

**BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**May 20, 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 5:35pm on May 20, 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:

Maria Carrizales-Alonzo, Ruth Crouch, Craig Davis, David Kibler, Kim Mitchell, Tom Pietri, Brian Porter

Members Absent:

Mike Camarota, Mary Mims

Staff Present:

Shannon Brunink (Head of School), Michelle Byrne (Administrative Assistant), John Donnelly (Dean of Students), Jim Levering (Elementary Administrator), 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 April 15, 2019 meeting, were approved upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo. (7-0)

**Item 4. BUSINESS REPORT**

Mr. Zoellner explained that at the time of the bid opening there was only one submission. The information has gone on to the state for evaluation before it will be brought to the board for formal approval. Mr. Zoellner distributed the April financial report and the board decided to hold the next Finance Committee Meeting on June 3rd.

## **Item 5. ADMINISTRATION REPORT**

Mr. Donnelly explained that Project Term is in full swing. He outlined the recent performance of the track team and thanked the coaches for their work with our students. Prom took place on May 11th at the Saugatuck Center for the Arts. He also indicated that he has shared the 2019-2020 Student Handbook for review.

Mr. Levering indicated that as we move toward the end of the year many of the clubs are ending. He outlined impressive achievements of some elementary participants and expressed gratitude for the hard working volunteers that make these opportunities possible. The 5th Grade Graduation was highly attended and served as a touching celebration of culmination of these students' elementary career at Black River. At this event Mr. Levering was also able to recognize the many years of dedication Ms. Barb Boyce has given Black River in advance of her retirement at the end of this year. He also thanked Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo for the many added touches she contributed to set this year's event apart. The year will end with an elementary field day on the last day of school and preparations are underway to facilitate this celebration.

Mr. Brunink outlined the ways Black River students participated in this year's Tulip Time Festival and indicated that both final exams and AP exams are complete. The Senior Capstone Showcase will take place this Thursday. Five of Black River's elementary staff have been honored at the second annual Amazing Teachers Banquet hosted by the Holland Sentinel. This included Carrie Ames, Elyse Cisler, Jamie Fredenburg, Jared Graybiel, and Kristen VanRavenswaay. Work continues on developing a new CAP program to improve on what is currently in place by creating more consistency and developing ways to implement interventions. The state has officially determined how many snow days are forgiven allowing Black River to finish out the year as scheduled. Professional development is scheduled for August with Opportunity Thrive to support staff and give them the skills to care for themselves and others. The school has also hired Mr. Dan Penning with High Rock to facilitate the Science lab remodel as well as the continued hard surface project. Mr. Brunink was proud to share Black River's ranking with both MAPSA and US News and World Report. He also explained that Ms. Allyson VanderBush and Ms. Diane Heyboer will not be returning to Black River next year and Ms. Necia Ornee has been added to the department. Ms. Barb Boyce will be retiring this year and Ms. Ann Stimer will join the Kindergarten staff next year. Mr. Ron Winowiecki has also been added as the new varsity boys basketball coach.

## **Item 6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Pietri discussed the vaccination waivers in schools and local percentages asking Mr. Goldman to explore this topic further.

**Motion to recommend** Ms. Elizabeth Bauman as the next Black River board member for approval by the Grand Valley State University board. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Ms. Crouch. (7-0)

Members of the board were asked to complete the GVSU annual conflict of interest forms and turn them in. They were also reminded about the upcoming graduation and encouraged to attend.

**Motion to continue** the affiliation of Black River Public School with the Michigan High School Athletic Association for the 2019-2020 school year. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo. (7-0)

**Motion to accept** the OAISD General Fund Resolution as presented. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo. (7-0)

#### **Item 7. STUDENT REPORT**

Miss Usmani shared that Student Council determined next year's cabinet, voting Mariel Vander Schuur as President and Becca Morin as Vice President. She outlined the events of Spring Thing as well as the regional Track meet.

#### **Item 8. GVSU UPDATE**

Mr. Cawood explained that the reappointment approval for Mr. Camarota, Mr. Kibler, and Ms. Mims took place at the April 26 GVSU board meeting. He also indicated that the school received the charter contract amendment as well as outlined the requirements for tonight's board training.

#### **Item 9. OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business for the board to address.

#### **Item 10. NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Crouch explained that a former student has organized a reunion for all Black River graduates on August 10th.

#### **Item 11. OPEN FORUM / COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were no comments from the public.

#### **Item 12. CLOSED SESSION**

**Motion to move** in to closed session to review a written legal opinion. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Ms. Crouch. (7-0)

#### **Item 13. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

**Motion to move** out of closed session. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Ms. Mitchell. (7-0)

**Item 14. BOARD TRAINING**

Mr. Goldman led a board training to discuss how schools expand and what factors would be considered when doing so.

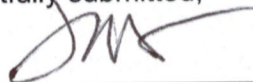
**Item 15. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the board, a motion was made by Mr. Pietri to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 pm. (7-0)

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:30 pm on June 24, 2019, at Black River Public School's 491 Columbia Avenue Campus.

Respectfully submitted,



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Mary M. Mims, Secretary