

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board Meeting Minutes
March 21, 2022

Item 1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of Black River Public School was called to order by President Kim Mitchell at 5:36pm on March 21, 2022, 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:

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

Members Absent:

None

Staff Present:

Shannon Brunink (Head of School), Michelle Byrne (Administrative Assistant), John K. Donnelly (Dean of Students), John Zoellner (Business Director)

Public Present:

Isabella Camarota, Matt Cawood, Harper Gerow, Errol Goldman, Representative Bradley Slagh, Marina Tronrud

Media Present:

None

Item 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no corrections, all minutes of the Board's February 14, 2022 meeting were approved upon a motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Pietri. (9-0)

Item 4. BUSINESS REPORT

Mr. Zoellner distributed and explained the February financial report as well as a preview of the upcoming budget update. Overall this year's budget is on track and they continue work on ESSER III funding after the preliminary approvals. He was thrilled to share that we have hired Ms. Penny Mull into the Business Office.

Item 5. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Mr. Donnelly indicated that the severe weather drill for this month was completed successfully. He recently attended an Ottawa Area Safe Schools Network conference where they practiced the logistics following a tragic event. He also explained that the students and staff have handled the transition to optional masking well.

Mr. Brunink explained that the masking change happened at a good time and how proud he is of students and staff for supporting each other in their choice. He also outlined how Black River's Covid statistics have decreased over the last month. CRASE training for staff has been scheduled for April. The enrollment lottery for the 2022-2023 school year took place with 50 more applications than last year and families have been notified of their acceptance or placement on the waitlist. Mr. Brunink updated the board on how staff and students are continuing to process the loss of Mr. Schuler. He has appreciated the communication with the Schuler family and thanked Hope College for the use of Dimnent Chapel for the live stream service and Be Better for the counseling support. He was also grateful that Dr. Jesse Davenport has volunteered to continue teaching Mr. Schuler's classes for the rest of the semester.

Item 6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Mitchell did not have anything to report at this time.

Item 7. GVSU REPORT

Mr. Cawood shared that this year's board reception will be held in person on May 9th. Virtual board training continues on April 6th with a session about school budgeting and financing. If the board chooses to appoint new members they should be submitted to GVSU prior to May 13 to avoid a lapse in terms. He also distributed trend data for the board to review.

Item 8. BE NICE UPDATE

Miss Isabella Camarota and Miss Harper Gerow presented the work of the Be Nice group. They indicated that their goal is to reduce stigma around mental health and presented their action plan. They will be holding a can drive fundraiser and indicated that they can be reached at blackriverbenice@brpsk12.org.

Item 9. OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Mitchell indicated that seven students expressed interest in the board representative positions for next school year. They will conduct interviews in the coming weeks.

Item 10. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Bauman shared how impressed she was with the smart, dedicated, and impressive young teachers she met at this year's conferences. Mr. Davis gave feedback on the virtual conference option. Mr. Camarota shared information about the Graduation and Beyond program being developed by the Boys and Girls Club.

Item 11. PUBLIC COMMENT

Representative Bradley Slagh encouraged those present to contact him with any issues or concerns. He stated that he will continue to work on educational funding.

Ms. Marina Tronrud asked for clarification on enrollment numbers.

Mr. Kibler was pleased with the recent theater production and Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo added how nice it was to see students with a mix of interests involved in and attending the show.

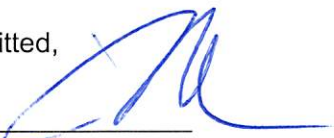
Item 12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:49pm.

NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:30 pm on April 11, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary M. Mims, Secretary