

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board Meeting Minutes
August 22, 2016

Item 1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Black River Public School was called to order by President Stephanie Elhart at 5:33pm on August 22, 2016, 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:

Gregory Christie, Ruth Crouch, Stephanie Elhart, Chris McNaughton, Tom Pietri, Brian Porter

Members Absent:

Maria Carrizales-Alonzo, Timothy DuMez, Mary Mims

Staff Present:

Shannon Brunink (Head of School), Michelle Byrne (Administrative Assistant), John K. Donnelly (Dean of Students), Jim Levering (Elementary Administrator), John Zoellner (Business Director)

Public Present:

Delaney Cavanagh (BR Student Rep.), Cheryl Edwards-Canon (GVSU Charter Schools Office), Abby Frankhouse (BR Student Rep.), Errol Goldman (BRPS Attorney)

Media Present:

None

Item 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no corrections, the minutes of the board's June 27, 2016 meeting were approved upon a motion by Ms. Elhart, seconded by Mr. Christie.

Item 4. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Mr. Levering welcomed those recently added to the elementary staff. Ms. Rachel Naylor-Tatterson will teach 1-3 Montessori while Ms. Tricia Brown and Ms. Lisa Barrett were both added to the Title I team. A junior helpers program and a buddy bench were among the many things discussed at the elementary inservice on Tuesday. This summer BR also hosted Mr. Brian Campbell from the MMTEC to lead an inservice focused specifically on Montessori

math for our teachers. Mr. Levering reminded the board of the elementary open house on August 25th.

Mr. Donnelly began by outlining the changes to duty assignments and explained that he is seeking applicants for paid lunch duty positions. Some facility updates over the summer included painting the lyceum interior, sealing and painting the parking lot, and the installation of new, energy efficient lighting in the lobby. He also thanked Student Council for the work that has already begun on Homecoming and Snowcoming.

Mr. Brunink congratulated Mr. Donnelly on his recent wedding. As of today BR is fully staffed and some changes are being made to the current CAP curriculum. Some targeted grades will be divided into smaller class sizes to allow for more one-on-one instruction. Ms. Kane has offered to mentor Middle School CAP teachers in this process. Full staff inservices take place August 22-23. Black River will host Jason Pasatta from the OAISD to present on student centered learning. The school will also host Bev Schroeder and Julie Gillespie to discuss Title IX and how to support transgender students.

Motion to approve a relationship with Grosse Ile, contracting them to process Black River's fingerprinting of new employees. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Ms. Crouch, seconded by Mr. Pietri. (6-0)

Item 5. BUSINESS REPORT

Mr. Zoellner shared that the annual audit took place August 1-4 and there were no findings. A Finance Committee meeting will be scheduled before the September board meeting.

Motion to approve the renewal of Black River Public School's food service program with Aramark. The resolution was approved upon a motion by Mr. Christie, seconded by Mr. Pietri. (6-0)

Mr. Zoellner was also excited to share that we are now able to use biodegradable plates in the cafeteria.

Item 6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Elhart introduced and welcomed Delaney Cavanagh and Abby Frankhouse, this year's student representatives to the board.

Mr. Goldman explained that due to the changes in the evaluation of teachers and administrators members of the board will need to attend a new training in this process. He is currently investigating options and will schedule an opportunity for members to attend.

Item 7. GVSU UPDATE

Ms. Edwards-Canon explained what has held up the distribution of Black River's academic grant and assured the board it will be received toward the end of September.

Item 8. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business for the board to address.

Item 9. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business brought before the board.

Item 10. PUBLIC COMMENTS/OPEN FORUM

There were no comments from the public.

Item 11. CLOSED SESSION

Upon a motion by Mr. Christie, seconded by Mr. Pietri, which unanimously carried, the Board of Trustees moved into closed session to review a written legal opinion at 6:23pm. (6-0)

Upon a motion by Ms. Elhart, seconded by Mr. Christie, which unanimously carried, the Board of Trustees moved out of closed session at 7:15pm. (6-0)

Item 12. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the board the meeting adjourned at 7:15pm.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:30pm on September 19, 2016, at Black River Public School's Columbia Avenue campus.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary M. Mims, Secretary