

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2010 – 5:30 pm

Item 1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Black River Public School was called to order by President Thomas F. Guarr at 5:34 pm on January 18, 2010, in room 209 at the school's Columbia Avenue campus. Recognition was made that a quorum was present.

Item 2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Barbara S. Ellis, Gregory T. Christie, Jane A. Clark, Thomas F. Guarr, Brian E. Porter, Barbara A. Zeller

Members Absent: Ruth A. Crouch, Mary M. Mims, Lorna Hernandez-Jarvis

Staff Present: Shannon Brunink (Head of School), Dwight Avery (Director of Business Services), Rhonda Pardue (Curriculum Director), John K. Donnelly (Dean of Students), Jim Levering

Public Present: Dan Matthews (GVSU Charter Schools Office)

Media Present: none

Item 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of December 21, 2009, were approved and accepted as printed upon motion by Mr. Christie, seconded by Ms. Zeller, which unanimously carried.

Item 4. FACULTY REPORT

Upper elementary teacher and faculty council representative Jim Levering gave the Board an update on good things happening with Black River teachers and students. There has been much activity with students helping raise funds to assist victims of the recent earthquake in Haiti.

A physical-education-type program has begun during zero before the start of the school day called *Brain Rush*. Teachers Kyle Lawton (physical education), Anna Beird (special education) and Fran Olesen (reading specialist) are leading the program, which is based on research showing physical activity stimulates the brain and prepares it for learning.

Art teacher Peter Middleton is preparing an application for charter school dissemination grant competitive funds that would support a two-year program to implement and study an Integrated Teaching and Learning Curriculum program. He will ask MDE for \$54,000 over two years to test the hypothesis that "ITL" helps to improve teaching and student interest and achievement.

Item 5. ADMINISTRATION REPORT – Shannon Brunink

Academics. Curriculum director Rhonda Pardue is currently working on the program of study, which will be presented for approval at the February board meeting. She has been a member of the ITL team applying for the grant to help support for dual interdisciplinary classes. She reported that Black River has applied to MDE for permission again for off-campus administration of the Michigan Merit Examination at the Holland Fish and Game Club, where things worked out very well last year.

Student Life. John K. Donnelly mentioned that he has received authorization for Black River to be an official certifying agency for the Presidential Volunteer Service Award, which requires 100 hours of community service by student. A Black River student will receive this award for the first time at Honors

Night. He reported that planning and preparation are on track for the 5th annual Rat Race 5K run/walk event on Saturday, March 6, 2010.

Open Enrollment. Mr. Brunink reported that applications are running at about the same level as last year. Because it is the largest space for new students after kindergarten, the area of marketing emphasis is again on applications for sixth grade. Mr. Brunink will call all families of all current fifth graders to seek feedback on their Black River experiences and to encourage referrals from them. The Board discussed the differences among students that enter Black River from other school systems as compared to the students that advance from within Black River.

2010-2011 Calendar Planning. Mr. Brunink presented a preliminary version of next year's calendar drafted by him and Mr. Avery. The number of days in the year, the size of each semester, and when first and last days should fall were discussed. Mr. Brunink hopes to have the calendar approved at next month's meeting.

Item 6. BUSINESS REPORT – Dwight Avery

Cash Management. Mr. Avery reported that the \$250,000 time certificate of deposit at Bank of Holland that matured on December 28, 2009, was renewed for six months to June 29, 2010, at an annual percentage rate of 0.70 percent. Mr. Avery requested that the Board update signatories at Bank of Holland and acknowledge the reinvestment. Upon motion by Ms. Zeller seconded by Mr. Christie, which unanimously carried, the Board of Trustees of Black River Public School adopted the resolution shown at Exhibit A to designate THE BANK OF HOLLAND to continue to be a depository for School funds with updated signatories as shown, and ratified the investment of funds pursuant to the Time Certificate of Deposit, a copy of which is shown at Exhibit B.

Admissions Policy. Mr. Avery noted that one of the GVSU Charter Schools Office's compliance requirements is to submit a copy of the "2010-11 Admission and Lottery Board Policy." There have been no changes from the prior year, but Mr. Avery pointed out that if the Michigan charter school law is ever amended to allow enrollment priority for "...a child of a person who is employed by or at [Black River] or who is on the Board..." (language used for urban high school academies) that it would be desirable to incorporate the language into the Black River Admissions Policy as soon as permitted. GVSU's Mr. Matthews asked that the Board approve the current policy for the upcoming enrollment season to demonstrate that there have been no changes. Upon motion by Mr. Christie, seconded by Dr. Porter, which unanimous carried, the Board of Trustees of Black River Public School approved the Admissions Policy shown at Exhibit C, which includes provisions for sibling priority and the functions for lotteries by grade, if necessary.

Item 7. PRESIDENT'S REPORT / BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Marketing Committee. Barb Ellis presented summary of marking plans and activities. Information nights have been arranged for the last two Monday evenings in January and open houses are planned for the first two Saturday mornings in February. The marketing card was placed in the *Holland Sentinel* in early January and Mr. Avery placed an Open Enrollment Notice in the January 16, 2010, edition of the *Grand Rapids Press*.

Executive Committee met and discussed the makeup of the calendar for the next few years and also the federal "Race to the Top" money that flows through the State of Michigan. Black River's allocation was only \$5410 and it was decided not to pursue the funding.

Facilities Committee met to look at Driesenga & Associates ideas for potential soccer field drainage solutions. D&A's recommended solution involving drainage tubing under the field directed to the storm

sewer was estimated to cost approximately \$120,000. The committee wants to seek a less expensive solution that would provide adequate drainage.

Finance Committee. Jane Clark advised that the Committee is carefully monitoring enrollment demand across grade levels, and especially at the sixth grade entry point. The proration cut of \$127 per pupil has been rescinded, which will add back \$104,000 which had been taken out of December's revised budget.

Goals Development and Review Committee. Ruth Crouch, Barb Zeller, Brian Porter and Barb Ellis will be convening the committee later this month for the mid-year review of progress toward team goals.

Item 8. OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Zeller inquired about the school's original student Community Service Award, which was renamed the Claudia Ruf Community Service Award. Mr. Donnelly will investigate the previous recipients and have a plaque created for display.

Item 9. NEW BUSINESS

There was no additional new business raised for discussion by the Board.

Item 10. OPEN FORUM / COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public at the designated point in the meeting.

Item 11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

NEXT MEETING: The next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:30 pm on Monday, February 16, 2010, at Black River Public School's 491 Columbia Avenue campus.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary M. Mims, Secretary