

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2019

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 5:34pm on November 18, 2019, 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:

Elizabeth Bauman, Maria Carrizales-Alonzo, Craig Davis, David Kibler, Mary Mims, Kim Mitchell, Tom Pietri

Members Absent:

Mike Camarota, Ruth Crouch

Staff Present:

Shannon Brunink (Head of School), Michelle Byrne (Administrative Assistant), John Donnelly (Dean of Students), Jim Levering (Elementary Administrator), Brent Rowe (BR Teacher/Parent), Beth Van Slyters (BR Teacher), John Zoellner (Business Director)

Public Present:

Matt Cawood (GVSU Charter Schools Office), Errol Goldman (BR Attorney), Aanya Usmani (BR Student Rep.)

Media Present:

None

Item 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no corrections, all minutes of the Board's October 21, 2019 meeting, were approved upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Mr. Davis. (6-0)

Item 4. BUSINESS REPORT

Mr. Zoellner distributed and outlined the October Financial Report. He also indicated that they are evaluating the budget with the Governor's veto of state aid and current enrollment numbers in mind.

Item 5. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Mr. Donnelly explained that Miss Mariel Vander Schuur, along with other members of Student Council, took the initiative to post counseling resources around campus to guide students that may need extra support during this stressful time of year. This month National Honor Society held a food drive and the Parent Organization hosted an extremely successful Fun Walk fundraiser. He thanked everyone involved to make these events possible. He continues work to adapt Black River's emergency procedures to the FEMA required format.

Mr. Levering also praised the work done by the PO with this year's Fun Walk as well as the Fine Arts Rat Fest. He shared that Ms. Missy Bayn was featured in the Holland Sentinel's Teacher Spotlight. He was also proud to note that the elementary participated in community outreach through a Community Action House food drive and by creating personal care boxes for the Holland Rescue Mission. The elementary kicked off this year's Big Read with a Hope College Strike Time Dance Team book performance.

Mr. Brunink thanked the team of parents that put together this year's Fun Walk which raised more than \$21,000 to support the school. He outlined the work of Ms. Karen Rowe in the leadership of this year's Big Read. Mr. Brunink and Ms. Nicole Klunder met with Hi-Tec to discuss staffing changes and how best to meet the needs of our campus. Mr. Brunink joined other area superintendents on a panel to speak about per pupil funding and measures schools will need to consider if the cuts aren't restored. Mr. Brunink led the first meeting of the Ottawa Area Public School Academies Association. Staff will participate in an inservice next Tuesday and Mr. Brunink plans to present the board with the 2020-2021 school year calendar at the next meeting.

Item 6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Pietri shared that the Marketing Committee met and is working to develop a coherent, modern, marketing image. Their goal is to correct misconceptions, stabilize enrollment, and assess data.

Item 7. STUDENT REPORT

Miss Usmani shared the success of the Ratfest event this year. We the People will compete at the Kent ISD this Friday. Student council has recognized the correlation between exam preparations and increased stress and is working to develop activities to help students relax. The Black River Theatre Company put on their production of Julius Caesar. Student Council is working to organize theme nights for this season's basketball games and have selected February 7th for Snowcoming events.

Item 8. GVSU UPDATE

Mr. Cawood shared Grand Valley's pride in their partnership with Black River and presented Mr. Brunink with a GVSU flag. He shared his own optimism in regard to the possible reinstatement of governmental funding. He will bring the school performance reports and academic grant to next month's meeting.

Item 9. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business for the board to address.

Item 10. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Davis asked Mr. Brunink and Mr. Donnelly about Black River's safety procedures.

Item 11. OPEN FORUM / COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public.

Item 12. CLOSED SESSION

Motion to move into closed session pursuant to section 8d from the Open Meetings Act. The resolution passed unanimously at 6:21pm upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo. (7,0)

Motion to move out of closed session. The resolution passed unanimously at 6:54pm upon a motion by Ms. Bauman, seconded by Mr. Pietri. (7,0)

Item 12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55pm.

NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:30 pm on December 16, 2019, at Black River Public School's 491 Columbia Avenue Campus.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary M. Mims, Secretary