

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Special Board Meeting Minutes
August 5, 2020

Item 1. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Board of Trustees of Black River Public School was called to order by President Tom Pietri at 5:35pm on August 5, 2020, through a Zoom webinar. 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, David Kibler, Mary Mims, Kim Mitchell, Tom Pietri

Members Absent:

None

Presenters:

Angela Aumaugher (BR Teacher), Shannon Brunink (Head of School), Michelle Byrne (Administrative Assistant), Errol Goldman (BR Attorney), Kendra Kern (BR Teacher), John Donnelly (Dean of Students), Jim Levering (Elementary Administrator), Karen Rowe (BR Teacher), Tricia Schrotenboer (School Counselor)

Public Present:

616-312-7300, 616-560-7928, Aaron Best, Amanda Dykhouse, Amy, Andrea, Annette Guzman, Beth Powers, Brandie Navarro, Brenda, Brent Rowe, Caleb Fisher, Carrie Ames, Choonghee Han, Concerned Parent, Corey, Courtney Phillips, Dale Gort, Dyana Harrelson, Emily Ballard, Erin Grob, Farah Berent, Fran Olesen, Helen Shibley, Jamie Fredenburg, John, Kerrie Esmeier, Kim Eich, Krista Ekdahl, Kristen VanRavenswaay, Kyle, Layne Weatherwax, Lynel, Mandy Compagner, Marguerite Stephens, Matthew Benson, Matthew Cawood, Ms. Kristin, Ms. Beird, Pete & Cynthia Hicks, Peter, Rachel Goudie, Rayna Davids, Robin Bentley, Rodger Eich, Sara, Scott Millen, Shane, Stephanie Edwards, Steve, Terree, Thomas Huggett, Todd Schwartz

Media Present:

None

Item 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no corrections, all minutes of the Board's June 22, 2020 and July 6, 2020 meetings were approved upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo. (9-0)

Item 4. BOARD MEETING CALENDAR

Motion to accept the proposed 2020-2021 Board Meeting Calendar as presented. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Ms. Crouch. (9-0)

Item 5. COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PLAN

Mr. Brunink indicated that the COVID-19 preparedness and response plan was distributed to the board for review. He provided a summary of the extensive plan and solicited questions from members of the board.

Motion to approve the COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan and approval of charter contract amendment. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Mr. Pietre, seconded by Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo. (9-0)

Item 6. RAT RETURN PRESENTATION

Ms. Rowe shared the work of the Communications Committee. Some items included website updates, Infinite Campus push notifications, staff and parent surveys, staff and parent training materials/resources, and a staff survival guide.

Ms. Schrotenboer outlined the support planned by the Mental Health and Wellness Committee. This will focus on both students and staff with centrally located resources available on the school's website. They will also utilize the EduGuide platform.

Ms. Kern and Ms. Fredenburg explained what the Elementary Instruction Committee developed to deliver K-5 remote learning. They shared examples of the tools students will use to work through Black River's Montessori curriculum. This work will also be ready to roll out school wide should there be the need to have all students go fully remote.

Mr. Levering shared survey statistics and Mr. Brunink explained how MS/HS content area certifications make it difficult to move staff around and assign remote only responsibilities.

Ms. Aumaugher shared the work done by the MS/HS Instruction and Technology Committee. Training on GSuite tools allow staff to prepare for instruction in and out of the classroom. She also shared a proposed daily schedule to allow for decreased movement in the building.

Mr. Brunink indicated that the Facilities Committee has spent the summer analyzing the usage of Black River's campus as a whole and completed extensive planning in order to meet the requirements of the COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan.

Mr. Levering shared that he was drawn to this committee work to keep kids safe in every way possible. Now that the overarching preparedness plan has been approved by Grand Valley State University, the State of Michigan, and Black River's Board of Trustees the committees can work to release detailed specifics of their individual plans. Mr. Levering explained that many hope to even develop videos and pictures of examples to ease anxieties over the coming days.

Mr. Brunink, Mr. Donnelly, and Mr. Levering all thanked the more than 60 people that worked on the committees in order to reach this point of the planning process. They noted that it will still take time to distill the vast number of decisions that have been made down to specific procedures and guidelines for official release but members are devoting an incredible amount of work to this task.

Item7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Pietri read aloud questions and comments about Black River's COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan from Scott Millen, Farah Berent, Aaron Best, Thomas Huggett, Ms. Kristin, Mandy Compagner, Shane, Brandi Navarro, Steve, and John. He indicated that the board would add answers to the preparedness plan FAQ where appropriate. Questions that did not benefit the FAQ would be answered by individual members of the board.


Item 8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm.

NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:30 pm on August 24, 2020, at Black River Public School's 491 Columbia Avenue Campus.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary M. Mims, Secretary