

**BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**October 26, 2020**

**Item 1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of Black River Public School was called to order by President Tom Pietri at 5:38pm on October 26, 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, David Kibler, Mary Mims, Kim Mitchell, Tom Pietri

Members Absent:

None

Staff Present:

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

Public Present:

Amy Dykema, Annie M, Brandie Navarro, Brian Dykema, Corey Freimark, Dyana Harrelson, Errol Goldman, Kim Eich, Mandy Compagner, Marianne Madnerfield, Mary, Mary Rynsburger, Matt Cawood, Phil Rozema, Pixel 3 XL, Shane Harrelson

Media Present:

None

**Item 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

There being no corrections, all minutes of the Board's September 21, 2020 meeting were approved upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Ms. Crouch. (9-0)

**Item 4. BUSINESS REPORT**

Mr. Zoellner distributed the September financial report and outlined the changes with Covid-19 funding now reflected. He has begun work on the next budget adjustment with a portion of Covid-19 funding needing to be spent by the end of December. He was pleased to share that the federal program has extended free meals for all students through the end of the school year.

## **Item 5. ADMINISTRATION REPORT**

Mr. Brunink shared that in addition to the chromebooks that were ordered at the start of the school year we have been able to extend the usage of Covid-19 funding to other technological support. This will include laptops for teaching staff as well as infrastructure in order to allow for more devices on the wifi.

He explained that Mr. Donnelly has been working on Covid-19 specific updates to the student handbooks. This includes a section on masks and face coverings being added to the dress code section. The board also suggested the addition of a section explaining necessary schedule changes due to Covid-19.

**Motion to accept** modifications to the 2020-2021 handbook as written with an addition about schedule amendments. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Mr. Camarota. (8-0)

**Motion to recertify** Black River's Extended Covid-19 Learning Plan as presented. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Ms. Crouch. (8-0)

Mr. Brunink shared that this year's first round of standardized testing has been administered and parent/teacher conferences will be held remotely. He explained the Covid-19 case tracker that is posted on the website as well as scenarios from the Health Department that could result in a move to full remote. Vapor intrusion testing with EGLE continues to go well with no concerns found. Mr. Brunink will work on the charter renewal process with Grand Valley State University over the next month. He explained that it has been inspiring to watch how well staff and students have handled this year's changes on campus.

In response to a question from Mr. Davis, Mr. Brunink explained the strategies the school has developed to build integral relationships and reach struggling students. Data collected after the first marking period will allow the teachers and counseling team to understand where these resources can be best deployed.

Ms. Ekdahl added information about the upcoming fundraiser to support mental health services in honor of Ian Miskelley.

## **Item 6. GVSU REPORT**

Mr. Cawood explained the amendment to the Open Meetings Act which allows for remote board meetings. He shared that the Charter Schools Office is developing remote professional development offerings for board training. He also relayed the process and timeline for Black River's charter contract renewal which is set to expire June 2021.

**Item 7. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Pietri read aloud questions and comments about accessibility to all buildings, mask dress code, contact tracing, mental health fundraiser, training/surveys, athletic mask procedures, and praise for BR teachers from Corey Freimark, Kim Eich, Brian Dykema, Krista Ekdahl, Mandy Compagner, and Craig Davis. He indicated that questions would be answered personally by individual members of the board.

**Item 8. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:38pm.

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:30 pm on November 16, 2020, at Black River Public School's 491 Columbia Avenue Campus.

Respectfully submitted,



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Tom Pietri, President