

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board Meeting Minutes
January 20, 2020

Item 1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Black River Public School was called to order by President Tom Pietri at 5:34pm on January 20, 2020, in room 229 at the school's Columbia Avenue campus. Recognition was made that a quorum was present through a roll call.

Item 2. ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Elizabeth Bauman, Mike Camarota, Maria Carrizales-Alonzo, Ruth Crouch, Craig Davis, Mary Mims, Kim Mitchell, Tom Pietri

Members Absent:

David Kibler

Staff Present:

Brett Bittrick (BR Teacher), Shannon Brunink (Head of School), Michelle Byrne (Administrative Assistant), John Donnelly (Dean of Students), Brent Rowe (BR Teacher)

Public Present:

Zahabia Ahmed-USmani (BR Parent), Rob Buikema (BR Parent), Tamara Buikema (BR Parent), Matt Cawood (GVSU Charter Schools Office), Errol Goldman (BR Attorney), Donna Lowry (BR Parent), Ekta Rajgarhia (BR Parent), Pranay Rajgarhia (BR Parent), Mary Rynsburger (BR Parent), Aanya Usmani (BR Student Rep.)

Media Present:

None

Item 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no corrections, all minutes of the Board's December 16, 2019 meeting, were approved upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo. (8-0)

Item 4. FACULTY COUNCIL PRESENTATION

Mr. Bittrick distributed and explained the 2020 Faculty Council Charges. Each year the team presents three recommendations to support student achievement, retain the best, brightest and highest performing teachers, and innovate the BRPS program.

Item 5. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Mr. Donnelly shared some of the classroom activities that took place to honor Martin Luther King Jr. Day and discussed how these relate to the Black River mission. He also outlined the upcoming Homecoming events.

Mr. Brunink distributed and outlined the proposed 2020-2021 calendar.

Motion to adopt the 2020-2021 School Year Calendar as written. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Ms. Crouch. (8-0)

Mr. Brunink provided a FLEX/CAP analysis summarizing the course's effect on student achievement over the last two years. He explained that Mr. Alex Constantelos no longer works at Black River, and Mr. Brunink is working to support his math students and We the People team.

Item 6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Pietri praised the We the People team for the work they have done and encouraged anyone able to support the trip to Nationals through their Go Fund Me page. He reminded the board that the selection committee, comprised of Mr. Camarota, Ms. Crouch, Ms. Mims, and Ms. Mitchell, will nominate a new board member to GVSU in advance of the end of Ms. Crouch's board term.

Item 7. STUDENT REPORT

Miss Usmani indicated that Student Council is preparing for Snowcoming. They have begun advertising and The Athletic Boosters have been a great help to the game committee. The Sock Hop will take place this Friday. Student Council has been transitioning as their faculty advisor, Ms. Jan Hulst, has taken a full time teaching position at Fennville Public Schools. Miss Usmani applauded the social activism accomplishments of Miss Hannah Huggett as well as her work with the school's composting program. She also praised the We the People team as they prepare for Nationals.

Item 8. GVSU UPDATE

Mr. Cawood explained that there are four board members (Ms. Bauman, Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo, Ms. Crouch, and Mr. Davis) with terms expiring after this year.

Motion to recommend the renewals of three year board appointments for Ms. Bauman, Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo, and Mr. Davis. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Ms. Mitchell. (8-0)

Mr. Cawood distributed the school performance reports as well as the Academic Grant Award criteria. The GVSU board reception will be held on April 20, 2020.

Item 9. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business for the board to address.

Item 10. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business brought before the board.

Item 11. OPEN FORUM / COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Ms. Lowry introduced herself and spoke on behalf of many of the We the People parents. She outlined how her students have benefited from this program and thanked the school for the support promised during this transition. Mr. Rajgarhia echoed the sentiments and stated that the relationships and growth will last a lifetime. Ms. Usmani thanked those that have already donated to the group and the teams wishes for a smooth transition.

Item 12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:04pm.

NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:30 pm on February 17, 2020, at Black River Public School's 491 Columbia Avenue Campus.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary M. Mims, Secretary