

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board Meeting Minutes
March 20, 2017

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 5:34pm on March 20, 2017, 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:

Maria Carrizales-Alonzo, Gregory Christie, Ruth Crouch, Timothy DuMez, Stephanie Elhart, Brian Porter

Members Absent:

Chris McNaughton, Mary Mims, Tom Pietri,

Staff Present:

Missy Bayn (BR Teacher), Shannon Brunink (Head of School), Michelle Byrne (Administrative Assistant), John Donnelly (Dean of Students), Jim Levering (Elementary Administrator), John Zoellner (Business Director)

Public Present:

Delaney Cavanagh (BR Student), Cheryl Edwards-Canon (GVSU Charter Schools Office), Abby Frankhouse (BR Student), Errol Goldman (BRPS Attorney), Penny Shuff (BR Parent), Tom Shuff (BR Parent), Hanna Theile (BR Student)

Media Present:

None

Item 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no corrections, all minutes of the board's February 20, 2017 meeting were approved upon a motion by Ms. Elhart, seconded by Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo. (6-0)

Item 4. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Mr. Levering shared that the elementary building is in the middle of a penny drive to support the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Students and staff will also be participating in World Down Syndrome Day on March 21 by wearing fun socks in the hopes of inspiring conversation about

the event. The elementary carnival will be held in the gymnasiums on March 24 and Representative Daniela Garcia is scheduled to read to the 3rd grade students. Ms. Schrottenboer has 5th grade shadow days scheduled providing an opportunity for students to experience life in the big building. Third grade students also shadow in Upper Elementary to prepare for a change of teachers and classmates. The Michigan Department of Education on site review of Title I took place and those involved were commended on the work they do. Black River was given guidance in areas of school improvement.

Mr. Donnelly indicated that Mr. Rowe hosted a Middle School dance last week Friday. He congratulated Miss Natalie Bloss who won the recent concerto competition giving her the opportunity to be the featured violinist with the Holland Symphony. He also highlighted the work of Mr. Will Lowry as Governor for the Youth in Government late conference. Mr. Donnelly was proud of how respectful team members and fans were at the recent basketball games he attended and enjoyed his time at Hope College for LAUP. He also gained some good information from the presentation on immigration law at St. Francis de Sales church. Parent/Teacher conferences for all grade levels were held last week Thursday and Friday.

At a recent event in Grand Rapids Mr. Brunink was given a glimpse as to the extent of the Black River reputation at Youth in Government. He commended Ms. Andrews and Ms. Pierson for the amazing work that was done for the recent production of The Music Man.

Mr. Brunink indicated that the Annual Education Report has been filed with Grand Valley State University and he will be taking part in an exit interview with Axios. Black River will host 11 visitors from AdvancED for an external review this week. The accreditation the school will receive is above and beyond standard expectations and he is excited to show them what makes Black River special.

Motion to accept the 2017-2018 Program of Study. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Ms. Elhart, seconded by Mr. Christie. (6-0)

Motion to accept the 2017-2018 school year calendar as presented. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Ms. Elhart, seconded by Ms. Crouch. (6-0)

Item 5. BUSINESS REPORT

Mr. Zoellner distributed and explained the February Financial Report. He also reported that Capital Campaign collections have gone incredibly well.

Item 6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Elhart discussed the letter from Mr. Brunink about the changes to the 2016-2017 calendar indicating that the changes needed to reach the required 180 days were understood.

Motion to ratify the amended Black River calendar for the 2016-2017 school year. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Ms. Elhart, seconded by Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo. (6-0)

Motion to recommend Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo, Ms. Crouch, Mr. Dumez, Ms. Elhart, and Mr. Porter for new 3 year terms on the Board of Trustees of Black River Public School. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Ms. Elhart, seconded by Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo. (6-0)

The board continues its work to fill the opening created at the end of this year when Mr. Christie ends his term on the board. Ms. Elhart distributed a draft of the Board Policy on parent participation in the Title I program and explained that they will continue to work on the wording to make sure it fits our school.

Ms. Crouch has continued her website work with Schoolpointe and the next steps will be to bring teacher, parent organization, and booster websites up to date. Some identity options have been circulated and Ms. Elhart plans to obtain student and teacher input once things are narrowed down.

Item 7. GVSU UPDATE

Ms. Edwards-Canon explained that May 3rd will be Charter School Day at the Capitol and encouraged members of the Black River board to attend. She emphasized the importance of delivering the charter school story to state representatives personally. She also indicated that the GVSU golf outing will be held on June 22nd.

Item 8. STUDENT REPORT

Miss Cavanagh explained that plant distribution has focused mainly on the elementary building. Student Council continues to gather more materials and would like to collaborate with the elementary students to brainstorm creative planter options. They are also looking into salt lamps to purify the air. Plans are still in the works for a community beach clean up in which they will partner with other local Student Councils. Spring Thing will be held on May 12th with Black River girls soccer vs. Holland High. Prom will be May 13th at A Cut Above in Saugatuck.

Item 9. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business for the board to address.

Item 10. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business brought before the board.

Item 11. PUBLIC COMMENT/OPEN FORUM

Miss Theile reiterated the Student Council initiative for students to provide productive feedback in the form of teacher reviews after the conclusion of a semester. Mr. Brunink asked if she knew of many students participating in the last student survey.

Item 12. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the board, a motion was made by Ms. Elhart, seconded by Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo to adjourn the meeting at 6:43 pm.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:30pm on April 17, 2017, at Black River Public School's Columbia Avenue campus.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary M. Mims, Secretary