

The Emereau Foundation
d/b/a Emereau: Bladen
Meeting of the Board of Directors
Tuesday, November 9, 2021
995 Airport Road, Elizabethtown, North Carolina 28337

Minutes

The Emereau Bladen Board of Directors met in regular session on Tuesday, November 9, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. Members present: Ashley Dowless, Chair; Phil Byrd, Treasurer, Maurice Williams, Dan Allen, Jennifer Whittington and Board Attorney, Whitley Ward. Sandra Lewis, Vice Chair was present via zoom.

Member absent was Dennis Troy.

Participating virtually was Andrew Cilone with Prestige School Solutions.

Administrative staff present were Elizabeth Cole, Executive Director, Polly Hancock, Dean of Academics;
Staff present were Pia Jessup, 6th grade teacher, and Alley Rich, K-5 Health and P.E. teacher.

Also in attendance was Stewart Valentiner, parent.

Board Chair Ashley Dowless called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Everyone joined in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Dowless read the Mission Statement and the Conflict of Interest Statement. There were no conflicts of interest noted.

Mrs. Dowless presented the minutes from the October 12, 2021 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.

Mr. Byrd and Mr. Cilone presented the financial report for the month of October. Mr. Cilone discussed the update on the balance sheet, and Mrs. Cole gave an update on the water bill from the sprinkler system that was reflected in the October financial report. Mrs. Cole asked Mr. Valentiner to help with a meeting of the sprinkler company and the town to investigate the expense of the sprinkler system and a possible leak. Mr. Byrd motioned to approve the financial report presented. Ms. Whittington seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mrs. Cole presented a recommendation to remain with the mask mandate until we get out of school for winter break. The NC School Tool kit states that correctly wearing masks limits the number of students that must be quarantined. After board discussion, Mr. Williams made a motion to keep the mask mandate in place until the January board meeting. Ms. Whittington seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mrs. Cole presented a chart showing the results of our first Benchmark tests. She highlighted 7th grade math and 8th grade reading. She explained that we would tap into what they are doing and

share with other grade levels. She discussed how we are using data from Benchmark scores and iReady data to develop and plan for our Winter School. Mrs. Lewis questioned what our plans were for improving the data and when our next benchmark test would be given. Mrs. Hancock and Mrs. Cole gave details for improvement and ways we are working with teachers and students. The next benchmark will be given at the end of January or early February.

Mrs. Hancock shared the Beta Convention Survey Results: Elementary 32 Beta members participated. 21 parents voted to attend the convention in person. 7 voted not to attend, and 4 were undecided. The Jr. Beta had 65 participants. 38 parents voted to attend the convention in person and 27 voted for virtual or undecided. The convention will be held January 30- February 1. Mr. Byrd questioned if the ones that voted for virtual would still be able to participate. Ms. Jessup explained that all academic competitions were virtual and that they would be able to participate virtually if they made that choice. Mrs. Lewis made a motion to allow the Beta Club to attend the conference in person based on the parent responses to the survey. A second was made by Mr. Byrd and the motion was unanimously approved.

Under the Executive Director's report, Mrs. Cole gave an update on Phase 3B. Discussion about a multipurpose building and lease agreement led to Mr. Byrd requesting to repopulate the finance committee. Mr. Allen was nominated and agreed to work with Mr. Byrd and Mrs. Dowless. Mrs. Cole reported that the Lottery opened on November 1st. Thus far we have 19 entries, 13 are upcoming kindergarten students. She also shared information about our Flight Attendants which is a group of students that tutor younger students. They are sponsoring a Twin Day or Ugly Sweater Fund Raiser to sponsor a service project for our school. They want to build a Gaga Ball Pit. Mrs. Cole shared data from our SAT (Student Assistance Team) and information about the discipline referrals and social emotional needs of students this year. Giving Tuesday was presented as a way to give back to our school. We will advertise this event. Mrs. Lewis suggested giving examples to parents so they will know how they can give.

Mr. Williams motioned to go into closed session. Mr. Byrd seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Byrd motioned to come out of closed session. Mr. Williams seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

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

The Board then had a brief discussion about the final audit. They also decided they would not meet in December.

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

Mr. Byrd motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m. Mr. Williams seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Polly Hancock,
Dean of Academic Initiatives

