

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board Meeting Minutes
December 12, 2022

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 5:33pm on December 12, 2022, 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, Ruth Crouch, Craig Davis, TJ McDonald, Kim Mitchell

Members Absent:

Maria Carrizales-Alonzo, Mary Mims, Tom Pietri

Staff Present:

Shannon Brunink (Head of School), Michelle Byrne (Administrative Assistant), John K. Donnelly (Dean of Students), Jeanne Kane (BR Teacher), Jim Levering (Elementary Administrator), Fran Olesen (BR Teacher)

Public Present:

Matt Cawood, Errol Goldman

Media Present:

None

Item 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no corrections, all minutes of the Board's November 21, 2022 meeting were approved upon a motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Ms. Bauman. (6-0)

Item 4. BUSINESS REPORT

In Mr. Zoellner's absence Mr. Brunink distributed the November Financial Report and indicated that a budget adjustment will be prepared soon. He was also pleased to report that they have hired Ms. Rachel Carlson to fill the open business office position.

Item 5. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Mr. Levering shared that Sheila Linville from the Center for Guided Montessori Studies has been on campus this week to provide professional development for our newer teachers that are completing their Montessori training. He outlined the many ways she has worked with the elementary staff and was grateful for the opportunity to invest in and support these new teachers. He credited a recent First Lego League competition for the inspiration ignited in Black River's team members who attended the event and thanked the anonymous donor who has supported the purchase of new kits and hardware. He also highlighted a recent pajama drive in which Ms. Alaina Kramer partnered with Scholastic Books. Elementary students celebrated their success with a pajama day.

Mr. Donnelly explained that with the holidays and exams on the horizon this can be a tough time of year for some members of our community. He was thankful for the social work, special education, and paraprofessional teams for their support of some of the highest needs. Updates to the student handbook are underway and he continues to work with local law enforcement to stay informed of concerns in the area. He was also thrilled to participate in recent music performances.

Mr. Brunink reiterated the mental health concerns during this time of year and explained that grading will be completed this week. He thanked Ms. Kelli Heneghan and Ms. Kerrie Esmeier for their work to get the word out about Black River as enrollment applications outpace last year's numbers. The annual letter returned this year to express gratitude for BR families and with a more subtle donation request in an attempt to be mindful of family situations as we emerge from the pandemic. Mr. Brunink outlined the great work of the robotics teams at recent events and thanked everyone involved for their work to make these extracurricular experiences possible. He was thrilled that staff were able to gather last week at Hops to celebrate the end of the semester. A highlight of this month was guest conducting Sleigh Ride at the band's winter concert.

Mr. Davis asked about the possibility of scheduling home games for the week of finals and explained that BR could return the favor in January to schools on a trimester schedule.

Item 6. FACULTY COUNCIL REPORT

Ms. Kane outlined the ideas Faculty Council discussed with Ms. Mitchell and Mr. Brunink at their most recent meeting. The group has moved from presenting charges to active involvement in solution development. She also took the opportunity to celebrate recent accomplishments of the Humanities departments.

Item 7. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

A student report was not brought before the board.

Item 8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Mitchell was able to attend a recent GVSU meeting which connected school board presidents from across the state.

Item 9. GVSU REPORT

Mr. Cawood indicated that school performance reports and the academic grant will be released in January. There will be another virtual board training on January 18th and National School Choice Week will be January 22-28.

Item 10. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business for the board to address.

Item 11. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Crouch discussed scheduling the next board planning retreat where members can discuss long range goals.

Item 12. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

Item 13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:19pm.

NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:30 pm on January 16, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary M. Mims, Secretary