

The Emereau Foundation  
d/b/a Emereau: Bladen  
Meeting of the Board of Directors  
Tuesday, April 5, 2022  
995 Airport Road, Elizabethtown, North Carolina 28337

Minutes

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

Also, participating virtually was Christy Nickolauson with Prestige School Solutions and John Ramsey with Utica National Insurance.

Administrative staff present were Elizabeth Cole, Executive Director, and Polly Hancock, Dean of Academics. Staff present was Amanda Garner, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher and Jennifer Russ, Nurse.

Also in Attendance was: Ruby Stephens, Alisa Stephens, Stewart Valentiner, and Vera Valentiner.

Board Vice chair, Sandra Lewis called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Everyone joined in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Williams.

Mr. Allen read the Mission Statement.

Mrs. Lewis read the Conflict of Interest Statement. There were no conflicts of interest noted.

Mrs. Lewis presented the minutes from the March 8, 2022 meeting for approval. Mr. Allen motioned to approve the minutes presented. Mr. Williams seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mrs. Lewis opened the floor for public comments. Ruby Stephens, a 7<sup>th</sup> grade student at Emereau addressed the Board about when a high school might be expected. She really wants to continue at Emereau and she expressed these thoughts to the Board. Mrs. Cole shared that our Strategic Plan which is still in progress of completion, has a possible high school in the 5 to 10 year range. She shared with Ruby and her mom Alyssa, that Emereau would do everything possible to help Ruby transition to the best possible fit for her when the time came for her to attend high school. Mrs. Lewis thanked Ruby for coming and expressing her thoughts and feelings to the Board.

Mrs. Christy Nickolauson presented the financial report for the month of March. Mrs. Nickolauson reviewed the balance sheet and the Profit and Loss statement for the month. She discussed how we are  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way through the year completed. We are right on target with our budget with about 25% remaining. There was some discussion about making sure we use State Funds before we request any more Federal Money since State Funds have to be sent back if they are not used. Mrs. Cole also presented to the Board about using some money in the Budget to help cover travel expenses for Beta Sponsors to the National Convention since it is a volunteer service of the teachers. Mrs. Cole also shared that she has an upcoming meeting with Jennifer and Christy on Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup> to discuss ways to use the State funds. Mr. Troy

motioned to approve the financial report as discussed. Mr. Williams seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mrs. Cole introduced Mr. John Ramsey with Utica insurance, as he was attending virtually. He explained that an 8% inflation factor is built in to their policies to keep the replacement cost in line with actual worth of the building. The policy ends June 29 and the new fiscal year begins July 1. He explained how they could have it effective June 29 and bind the coverage to renew. A brief discussion about comparisons took place and a motion was made by Mr. Troy to table the Utica renewal pending comparison quotes. Ms. Whittington seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mrs. Cole presented the Charter Agreement from NCDPI. It must be signed and returned before April 25, 2022. This Agreement is a result of our 7 year renewal. Ms. Whittington made a motion to approve the Charter Agreement and Mr. Williams seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

Mrs. Cole presented a revision 2021-2022 Calendar to make May 26 and May 27 early release days due to overage of hours. We would release at 12:00 pm for students both days. Mr. Troy made a motion to approve the revised calendar. Ms. Whittington seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Mrs. Cole explained to the Board about our contract with Acadia NorthStar and Rebecca Arroyo for Grant Writing. Ms. Arroyo handles all of our Federal Grants and has a great deal of experience. Mr. Allen made a motion to continue the grant writing contract. Mr. Williams seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

In the Executive Director's report, Mrs. Cole updated the Board on current Lottery numbers. She shared about a potential Open House scheduled for Thursday, May 12. This would be an Open House for perspective students. Board training dates were also discussed and a consensus that a Thursday evening would be best. Mrs. Cole recognized our school nurse, Mrs. Russ. She shared with the Board that she had seen 300 students in the month of March for various reasons. One pod had been hit hard with the flu. She also discussed the upcoming Puberty classes she would be conducting, and she is working on scheduling physicals for Middle school students for sports. On April 29 we will have a vaccine clinic for rising 7<sup>th</sup> graders to receive their TDAP vaccine as required by the state. Mrs. Cole shared some upcoming events with the Board: April 6- Spring Band/Chorus concert at BCC, and Beauty and The Beast Performance in May at BCC as well. Our EOG dates are May 17- Reading, May 18- Math, and May 19- Science for grade 5 and 8.

There was no business to be discussed in Closed Session.

Mr. Allen made a comment about the BETA Event that was held on Saturday, March 26. He thought it was a great event. He asked about the Father/Daughter Dance we have had in the past, and he reported that parents would like to see us have this again. Mr. Troy also commented on the BETA Extravaganza and he wanted to make sure our relationship with BCC was accommodating.

The May meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 10, 2022, at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Williams motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:42 p.m. Ms. Whittington seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Polly Hancock,  
Dean of Academic Initiatives