

The Emereau Foundation  
d/b/a Emereau: Bladen  
Meeting of the Board of Directors  
Tuesday, September 14, 2021  
995 Airport Road, Elizabethtown, North Carolina 28337

Minutes

The Emereau Bladen Board of Directors met in regular session on Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. Members present: Mrs. Ashley Dowless, Chair; Mrs. Sandra Lewis, Vice Chair; Mr. Phil Byrd, Treasurer; Ms. Jennifer Whittington, Mr. Dennis Troy, and Mr. Dan Allen.

Member absent was Mr. Maurice Williams, Secretary.

Participating virtually was Mrs. Christy Nicholauson with Prestige School Solutions.

Administrative staff present were Elizabeth Cole, Executive Director, Polly Hancock, Dean of Academics; Jennifer Russ, Nurse; Amanda Garner, Teacher; and Wanda Everette, Administrative Associate.

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

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

Mrs. Dowless presented the minutes from the August 10, 2021 meeting for approval. Mr. Allen motioned to approve the minutes presented. Mr. Troy seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

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

Mrs. Christy Nicholauson presented the financial report for the month of August. Mr. Byrd motioned to approve the financial report presented. Mrs. Lewis seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mrs. Cole expressed concerns with paid time off for employees having to take time off for COVID related issues moving forward. Mrs. Cole asked the board for input whether to continue paying employees their salary for taking time off due to COVID absences. Mrs. Cole stated she did not feel employees were taking advantage of time off but asked for direction moving forward. Mrs. Lewis recommended forming a committee with teachers, board of directors and for Mrs. Cole to look into this. Mrs. Jennifer Russ stated that guidelines and data are constantly changing. Chair Dowless recommended forming a committee to make these decisions based on updated guidelines. Mrs. Cole stated that 37 staff and/or students have tested positive since August 2, 2021.

Mrs. Cole asked the board for recommendations on student field trips stating she had been contacted for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Washing DC trip. The Release Time staff have also reached out if students will be able to participate. Mrs. Cole expressed concern with students riding buses and having to do contact tracing related to COVID exposure. After much discussion, Mrs.

Lewis motioned to limit field trips to Emereau sponsored trips, no more than fifteen minutes from the school, and that Emereau students and staff only attend. Mr. Troy seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mrs. Cole presented an Exclusion Policy in reference to G. S. 115C-218.60. Exclusions allows administration to exclude a student to return to another school in the local administrative district if, in the opinion of the executive director, there has been sufficient violation of the rules and polices of the Emereau Bladen Charter School Family Guide. Each student was given a school planner with the Family Guidebook included which addresses student expulsions and suspensions at the beginning of the year. After much discussion, Mr. Allen motioned to approve the Exclusion Policy with the noted changes: *A student may be suspended or expelled from the school in accordance with Article 27 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes as stated and was approved. Descriptions of these consequences are described in the Emereau: Bladen Charter School Family Guide. Hearings: Requests for hearings with regards to an exclusion, expulsion or long term suspension must be formally directed in writing to the Board of Directors within three business days of the student's dismissal. The decision will remain in place until the Hearing and Appeals Committee of the Board of Directors has an opportunity to hold the hearing. The decision of the committee of the Board of Directors is final.* Mr. Byrd seconded and the motion was unanimously approve.

Mrs. Cole informed the Board that Leonard D'Oliveira has serviced Emereau Bladen's technology needs under Steve Joyner Consulting Services. Mr. D'Oliveira has expressed interest in leaving Steve Joyner Consulting Services and providing his own service to two of his charter schools two days a week at the same cost. Mr. D'Oliveira asked if the board of directors and the executive director would support his decision to branch off on his own. The agreement with Steve Joyner Services is an at-will agreement and can be cancelled at any time with no additional cost. Mrs. Cole asked for the board of director's permission to support Mr. D'Oliveira to work at Emereau two days per week. After discussing the matter, Mr. Byrd motioned to obtain a written contract from Mr. D'Oliveira to specify all services he will be providing, pending review by board attorney, Whitley Ward, and for it be presented back to the board for approval. Mrs. Lewis seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mrs. Cole informed the board that she had received a request to distribute Gideon Bibles to Grades 5, 6, and 7. Parents will be notified that students would be able to opt out and not participate. Mrs. Cole also informed the board that "See you at the Pole" statewide event will be held on September 22, 2021 and would be optional for all students and staff. Mr. Byrd motioned to allow the distribution of the Gideon Bibles to those choosing to participate. Mrs. Lewis seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Under Executive Director's report, Mrs. Cole gave an update on enrollment. The daily average enrollment is 582. Mrs. Cole then gave an update on student discipline. Infractions have total 24 days of missed instruction with one (1) out of school 10-day suspension. Mrs. Cole informed the Board that Phase IIIB construction is on hold at the present time until the budget is more finalized.

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Mr. Troy motioned to go into closed session at 6:50 pm. Mr. Byrd seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Troy motioned to return to open session at 7:10 pm. Mr. Byrd seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Under personnel recommendations, Mr. Allen motioned to ratify personnel recommendations made. Mrs. Lewis seconded and the motion was unanimously approved. Mrs. Lewis motioned to approve the following personnel actions; Kayla Rowland, Maker Space Teacher, Stephanie Thompson, Associate Teacher, and Ashley Johnson, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher. Mr. Troy seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

The October meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 12, 2021, at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Byrd motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m. Mr. Troy seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Wanda Everette,  
Administrative Associate