

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board Meeting Minutes
August 28, 2023

Item 1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Board of Directors of Black River Public School was called to order by President Kim Mitchell at 5:36pm on August 28, 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, Matt Benson, Craig Davis, Mary Mims, Kim Mitchell

Members Absent:

Elisabeth Bauman, TJ McDonald, Tom Pietri

Staff Present:

Shannon Brunink, Michelle Byrne (Administrative Assistant), John K. Donnelly (Dean of Students), Krista Ekdahl (BR Teacher), John Zoellner (Business Director)

Public Present:

Matt Cawood, Nitya Gandhi, Errol Goldman, Avery Hanneken, Megan Hanneken, Duncan Jackson, Kristin Jackson, Tom McGough (Board Candidate), Becky Pomp, Ella Sligh

Media Present:

None

Item 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no corrections, all minutes of the Board's June 26, 2023 meeting were approved upon a motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Davis. (5-0)

Item 4. BUSINESS REPORT

Mr. Zoellner spoke about this year's audit and the new roofing project. In October he will present the results of the audit and a new financial report.

Item 5. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Mr. Donnelly shared updates to the student handbook which include the attendance policy, academic eligibility, and PBIS.

Motion to approve the 2023-2024 student handbooks for Elementary, Middle, and High School. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Davis. (5-0)

Mr. Donnelly said that there have been a few behavioral issues to start the year as students acclimate to being back on campus. He was pleased to share that we have added a crossing guard to the intersection by Prospect Park.

Mr. Brunink stated that it has been a great start to the year and he felt ready for everyone to return. He outlined the staffing changes that took place over the summer. This year's inservice focused on the school's mission and he appreciated the perspectives that were shared about its original development in the early years. He spoke about curriculum night and the scheduled half day inservices. The Parent Organization has some great things on the horizon including the Scholastic Book Fair and Ratraiser Fundraiser to support outdoor learning spaces.

Item 6. FACULTY COUNCIL REPORT

Ms. Ekdahl explained that Faculty Council's first meeting will take place tomorrow and they have plans for a faculty survey.

Item 7. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Miss Ghandi and Miss Sligh will serve as this year's student representatives. They were welcomed and asked to introduce themselves to the board.

Item 8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Mitchell distributed the board calendar.

Motion to approve the 2023-2024 board calendar. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Ms. Bast. (5-0)

Item 9. GVSU REPORT

Mr. Cawood explained leadership changes in the GVSU Charter Schools Office. He stated that Mr. Tom McGough will be approved to join the Black River Board at the next GVSU meeting. He also reminded members about the monthly board trainings.

Item 10. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business for the board to address.

Item 11. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business brought before the board.

Item 12. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Jackson spoke of communication with Mr. Brunink about cell phones in classrooms and the distraction they cause.

Ms. Hanneken complimented the responses they've received and seconded the concern voiced.

Mr. Brunink indicated that he appreciates parents wanting to be a part of the solution.

Ms. Ekdahl outlined additional devices that pose a similar distraction.

Item 13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:13pm.

NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:30 pm on September 18, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary M. Mims, Secretary