



Emma Jewel Charter Academy



"Helping the Village Raise the Child"

Minutes for Board of Directors Meeting for Emma Jewel Charter School Inc.

DBA

Emma Jewel Charter Academy

August 26 2024

5:30 p.m.

705 Blake Avenue

Cocoa, FL 32922

1. **Call to order**– Mr. Alton Edmond called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance/School Pledge**- Emma Jewel scholars led us in the Pledge of Allegiance, following the school's pledge.
3. **Roll Call**- Board Secretary Lacy Bussey conducted a roll call. Present were Reginald Jones, Alexis White, Lacy Bussey, Alton Edmond, Ross Whitley, Phillip Holder. Absent were, Erik Jones.
4. **Opening Statement** – Board secretary, Lacy Bussey read the opening statement.
5. **Public Notice**- Mr. Cole said that the public was notified by the EJCA website as well as the push app.
6. **Approval of Minutes from Board Meetings held, 2024*** - Board chair Alton Edmond asked the board to take the time to look over the last minutes. there were no corrections made on the minutes. Ms. Bussey made a motion to approve the minutes and Mrs. Alexis White second the motion. The motion held 6-0 vote.
7. **Monthly Financials ***- Mr. Whitley explained June 30th financials submitted to the district. At the end of year, there was a positive surplus in operations of \$13,120.62. The fund balance went up from \$103,000 to \$116,00. Mr. Whitley approved the monthly financials that were submitted to the district. Mrs. White second the motion. The motion stood 6–0.



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8. **School budget 2024-2025***-Mr. Cole stated that the key point was all the schools ESSER funds has run out. The school budget draft is for this coming school year. Mr. Whitley asked why there was a particular variance in the school revenue as compared to this year and last year. Additionally, he asked if the variance could be attributed to FTE funding. Mr. Cole explained that the variance was a result of the surtax revenue, which is hard to accurately predict. Mr. Ross Whitley made a motion to approve the schools budget draft. Miss Bussey second the motion. The motion stood 6–0.
9. **City Block Development Grant reek recommendations** – Mr. Cole announced to the board that the city block development grant was the fifth consecutive year that the school was awarded the highest points. The city blocked development grant is a county sponsored grant. Mr. Holder asked Mr. Cole why he did not request the maximum amount of money. Mr. Holder stated that other agencies requested \$50,000 and Emma Jewel fell short of requesting \$50,000. Mr. Cole explained that the board likes to see a decrease in the funds that are being asked each year. Mr. Cole explained that in the application there is a specific question that ask for your asking price the previous year if applied for the grant and on the application, they ask if it was an increase or decrease of that previous year. Mr. Cole said that he typically decreases 3% to 4%. He explained that the board wants to see that the agencies are not dependent upon government funding.
10. **Safety and security assurances***- Mr. Cole explained the safety and security changes that were made for this upcoming school year. He explained that item number three of the safety and security assurances was the only item number that changed. The item number said that all threat team members must be trained by the new Florida model before the first day of school. Board chair Alton Edmond signed the safety and security assurance. Mr. Ross Whitley made a motion to approve, mr. Phillip Holder second the motion. The motion stood 6–0.



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11. **Revised speech/language contract to include OT*** – Ms. Bussey went over the contract with the revised speech and language to include occupational therapy. She stated that the only thing that had changed from the previous year was that occupational therapy would now be offered under the same company. Board chair Alton Edmond entertained a motion to approve the revised speech and language contract to include occupational therapy. Ms. Bussey made the motion, Mr. Reginald Jones second the motion. The motion stood 6–0.
12. **MOU city of Cocoa SRO Services*** - Mr. Cole went over the updated revised contract with the city of Cocoa Police Department. He informed the board that a new school SRO officer has joined the Emma Jewel family. Board chair Alton Edmond entertained a motion to approve the revised contract with the city of Cocoa Police Department for the new hire. Mr. Ross Whitley made the motion to approve, Mr. Reginald Jones second motion. The motion stood 6–0.
13. **FAST Data**-Mr. Cole presented the testing data. He showed us the scores for the ELA by percentages by grade level. He pointed out that the higher the grade level the scholar was in the percentages increased. He explained that the seventh and eighth grade teacher would now be teaching 6/7 and eighth grade math to maintain a strong score. Mr. Cole also explained that in the previous year schools would need a 35% of the total points to score a C. He stated that the district kept that rule the same for elementary school, however, they change the rules for combination schools. For combination schools, the score has now moved up to 44%. Mr. Cole expressed his concern for this decision because the school's total point score was 45%.
14. **Section 457(f)**-Mr. Cole explained to the board about the non-qualified deferred compensation for non-for nonprofits. He told the board that the section 457(f) is a way for nonprofits to be able to have compensation for key Executives in a building which provides a deferred compensation to



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recruit and keep highly qualified key executives. He explained that he and Mrs. Cole are the two key executives/founders. Section 457. (f) ensures that the founders have a compensation plan. The plan includes two separate plans one for Mr. Cole as well as one for Mrs. Cole. The board will own and keep the policy until the founders exit. Mr. Cole informed the board that he will have the numbers ready to present to the board at the next board meeting as well as a plan that the financial advisors put together.

- 15. Secretary update** – Ms. Bussey updated the board members who needed to have refresher courses and background and fingerprinting done. She informed Mr. Holder that his fingerprinting had expired on 9–9–2023. She informed Mr. Whitley that his fingerprinting expires on 9–11–2024. Members of the board completed and turned in the principal evaluations to board secretary, Lacy Bussey in which she turned the principal evaluations in to Mrs. Mary Karnetsky vice principal.
- 16. New family member-** Mr. Cole introduced a new Emma Jewel charter family member and license mental health therapist. Her name is Ms. Carla Houghton and she will be providing therapy and support for the scholars and families in any way.
- 17. Adjourn-** The board meeting was adjourned at 6:25 PM by board chair Alton Edmond.

**Requires Formal Board Action*