked the board for their support and for letting her be a part of Emereau for the past 4 years.

Mr. Troy motioned to go into closed session at 6:04 p.m. Mr. Byrd seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Troy motioned to come out of closed session at 6:25 p.m. Mr. Byrd seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Under Disciplinary Hearing, Mr. Allen motioned to uphold the disciplinary recommendation of the administration. Mrs. Lewis seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

The July meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 11, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Allen motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:32 p.m. Mrs. Whittington seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Terri Raynor  
Administrative Associate