

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board Meeting Minutes
August 22, 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 5:38pm on August 22, 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

Ms. Mitchell administered the oath of office to Ms. Sarah Bast beginning her term on the Black River Board of Trustees.

Members Present:

Sarah Bast, Elisabeth Bauman, Maria Carrizales-Alonzo, Ruth Crouch, Mary Mims, Kim Mitchell, Tom Pietri

Members Absent:

Craig Davis

Staff Present:

Carrie Ames (Elementary Curriculum Director), Shannon Brunink (Head of School), Michelle Byrne (Administrative Assistant), John K. Donnelly (Dean of Students), Jeanne Kane (BR Teacher), Jim Levering (Elementary Administrator), Peter Middleton (Dean of Academics), John Zoellner (Business Director)

Public Present:

Matt Cawood, Ava Conklin, Amy Dykema, Errol Goldman, Finleigh Sinclair

Media Present:

None

Item 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no corrections, all minutes of the Board's June 27, 2022 approved upon a motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Pietri. (7-0)

Item 4. BUSINESS REPORT

Mr. Zoellner shared that the audit took place last week and will share the report at the September meeting.

Item 5. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Mr. Brunink introduced Ms. Carrie Ames and Mr. Peter Middleton and explained their new roles as Elementary Curriculum Director and Dean of Academics. They share similar goals of supporting teachers and creating a foundation for student growth.

Ms. Ames is currently evaluating curricular needs and working toward a unified approach to Black River's Montessori curriculum. She has been a part of the school's new teacher orientation, development of the school improvement goal, a professional development on the great lessons, and Right Start Math implementation.

Mr. Middleton also helped develop the new teacher orientation and has noted an increased excitement as staff returns to campus. He is eager to reach more students through teacher development and school improvement.

Mr. Levering updated the board on the newly hired staff and complimented the school's efforts with onboarding, including orientation. He highlighted the Popsicles in the Park event, summer Freckle challenge, Open House, and inservice. He also enjoyed the process of writing to each Kindergarten student and hopes it serves as a thoughtful welcome to the BR community.

Mr. Donnelly brought this year's student handbooks before the board and answered questions. Mr. Pietri explained his thoughts on the school's athletics eligibility rules returning to pre-Covid standards.

Motion to approve the 2022-2023 Elementary student handbook. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Pietri. (7-0)

Motion to approve the 2022-2023 Middle School student handbook. The resolution passed upon a motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo. (6-1)

Motion to approve the 2022-2023 High School student handbook. The resolution passed upon a motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo. (6-1)

Mr. Brunink outlined additional staffing changes and explained that the school's Covid-19 policies have been updated based on current guidelines. He shared that the student count is at 949 as of today. Campus updates continue to make the school even better than it was and the construction project is on track to have students return for the first day of school. The Science lab floor also underwent sealing this summer as a preventative measure.

Item 6. FACULTY COUNCIL REPORT

Ms. Kane outlined the Faculty Council's primary function, goals, past efforts, and initiatives. She introduced members and indicated that meetings with Ms. Mitchell and Mr. Brunink continue to foster a collaborative partnership.

Item 7. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Miss Sinclair introduced herself and explained that she is excited to learn more about how the school's board works. Miss Conklin introduced herself and indicated that her interest in the board is driven by a desire to be more involved.

Item 8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Mitchell explained the reasoning behind the selected dates for the upcoming year's board meeting schedule.

Motion to approve the 2022-2023 Board Meeting Calendar as presented. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Pietri. (7-0)

Item 9. GVSU REPORT

Mr. Cawood reiterated that there are many teacher openings across the state and complemented BR for being fully staffed at this point of the year. GVSU will begin recognizing school board members that have served for 5, 10, 15, and 20 years. He presented official recognition to Ms. Crouch, Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo, and Mr. Pietri for their time and support as a part of Black River's Board of Trustees. He also outlined the upcoming virtual board trainings.

Item 10. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business for the board to address.

Item 11. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo shared that this year's Homecoming game will take place on September 30th at Hope College.

Item 12. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Dykema addressed the board regarding campus updates and the OCR visit.

Item 13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40pm.

NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:30 pm on September 19, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'MM', is written over the text 'Respectfully submitted,'.

Mary M. Mims, Secretary