

**BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Special Board Meeting Minutes
August 24, 2020**

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 5:36pm on August 24, 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, Mary Mims, Kim Mitchell, Tom Pietri

Members Absent:

David Kibler

Staff Present:

Shannon Brunink (Head of School), Michelle Byrne (Administrative Assistant), Damon Cove (BR Teacher), Adriann Divozzo (BR Teacher), John Donnelly (Dean of Students), Jim Levering (Elementary Administrator), Brent Rowe (BR Teacher), John Zoellner (Business Director)

Public Present:

Mitchell Boatman (Holland Sentinel), Matt Cawood (GVSU Charter Schools Office), Kim Eich (BR Parent), Rodger Eich (BR Parent), Errol Goldman (BR Attorney), Mangum (BR Parent), Marthens (BR Parent), Brandie Navarro (BR Parent), Lisa Pearson (BR Parent), Phil Rozema (BR Parent), Mary Rynsburger (BR Parent), Armandina Walker (BR Parent)

Media Present:

None

Item 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no corrections, all minutes of the Board's August 5, 2020 meeting were approved upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Ms. Bauman. (7-0)

Item 4. BUSINESS REPORT

Mr. Zoellner reviewed findings from the audit, which was held virtually this year, and discussed the budget outlook for upcoming years. He proposed the renewal of Black River's contract for food service with Aramark and explained the weekly meal pickup program in place during remote learning.

Motion to continue Black River's contract with Aramark for 1 year. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Ms. Mims. (7-0)

Item 5. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Mr. Levering explained that August was busy developing the remote learning platform to deliver Black River's Montessori curriculum at home. The materials pickup went smoothly and provided materials, technology, and assessments for students to start the year. He indicated that the team continues to refine the facilities plan to prepare for our return in person. Mr. Levering also shared that teachers are attending seminars to aid in the delivery of remote content and outlined the development of training modules to educate parents. He addressed questions about what systems are in place to meet students where they are and address those that fall behind.

Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo outlined the incredible growth the remote program has experienced over the summer and appreciated the training for parent facilitators to help mimic the classroom environment students are used to.

Ms. Bauman also shared her family's perspective from roll out day explaining that, despite the many changes, there was still excitement surrounding a new year.

Mr. Brunink thanked Mr. Donnelly and Mr. Levering for their work to prepare for the start of the school year. He celebrated his 25th first day of school at Black River this year and although many things have changed, he still enjoyed being in front of school to witness the families that came to take back-to-school pictures. Black River will now work to amend the COVID-19 Preparedness Response Plan through GVSU to reflect the need for full remote learning due to staffing concerns. Mr. Brunink explained the need for this decision as well as the range of responses the school received.

Mr. Brunink thanked the more than 60 committee members that created Black River's remote and in person learning plans indicating that it was inspiring to be a part of and watch in action. He also thanked families for their patience as the school encountered obstacles and explained that we are all learning a lot. Remote learning for Middle and High School has grown a lot since last spring with a rotating schedule for synchronous learning. Mr. Brunink explained that this creative schedule allows the delivery of full content and shared resources for students that may fall behind. He answered questions about workload expectations and outlined the many factors that contribute to a decision to be fully remote or in person.

Motion to amend the existing COVID-19 Preparedness Response Plan to allow the use of Black River's Phase 3 plan during Phase 4 if staffing needs require. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Ms. Crouch. (8-0)

Motion to approve Black River's membership with MHSAA for the 2020-2021 school year and allow Mr. Shannon Brunink to sign as the school's designee. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Ms. Mims. (8-0)

Item 6. GVSU REPORT

Mr. Cawood answered questions about the roles of GVSU and Black River's board in the determination of when to return to in person instruction. He also explained that several bills have been passed affecting this year's school funding. He complimented Black River on their COVID-19 Preparedness Plan and explained that the next step will be to submit the extended plan through GVSU's template.

Item 7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Pietri read aloud questions and comments from those in attendance indicating that a member of the board would respond individually in the coming days. After brief technical difficulties the board received questions and comments about Black River's remote learning plan, more detailed meeting minutes, staffing, and gratitude for the work put in to the start of the year from Phil Rozema, Marthens, Kim Eich, Mary Rynsburger, and Craig Davis.

Item 8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:57pm.

NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:30 pm on September 21, 2020, at Black River Public School's 491 Columbia Avenue Campus.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary M. Mims, Secretary

