

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board Meeting Minutes
February 18, 2019

Item 1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Black River Public School was called to order by President Tom Pietri at 5:37pm on February 18, 2019, 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:

Mike Camarota, Maria Carrizales-Alonzo, Ruth Crouch, Craig Davis, David Kibler, Tom Pietri, Brian Porter

Members Absent:

Mary Mims, Kim Mitchell

Staff Present:

Brett Bittrick (BR Teacher), Shannon Brunink (Head of School), Michelle Byrne (Administrative Assistant), Beth Kiurski (BR Teacher), Jim Levering (Elementary Administrator), Allyson VanderBush (BR Teacher),

Public Present:

Matt Cawood (GVSU Charter Schools Office), Errol Goldman (BRPS Attorney), Mary Rynsburger (BR Parent)

Media Present:

None

Item 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no corrections, all minutes of the Board's December 17, 2018 meeting, were approved upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo. (6-0)

Item 4. FACULTY COUNCIL PRESENTATION

Mr. Brett Bittrick, Ms. Beth Kiurski, and Ms. Allyson VanderBush presented on behalf of Faculty Council three charges they have focused on this year. These charges were selected from last year's faculty survey and included ideas for school improvement, recruitment and retention of quality teachers, and maintaining an innovative program.

Item 5. BOARD MEMBER NOMINATIONS

Motion to appoint Mr. Camarota, Mr. Kibler, and Ms. Mims to additional 3 year terms on Black River's Board of Trustees. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo. (7-0)

Item 6. BUSINESS REPORT

Motion to adopt the amended budget as presented. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Mr. Camarota. (7-0)

Item 7. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Mr. Brunink distributed the proposed 2019-2020 school year calendar and explained possible adjustments.

Motion to accept the 2019-2020 school year calendar as presented with the option to alter the mid winter break based on survey results. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo. (7-0)

Mr. Brunink explained that due to this year's extreme weather Michigan schools have experienced more closures than expected. It is anticipated that the state will forgive a portion of these days but Black River will attempt to add one instructional day to the calendar at this point.

Motion to grant Mr. Brunink the discretion to add a half day of school on Friday, March 15 to the 2018-2019 school year calendar. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Mr. Camarota. (7-0)

Mr. Brunink indicated that as of February 6th Black River had received 255 enrollment applications. At that time last year 122 applications have been received and Mr. Brunink reminded the board of the changes made to the application process over the past year. Vapor intrusion testing has concluded and the results indicated that there are no concerns. There is the possibility for more testing to be completed in the future. Mr. Brunink has asked current and former students to submit videos showing their perspective of Black River when marketing the school. Our We the People team is preparing for nationals and has raised \$14,880 so far to make their trip possible. Mr. Brunink thanked Mr. Cawood for the donation received from the GVSU CSO in support of this group. He also thanked Mr. Kibler for the coffee donation for the recent open house. This was a successful event with more than 50 prospective families attending to receive student led tours of the Black River campus. Work continues on the pilot program focusing on support strategies and possibilities to redo work until mastery. This study has helped those involved evaluate which aspects have been beneficial in their classrooms and how they could be incorporated in to a new CAP structure.

Mr. Levering was excited by the success of the 5th annual BR take over at the Grand Rapids Griffins and plans to offer a similar event at the Whitecaps in June. Black River hosted a recent spelling bee for the OAISD. Mary Catherine Leahy took first place and Sarah Leahy came in second. Mr. Levering outlined the recent work of Odyssey of the Mind, First Lego League Jr., and Math Counts. He also highlighted a BR 4th grader, Miss Olive Frey, who raised more than \$400 to battle rainforest deforestation during a recent project.

Item 8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Pietri received an emailed report from Miss Aanya Usmani, the student board representative. She indicated that the recent Snowcoming games and dance were a huge success with proceeds from the event going to support the Parent Organization Athletic Boosters. Mr. Pietri also indicated that students have inquired about the status of construction on the science labs and the possibility of an open campus for lunch.

Mr. Pietri shared that Mr. Porter will end his term on Black River's board of trustees after this year and reinstated the selection committee. BR is in the process of updating the sexual education curriculum with the help of health teacher, Ms. Ekdahl.

Motion to appoint Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo and Ms. Kelly Huggett as vice chairs of Black River's sexual education advisory board. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Mr. Camarota. (7-0)

Mr. Pietri would like to form a marketing group to discuss how Black River should present itself to the community. The committee seeks to understand how community members interact with the world, where they get their info, and how BR can best present their end product quality. They would also like to find a way to communicate the long term benefits of the hard work required to succeed at Black River.

Item 9. GVSU UPDATE

Mr. Cawood distributed a save the date for the April board reception at GVSU. He distributed the results of the Academic Grant Awards and indicated that Black River received the full amount in all areas. Mr. Cawood also completed the verification of citizenship for members that required it at this time.

Item 10. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business for the board to address.

Item 11. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Camarota asked for information on Black River's mental health services and Mr. Brunink indicated that he would be happy to invite the school's counselors and social workers to speak to the board.

Item 12. OPEN FORUM / COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public.

Item 13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board, a motion was made by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 pm. (7-0)

NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:30 pm on March 18, 2019, at Black River Public School's 491 Columbia Avenue Campus.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary M. Mims, Secretary