

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board Meeting Minutes
January 16, 2023

Item 1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of Black River Public School was called to order by President Kim Mitchell at 5:34 pm on January 16, 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, Maria Carrizales-Alonzo, Ruth Crouch, Craig Davis, Kim Mitchell, Tom Pietri

Members Absent:

TJ McDonald, Mary Mims

Staff Present:

Carrie Ames (Elementary Curriculum Director), Shannon Brunink (Head of School), Michelle Byrne (Administrative Assistant), Rachel Carlson (Business Manager), John K. Donnelly (Dean of Students), Jim Levering (Elementary Administrator), Peter Middleton (MSHS Curriculum Director), Necia Ornèe (BR Teacher), John Zoellner (Business Director)

Public Present:

Matt Cawood, Ava Conklin, Errol Goldman, Finleigh Sinclair, Courtney Stahl

Media Present:

None

Item 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no corrections, all minutes of the Board's December 12, 2022 meeting were approved upon a motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo. (7-0)

Item 4. BUSINESS REPORT

Mr. Zoellner introduced Ms. Carlson and indicated that she has already become a wonderful addition to the team. He distributed the December Financial Report and explained how the yearly lag in state aid affects the budget. The Finance Committee will meet over the upcoming weeks.

Item 5. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Mr. Middleton presented an analysis of academic data and outlined areas where some post Covid decline is shown. He shared plans that have been put in place to address areas of concern and was pleased that in many areas Black River's scores have remained higher than our peers.

Ms. Ames explained that the elementary data showed similar trends and highlighted the supports in place to meet students where they are. She also outlined how the addition of Ms. Alaina Kramer as reading coach has provided tremendous support to both teachers and students.

Mr. Brunink thanked Mr. Middleton and Ms. Ames for their work to develop goals moving forward and outlined additional supports put in place to meet student needs. He also reiterated the importance of using test data as a tool even though Black River does not teach to one particular test.

Mr. Levering explained how much he has appreciated the addition of the curriculum director positions. He outlined recent events including the Spelling Bee, First Lego League, Odyssey of the Mind, and Ski Club. He also teased an exciting update that will be a unique way to get books in to kids hands.

Mr. Donnelly shared a few of the lessons that took place to celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. He explained that Spirit Week and Snowcoming are on the horizon. There is also a maize and blue game scheduled for February 28th in remembrance of Mr. Joe Schuler.

Mr. Brunink shared that he's excited to find a permanent home for a portrait Mr. Schuler's family gifted the school. He introduced Ms. Rachel Carlson and explained that the long process to find the right fit was well worth it. He distributed the yearly Conflict of Interest forms to members of the board. Enrollment applications for the 2023-24 school year continue to come in ahead of the upcoming lottery and we are currently outpacing last year's numbers. Work with the insurance company continues on facilities issues and Mr. Brunink was able to meet with local superintendents and Michigan legislators to talk about educational points.

Item 6. FACULTY COUNCIL REPORT

Ms. Ornèe explained that they had the first Faculty Council meeting of 2023 and have another open meeting planned for after the upcoming faculty meeting. They continue to work with Mr. Brunink and Ms. Mitchell on the goals for the year.

Item 7. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Miss. Sinclair and Miss. Conklin shared recent activities and indicated they found the lessons presented for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day valuable. Miss Mary Catherine Leahy was this

year's Poetry Out Loud winner with Miss Catelyn Danckaert as the runner up. Other highlights included the Pop-Up Ratwear Store, a Japan trip meeting, the start of this year's basketball season, Green Team, Dungeons and Dragons club, E Sports club, and running club. Plans are underway for this year's Snowcoming festivities and students are preparing for Youth in Government's spring conference. The students also hope to have Be Nice events at an upcoming game.

Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo thanked the school for allowing the Herrick library to hold their Noon Year's Eve community event on campus.

Item 8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A President's Report was not shared.

Item 9. GVSU REPORT

Mr. Cawood explained that four board members' terms expire in June and shared the renomination process if they decide to go that route. The next virtual board training will take place this Wednesday and the Academic Grant should be awarded by the end of the month. He explained how recent changes in Lansing may affect charter schools and reminded those present that National School Choice Week is coming up. He also distributed and explained the Annual School Performance Report.

Item 10. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business for the board to address.

Item 11. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business brought before the board.

Item 12. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo shared that the Rat Race will be held at 9am on Saturday, April 29th.

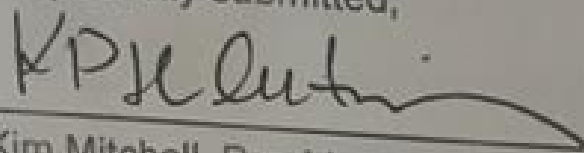
Item 13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:58pm.

NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:30 pm on February 20, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kim Mitchell", written over a horizontal line.

Kim Mitchell, President