

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board Meeting Minutes
December 13, 2021

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 13, 2021, 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:

Elisabeth Bauman, Mike Camarota (5:34), Craig Davis, David Kibler, Mary Mims, Kim Mitchell, Tom Pietri

Members Absent:

Maria Carrizales-Alonzo, Ruth Crouch

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), John Zoellner (Business Director)

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 17, 2021 meeting were approved upon a motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Ms. Bauman. (6-0)

Item 4. BUSINESS REPORT

Mr. Zoellner distributed and explained the November financial report.

Item 5. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Mr. Levering shared that an incredible amount of growth on both behavior and academics has been possible because of the last semester's in person work. He indicated that there will be

valuable data compiled by the early months of 2022 to show how far students have progressed since the start of the school year. He highlighted the work Ms. Alaina Kramer has done in her new position to enrich the school's curriculum and community. He also shared that Ms. Allyson Cosentino has developed many ways to create meaningful learning experiences for her students in her first year at Black River. One of these was a Community Action House drive culminating in a field trip to learn about the services they provide for the Holland area. Mr. Levering has surveyed the families who utilized the BR elementary short term remote learning while quarantining and feels they have learned a lot on how best to engage these students. He also answered questions about grant funding and discussed ways to better utilize these opportunities.

Mr. Donnelly shared his continued work with the Holland Department of Public Safety. He also highlighted the ways the school is bridging technology gaps with the implementation of a new program, SecURLy.

Mr. Brunink continues his work with the Holland Department of Public Safety on school security and is scheduling an update to the CRASE training the staff received two years ago. He indicated that Dr. Stephanie Grant led the staff in a workshop focusing on trauma and the effects of life during a pandemic. Black River hosted its second vaccine clinic and Mr. Brunink thanked the Health Department for the incredible work they do for our community. He explained that contact tracing continues and that pediatric cases are currently 3x higher than they were last year at this time. The PreK-6th grade mask mandate is scheduled to lift on January 2, 2022 and although BR will continue the K-12 mask requirement the board discussed criteria for lifting on campus. Mr. Brunink explained that applications for next year's enrollment are currently 40% ahead of where they were last year at this time. He also thanked the finance committee, along with Mr. Zoellner, for their work to provide staff with the recent bonuses and increases to the teacher pay scale. He explained that they hope this will be another way Black River can recruit and retain teachers.

Item 6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Mitchell discussed the possibility of moving the February board meeting to Monday, February 14th.

Item 7. GVSU REPORT

Mr. Cawood shared that January 23-29 is National School Choice Week. He indicated that the school performance reports will be available for review by principals this week and finalized in January/February. He discussed the academic grant awards as well as the January board training opportunity.

Item 8. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Camarota asked about streaming future board meetings. Mr. Brunink has shared information and pricing with the executive committee and the board discussed benefits and concerns.

Item 9. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Donnelly was pleased to share that the Rat Race is coming back. Mr. Kyle Lawton and Ms. Krista Ekdahl are working to plan this community building event.

Item 10. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

Item 11. CLOSED SESSION

Motion to move into closed session at 6:41pm to review a written legal opinion pursuant to Section 8h of the Open Meetings Act. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Pietri through a roll call vote. (7-0)

Motion to come out of closed session at 7:12pm. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Ms. Mims through a roll call vote. (7-0)


Item 12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:12pm.

NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:30 pm on January 17, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary M. Mims, Secretary