

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board Meeting Minutes
September 18, 2023

Item 1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Board of Directors of Black River Public School was called to order by President Kim Mitchell at 5:35pm on September 18, 2023, 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:

Sarah Bast, Elisabeth Bauman, Matt Benson, Craig Davis, TJ McDonald, Mary Mims, Kim Mitchell

Members Absent:

Tom Pietri

Staff Present:

Shannon Brunink (Head of School), Michelle Byrne (Administrative Assistant), Rachel Carlson (Business Manager), John K. Donnelly (Dean of Students), Jim Levering (Elementary Administrator), Jake Stid (BR Teacher), John Zoellner (Business Director)

Public Present:

Matt Cawood, Minal Gandhi, Nitya Gandhi, Errol Goldman, Tom McGough (Board Candidate), Ella Sligh

Media Present:

None

Item 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no corrections, all minutes of the Board's August 28, 2023 meeting were approved upon a motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Ms. Bast. (7-0)

Mr. Cawood administered the oath of office to Ms. Bauman and Mr. Davis extending their commitments for another term with Black River's Board of Directors.

Motion to ratify all minutes of the June 26, 2023 board meeting, 2023-2024 student handbooks, and 2023-2024 board calendar. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Benson. (7-0)

Item 4. BUSINESS REPORT

Mr. Zoellner explained that they have almost wrapped up the audit and outlined the continued work being done with the state.

Item 5. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Mr. Levering indicated that this was the best start to a school year since 2020 and was excited by how quickly everyone acclimated. The summer reading challenge and summer Freckle math challenge were great motivators to keep students engaged. He was also pleased that after school clubs are back up and running.

Mr. Donnelly shared that students continue to make a wide variety of choices. A new AED machine has been generously donated by Mr. Joe Schuler's family to be housed in the Science building. He also has been excited by the addition of an additional crossing guard.

Mr. Brunink explained that Curriculum Night was held on August 30th and mid term report cards will be finalized in the coming weeks. He has discussed the benefits of remote vs. in person parent teacher conferences and a decision will be made about fall conferences soon. The RatRaiser, this year's parent organization fundraiser, will take place on September 30th. Mr. Brunink shared the recent ranking in the US News and World Report and highlighted the visit of founding board member Dr. Robin Klay and former Spanish teacher Ms. Magda Flores.

Item 6. FACULTY COUNCIL REPORT

Mr. Stid explained that Faculty Council is getting things off the ground and working to develop this year's plans. They are meeting with Mr. Brunink on Wednesday to discuss an upcoming survey and how best to engage staff.

Item 7. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Miss Ghandi and Miss Sligh outlined the work of Student Council sub committees to prepare for this semester's homecoming activities. The homecoming game will take place on September 29th and the dance will be held on September 30th.

Item 8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Mitchell indicated that she did not have anything to share at this time.

Item 9. GVSU REPORT

Mr. Cawood updated the board on the leadership transitions taking place in the GVSU CSO. He explained that the academic grant requirements have changed and shared that there will be another virtual board training this Wednesday.

Item 10. OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Mims conducted an exit interview for Ms. Ruth Crouch as she ended her term with BR's Board of Directors. She finds these conversations to be very helpful and offered to share this along with information from a few employee exit interviews with the rest of the board.

Item 11. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business brought before the board.

Item 12. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from the public.

Item 13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:08pm.

NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:30 pm on October 23, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary M. Mims, Secretary