

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board Meeting Minutes
September 21, 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 5:40pm on September 21, 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, Ruth Crouch, Craig Davis, David Kibler, Mary Mims, Kim Mitchell, Tom Pietri

Members Absent:

Maria Carrizales-Alonzo

Staff Present:

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

Public Present:

Aaron Best, Amy, Armandina Walker, bnavarro, Beth Powers, Brad Lynch, Brian, Charity Thelen, Cheryl Eshenaur, Danckaert, Dyana Harrelson, Errol Goldman, Jeff King, Jenn, Ketzi Zylstra, Kim Eich, Koops Fisher, Mangum, Marlene Wreschinsky, Mary Rynsburger, Matt Cawood, Matthew Benson, Meika Weiss, Phil Rozema, Pixel 3 XL, Rob Carpenter, Rodger Eich, tyler, whitney gasper, 8qeWXu

Media Present:

None

Item 3. BUSINESS REPORT

Mr. Zoellner met with the Finance Committee to discuss this year's audit which was conducted virtually. He explained that although the process was different things went smoothly and the school received a clean opinion. He outlined the audit report and explained how Covid-19 related laws and funding have affected Black River's school budgeting.

Mr. Zoellner indicated that he will prepare the budget adjustment to reflect state aid adjustments for 2020-2021 and Covid-19 funding.

Mr. Pietri thanked Mr. Zoellner for his professionalism and work on this year's audit.

Motion to approve the 2019-2020 audit as presented. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Mr. Camarota. (8-0)

Item 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no corrections, all minutes of the Board's August 24, 2020 meeting were approved upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Ms. Bauman. (7-0) Mr. Kibler chose to abstain from voting due to his absence at the meeting.

Item 5. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Mr. Brunink shared that this has been a very different start to the school year with a much smaller team of people working on campus. He explained that Black River has finalized the Extended Covid-19 Learning Plan which was approved by GVSU. The board will revisit this plan each month. He discussed attendance and two-way interactions as well as the state approved metrics by which we will assess our students. He indicated that everyone is working hard to find ways to keep Black River standards high in an unprecedented time.

Motion to approve the Extended Covid-19 Learning Plan. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Ms. Crouch. (8-0)

Mr. Brunink stated that we plan to return to in-person instruction for those that chose the option on October 19th. Information continues to be posted for parents and they will be asked to fill out a learning survey in order to select remote or in-person instruction. The school has received feedback on both sides of the spectrum but he's been proud to deliver content and curriculum that is 100% Black River through it all. Although the school was ready for an August return this time has allowed for additional preparations.

He discussed mask wearing at school and sporting events and indicated he is grateful to learn from what other schools are experiencing as well. Mr. Brunink thanked Ms. Jen Wise for her incredible work behind the scenes to make things like this month's state testing happen. Black River students in grades 9-12 will take the PSAT or SAT on campus to make up for the assessments missed due to the shutdown last spring. He was pleased to share that the Monday meal pickup has grown to well over 100 families and that due to a new FDA program all students can receive free meals through the end of December.

Mr. Levering shared that families are balancing work and remote learning and acknowledged the difficulty of this task. He reiterated that they are not alone and the amazing work being done is recognized.

Item 6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Pietri read aloud questions and comments about Black River's board agendas, concerns about obstacles to in-person learning, G Block classes, testing, parent communication, sexual education curriculum, remote learning delivery, support of struggling students, family experiences with remote learning, and Black River's plan for contacting close contacts from Meika Weiss, Tyler, Jenn, Dyana Harrelson, Jim Levering, Koops Fisher, Amy, Mary Rynsburger, and Bnavarro. 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 7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm.

NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:30 pm on October 19, 2020, at Black River Public School's 491 Columbia Avenue Campus.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary M. Mims, Secretary