

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board Meeting Minutes
August 19, 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 5:40pm on August 19, 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:

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

Members Absent:

David Kibler

Staff Present:

Shannon Brunink (Head of School), Michelle Byrne (Administrative Assistant), John Donnelly (Dean of Students), Tara Gorris (BR Teacher), Jim Levering (Elementary Administrator), John Zoellner (Business Director)

Public Present:

Matt Cawood (GVSU Charter Schools Office), Errol Goldman (BR Attorney), Hannah Huggett (BR Student), Kelly Huggett (BR Parent), Madelyn Rynsburger (BR Student), Mary Rynsburger (BR Parent), Aanya Usmani (BR Student)

Media Present:

None

Mr. Cawood administered the reappointment oath of Mike Camarota as well as the initial swearing in of Ms. Bauman.

Item 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no corrections, all minutes of the Board's June 24, 2019 meeting, were approved upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Ms. Carrizales. (8-0)

Item 4. BUSINESS REPORT

Mr. Zoellner discussed the unofficial audit report and indicated that there were no findings. The Finance Committee hopes to meet on September 11.

Item 5. RECYCLING PROPOSAL

Miss Hannah Huggett and Miss Madelyn Rynsburger presented their ideas for changes to Black River's recycling program. They discussed how it would fit in to Black River's mission as well as how best to educate students and staff.

Item 6. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Mr. Donnelly outlined the ways he has been assisting with facilities needs in Ms. Nicole Klunder's absence. The team presented what they learned from their Opportunity Thrive training at today's inservice. Mr. Donnelly welcomed Mr. Charlie Marra to the crossing guard team.

Mr. Levering shared that more than 100 students attended the Elementary Summer Program and thanked Ms. Krista Ekdahl along with the rest of the staff that made the program a success. He discussed ideas to reduce summer loss and thanked the Parent Organization for supporting the Popsicles in the Park event. Preparations for implementation of the new Right Start Math program are underway with teacher trainings, a parent info night, and a webinar. He also started a new tradition of a Kindergarten Signing Day photo op at the Elementary Open House.

Mr. Brunink boasted Black River's rating in the recent Niche ranking and discussed why BR does not teach to a specific test. The inservice included a 504 presentation from Mr. Mark King, details about CAP changes, as well as the introduction of new staff members. The Science lab construction is complete and work on the hard surface/basketball courts/etc will begin this fall. Mr. Brunink thanked the Parent Organization as well as the Rat Race supporters for funding this project. He was also recently asked to lead a charter school affiliate through the OAISD.

Item 7. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Pietri asked Mr. Goldman to summarize the GVSU charter contract changes.

Motion to accept the GVSU charter contract amendment as presented. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Mr. Camarota. (8-0)

Item 8. STUDENT REPORT

Miss Usmani stated that Student Council is working on plans for the September 27th Homecoming events.

Item 9. GVSU UPDATE

Mr. Cawood thanked the board for their decision on the charter contract amendment.

Item 10. OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Crouch presented the 2019-2020 board meeting calendar included below.

August 19
September 16
October 21
November 18
December 16
January 20
February 17
March 16
April 20
May 18
June 29
July - No Meeting

Item 11. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Crouch stated that a former student, Ms. Jessica Helton recently organized an all class Black River reunion. The alumni Facebook page provided the opportunity to post an alumni survey that is now collecting responses.

Item 12. OPEN FORUM / COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public.

Item 13. CLOSED SESSION

Motion to move into closed session to review a written legal opinion at 7:26pm. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Ms. Mitchell through a roll call vote. (8-0)

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Motion to move out of closed session at 7:56pm. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Ms. Mims. (8-0)

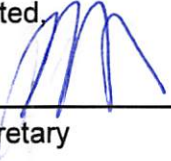
Item 14. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:57 pm.

NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:30 pm on September 16, 2019, at Black River Public School's 491 Columbia Avenue Campus.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary M. Mims, Secretary