

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board Meeting Minutes
January 16, 2012 – 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 Ruth A. Crouch at 5:34 pm on January 16, 2012 in room 209 at the school's Columbia Avenue campus. Recognition was made that a quorum was present.

Item 2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Ruth A. Crouch, Gregory T. Christie, Jane A. Clark, Timothy V. DuMez, Stephanie Elhart, Barbara S. Ellis, Thomas F. Guarr, Mary M. Mims, Brian E. Porter

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Shannon Brunink (Head of School), Michelle Byrne (Administrative Assistant), John K. Donnelly (Dean of Students), John Zoellner (Business Director)

Public Present: Errol Goldman (BRPS attorney), Dan Matthews (GVSU Charter Schools Office), John Sanford (BRPS field representative from Axios)

Media Present: none

Item 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of December 12, 2011, were approved and accepted as printed upon a motion by Ms. Mims, seconded by Ms. Ellis, which unanimously carried.

Item 4. FACULTY REPORT

A faculty report was not brought before the Board at this time.

Item 5. ADMINISTRATION REPORT – Shannon Brunink

Academics.

Mr. Brunink indicated that the schools have received their MEAP scores and Black River performed well compared to ISD averages, despite new cut scores. MME testing is scheduled for early March at the Fish and Game Club.

He also indicated that college acceptance is currently at 42.1% of the senior class accepted to a four year college or university. Right now all seniors are on track for graduation.

As the deadline approaches Ms. Jen Wise has been receiving new course proposals for next year and AP Course Audits have been approved.

Student Life.

Mr. Donnelly stated that 140 participants are currently registered for this year's Rat Race, up 50 from last year at this time. He thanked Ms. Virginia Grinzinger for her help planning the event and Liberty Mutual for their recent sponsorship.

Mr. Donnelly also answered questions regarding Public Act 241, which will require schools to develop and enforce anti-bullying policies.

Resolution to Approve a revision to Black River's current student code of conduct policies in order to comply with Public Act 241. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Mr. Guarr, seconded by Ms. Mims.

Administration.

Mr. Brunink stated that Black River has had 60 applicants for its open enrollment as of January 9th. This puts us in line with last year's numbers. The New Parent Information Nights for Elementary and Middle School/High School were well attended. Open houses are scheduled for Saturday, February 4th and Saturday, February 11th.

Mr. Brunink has been working to develop the 2012-2013 School Year Calendar and stated that it currently includes 180 instructional days. He plans to pare down to 179 days before bringing it before the Board for approval in February.

The probability of an all-day Kindergarten program for the 2012-2013 school year was also discussed. Mr. Brunink stated that research shows that full day programs are beneficial to student growth and the decision would be based on educational merit, not financial gain.

Item 6. BUSINESS REPORT

Mr. John Zoellner presented the December Combined Balance Sheet, attached to these Minutes as **Exhibit A**, indicating that we will maintain our current course as State Aide continues to come in.

Resolution to Approve the budget adjustment. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Ms. Ellis, seconded by Ms. Elhart and is attached to these minutes as Exhibit B.

Item 7. PRESIDENT'S REPORT / BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee

Ms. Ruth Crouch indicated that the Executive Committee met on January 16th to discuss the 2012-2013 School Year Calendar, the Kindergarten program, and new Board policies. Mr. Errol Goldman suggested that the committee meet in March to review the new policies and Mr. Zoellner plans to collaborate on new financial policies at the same time.

Dr. Richard Kool will visit on Thursday to share his expertise associated with a Capital Campaign to raise money for a new Elementary building.

A representative from Innovative Modulars will visit the school on Tuesday to quote replacement portables as a backup plan in case it is determined to be in the school's best interest to put off a Capital Campaign.

Communications and Public Relations.

Ms. Stephanie Elhart shared the success of the recent New Parent Information Night and explained plans for the upcoming Open Houses.

She also shared her enthusiasm in regard to the upcoming Tedx Macatawa, where Black River will be represented. The theme for this Tedx is "Do more good."

Curriculum Committee.

Ms. Ellis and Mr. Brunink outlined their plans to meet to discuss growth in Black River's curriculum.

Finance.

None.

Item 8. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to be brought before the Board at this time.

Item 9. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Dan Matthews indicated that Executive Committee policy work and Tedx attendance can count toward Board professional development hours. He also distributed a Grand Valley brochure with 20 learning opportunities offered free to teachers.

Item 10. OPEN FORUM / COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public.

Item 11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.

NEXT MEETING: The next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:30 pm on February 20, 2012, at Black River Public School's 491 Columbia Avenue campus.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary M. Mims, Secretary