

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board Meeting Minutes
March 18, 2019

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 5:37pm on March 18, 2019, 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:

Mike Camarota, Maria Carrizales-Alonzo, Ruth Crouch, Craig Davis, David Kibler, Kim Mitchell, Tom Pietri

Members Absent:

Mary Mims, Brian Porter

Staff Present:

Shannon Brunink (Head of School), Michelle Byrne (Administrative Assistant), John Donnelly (Dean of Students), Jeanne Kane (BR Teacher), Jim Levering (Elementary Administrator), Jill Miskelley (BR Teacher), Tricia Schrottenboer (School Counselor), Allyson VanderBush (BR Teacher), John Zoellner (Business Director)

Public Present:

Matt Cawood (GVSU Charter Schools Office), Laura Driscoll (BR Parent), Errol Goldman (BR Attorney), Mary Rynsburger (BR Parent), Aanya Usmani (BR Student Representative)

Media Present:

None

Item 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no corrections, all minutes of the Board's February 18, 2019 meeting, were approved upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Ms. Crouch. (7-0)

Item 4. BUSINESS REPORT

Mr. Zoellner distributed the February financial report and indicated that a pre-bid meeting would take place this week with any food service providers interested in working with Black River. He continues to work on Budget Adjustment 2 and next year's proposed budget.

Item 5. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Mr. Brunink introduced Ms. Tricia Schrottenboer and Ms. Jill Miskelley and asked that they share some of the mental health services available at Black River.

Ms. Schrottenboer began by explaining that mental health encompasses how a student thinks, acts, and feels and that these things can be affected by many factors while at school. She shared examples of both proactive and reactive services including Be Nice, QPR Training, TCM Counseling, LGBTQ+, Trauma Committee/Training, Wednesday Group, OK to Say, and Help Team. She also explained that events like the yearly 5th grade tour are a proactive way to help reduce anxiety that students feel when experiencing a transition. Ms. Miskelley went in to further detail on the programs supported by Be Nice and explained that the group has experienced growth over the last year. Those present discussed ways to increase visibility as well as the role of social media.

Mr. Donnelly explained that the nicer weather can result in increased outdoor behavior issues. He also spoke about Hi-Tec staffing changes, driving behaviors, vaping policy, and crossing guard responsibilities.

Mr. Levering stated that Black River recently hosted the regional spelling bee and thanked those that were involved in making this event a success. This year will mark BR's 10th annual fundraiser benefiting the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. March is traditionally "Reading Month" and Mr. Levering thanked Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo along with the other parents who donated 101 books supporting the school's elementary curriculum. He also highlighted the work of the Parent Organization for this year's book swap and thanked community volunteers for participating in Diversity Rocks the Books. Mr. Levering went in to further detail on the trauma committee and the professional development that has taken place. He also shared information from the book study being done on *The Boy Who Was Raised as a Dog* by Bruce Perry.

Mr. Brunink highlighted statistics from this year's open enrollment period and stated that course scheduling for grades 6-12 has begun. The 5th Grade Parent Night will take place on March 19th to provide more in depth instruction for a family's first time going through the registration process. He outlined proposed legislation addressing snow days, insurance meetings, Parent/Teacher Conferences, and this year's spring staff celebration. Mr. Brunink also thanked Ms. Pat Gort for another great Scholastic Book Fair!

Item 6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Pietri thanked Faculty Council for their presentation last month. He indicated that a preliminary marketing committee meeting was held. They will work to determine how to define Black River, how to present our product to the community, and develop a system for tracking

decisions to leave Black River. Ms. Mitchell, Ms. Mims, Ms. Crouch, and Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo continue their work to fill the open board position after Mr. Porter completes his term.

Item 7. STUDENT REPORT

Miss Usmani explained that Student Council has formed new committees to prepare for this year's Spring Thing. She shared that Calling All Colors presented to Middle School CAP classes and provided clarification on the student questions about the availability of off campus lunch privileges. Miss Usmani discussed ways to communicate and reinforce graduation requirements as well as fundraising possibilities for clubs.

Item 8. GVSU UPDATE

Mr. Cawood reminded members of the board of the GVSU reception on April 16th as well as the professional development requirement due by June 30th. He also indicated that members will receive a contract amendment to accommodate new state laws.

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

There were no comments from the public.

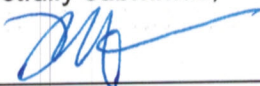
Item 12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board, a motion was made by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo to adjourn the meeting at 7:11 pm. (7-0)

NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:30 pm on April 15, 2019, at Black River Public School's 491 Columbia Avenue Campus.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary M. Mims, Secretary