

**BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**January 18, 2021**

**Item 1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of Black River Public School was called to order by President Tom Pietri at 5:35pm on January 18, 2021, through a Zoom webinar. Recognition was made that a quorum was present through a roll call.

**Item 2. ROLL CALL**

Members Present:

Elizabeth Bauman (Ottawa County), Mike Camarota (Alleghen County), Maria Carrizales-Alonzo (Ottawa County), Ruth Crouch (West Olive), Craig Davis (Downtown Holland), David Kibler (Holland), Mary Mims (Holland), Kim Mitchell (Holland), Tom Pietri (Holland)

Members Absent:

None

Staff Present:

Shannon Brunink (Head of School), Michelle Byrne (Administrative Assistant), Adriann Divozzo (BR Teacher), John Donnelly (Dean of Students), Krista Ekdahl (BR Teacher), Jeanne Kane (BR Teacher), Jim Levering (Elementary Administrator), Frances Olesen (BR Teacher), Courtney Phillips (BR Teacher), John Zoellner (Business Director)

Public Present:

16163127300, 16165607928, annie, Ben Vesper, Brandie Navarro, Brian Johnson, Cara VanderJagt, Chris Russell, Dave Locher, Dyana Harrelson, Emily Ballard, Errol Goldman, kerri, Kerrie, kim, kim eich, Liz McManus, Mary Rynsburger, Matt Cawood, PGort, Phil Rozema, Robin B.

Media Present:

None

**Item 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

There being no corrections, all minutes of the Board's December 7, 2020 meeting were approved upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo. (9-0)

**Item 4. FINANCE REPORT**

Mr. Zoellner discussed the December financial report and indicated that the State Superintendent has approved our application for student meal debt forgiveness.

#### **Item 5. ADMINISTRATION REPORT**

Mr. Brunink explained the academic struggles that some students faced while remote learning. The school decided to forgo exams in order to focus student efforts toward assignments that show content mastery and earning credit for late work. Departments will work to develop a credit recovery plan that could be implemented this semester, during Project Term, or over the summer break. This year's Project Term will look quite different than year's past and although we do not know yet what it may involve, the school hopes to offer something that can fit within the Covid-19 restrictions. Faculty has compiled ideas they hope to work to develop over the next year and will submit them to members of the board. Grand Valley State University will conduct their charter renewal visits virtually this year. This will include classroom observations as well as student, parent, and teacher interviews. Covid funds have been allocated toward new technology which have included new devices as well as infrastructure updates. Ms. Kelli Heneghan and Ms. Kerrie Esmeier have reimagined Black River's marketing to include new handouts, signage, video tours, and social media advertising. This year's open house will take place on Saturday, February 6th. Mr. Brunink summarized a variety of lessons offered to observe this year's Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. He also outlined the most recent information from the Ottawa County Health Department on vaccine distribution.

#### **Item 6. COVID-19 LEARNING PLAN**

Mr. Brunink explained that students had the opportunity to return to in person learning on January 11th with a goal to be in person the rest of the year. He answered questions about the Governor's statements.

Mr. Pietri opened the floor for public comment but there were not any brought before the board. Mr. Pietri shared how impressed he has been with the work teachers have completed to deliver a quality Black River education both remote and in person.

**Motion to accept** Black River's Extended Covid-19 Learning Plan as presented. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Ms. Crouch. (9-0)

#### **Item 7. GVSU REPORT**

Mr. Cawood shared that the allowance for virtual board meetings has been extended. He looks forward to the contract renewal visits tomorrow and explained how the annual school performance reports differ this year due to Covid-19 limitations. He reminded the board that Mr. Pietri and Ms. Mitchell have board terms expiring this year and of the timeline for reappointment. The GVSU CSO offers webinar training and the board is required to complete a total of 4 hours this year.

**Item 8. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Pietri read aloud questions and comments including gratitude to board and staff, offers of parent support while developing spring plans, and tech updates from Brandie Navarro, annie, kim eich, and kerri. He indicated that questions would be answered personally by individual members of the board.

**Item 9. CLOSED SESSION**

Motion to move into closed session to review a written legal opinion pursuant to section 8ah of the open meetings act. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo. (9-0)

**Item 10. OPEN SESSION**

Motion to come out of closed session at 7:08pm. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Ms. Crouch. (9-0)

**Item 11. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:12pm.

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:30 pm on February 15, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,



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Mary M. Mims, Secretary