

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board Meeting Minutes
April 17, 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 5:32pm on April 17, 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 (5:33pm arrival), Maria Carrizales-Alonzo, Ruth Crouch, Craig Davis, TJ McDonald, Kim Mitchell

Members Absent:

Mary Mims, Tom Pietri

Staff Present:

Michelle Byrne (Administrative Assistant), Rachel Carlson (Business Manager), John K. Donnelly (Dean of Students), Carly Johnson (BR Teacher), Jim Levering (Elementary Administrator), John Zoellner (Business Director)

Public Present:

Matt Cawood, Ava Conklin, Errol Goldman, Finleigh Sinclair

Media Present:

None

Item 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no corrections, all minutes of the Board's March 20, 2023 meeting were approved upon a motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Ms. Carrizales. (6-0)

Item 4. BUSINESS REPORT

Mr. Zoellner distributed and explained the March financial report. He thanked Ms. Carlson for her support over the last few months as she acclimates to the new role and indicated that this has opened him up to working on other projects. Expenditures are on target for this year and the next budget adjustment can be expected in June.

Item 5. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Ms. Mitchell explained that Mr. Brunink is attending a conference in San Diego this week and turned things over to Mr. Donnelly for an update.

Mr. Donnelly stated that Ms. Ekdahl and Mr. Lawton are spearheading this year's Rat Race. Applications have come in for the Joe Schuler Environmental Awareness Scholarship and each candidate has received a personal response from the family. Mr. Schuler's family has also generously donated an AED for the science building here on campus. National Honor Society will hold their annual induction ceremony on April 19th. The Middle and High School Honor Assemblies are scheduled and Mr. Donnelly plans for them to be recorded. He is thrilled to again have these in person during the school day and talked of how powerful it is for students to see their peers be honored. Officer Hamberg led two CRASE trainings this past month. Student Council elections are happening now and 10th and 11th grade students have the opportunity for a field trip next week. Mr. Donnelly proposed that interviews for new student board representatives take place the first week of May.

Mr. Levering said that after Spring Break students have been enjoying the warmer temperatures. There is an increased excitement and engagement felt throughout the building. He is currently working alongside Ms. Carrie Ames to complete this year's 5d teacher assessments. The book vending machine fundraiser raised \$6,534 and the elementary will start their yearly Leukemia and Lymphoma fundraiser next week. Black River's 5th grade students have toured the big building to meet Middle School teachers and prepare for the transition to 6th grade next year.

Item 6. FACULTY COUNCIL REPORT

Ms. Johnson indicated that Faculty Council has reached the majority of their goals. They have reviewed National Honor Society applications and sent their approvals on to the team. The ballots will be distributed to select next year's Faculty Council representatives and they are beginning to compile a list of new goals.

Item 7. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Miss Sinclair shared her excitement for the upcoming Project Term trip to Japan. Fine Arts Night will take place on April 28th and she complimented Mr. Holmes efforts to make the event special. Student Council is working on spirit week ideas for Spring Thing and there will be a pep rally for girl's soccer.

Miss Conklin indicated that AP exams begin soon and seniors have begun to announce their college choices. The Senior Party committee is in the midst of their flamingo flocking fundraiser. The girl's soccer team is currently undefeated and Mr. Nicholas Wreschinsky achieved a new school record in baseball. This year's prom theme is enchanted garden and will be held on May 13th at A Cut Above. The theater department will bring to life a play written by two BR students for their spring production.

Item 8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Mitchell explained that this will be Ms. Crouch's last year on the board and the committee has interviewed Mr. Matt Benson to fill her place.

Motion to recommend Matt Benson to GVSU for appointment on the Black River Board of Trustees. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo. (7-0)

Ms. Mitchell indicated that plans are developing for a board workshop. They hope to choose a date that allows everyone to meet before the end of June.

Item 9. GVSU REPORT

Mr. Cawood complimented the board on their efficiency in filling open board positions. He reminded everyone of upcoming training opportunities and indicated that National Charter Schools Week along with Teacher Appreciation Week are happening soon. Grand Valley will hold their next board reception in Grand Rapids on May 8th.

Item 10. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Davis gave an update on website developments. The committee has met to evaluate add on options and is working on a master outline of what needs to be completed.

Item 11. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business brought before the board.

Item 12. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo stated that Spring Thing will be held at Hope College on May 5th. She outlined the track team's accomplishments and indicated that they have heard great things about the new coaches.

Item 13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:08pm.

NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:30 pm on May 22, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'MM', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mary M. Mims, Secretary