

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board Meeting Minutes
March 19, 2018

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 5:35pm on March 19, 2018, 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, Mike Camarota, Ruth Crouch, Stephanie Elhart, Mary Mims, Tom Pietri

Members Absent:

Timothy DuMez, Chris McNaughton, Brian Porter

Staff Present:

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

Public Present:

Bill Barker (GVSU Charter Schools Office), Sophia Camarota (BR Student Rep.), Abby Frankhouse (BR Student), Errol Goldman (BRPS Attorney)

Media Present:

None

Item 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no corrections, all minutes of the Board's February 19, 2018 meeting, were approved upon a motion by Ms. Elhart, seconded by Ms. Crouch. (6-0)

Item 4. BUSINESS REPORT

Mr. Zoellner distributed and discussed the February Financial Report indicating that the school has experienced an increase in operations and maintenance this year.

Item 5. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Mr. Donnelly explained that Parent/Teacher Conferences took place on March 15 and 16 and thanked Ms. Pat Gort for her work on the book fair fundraiser during that time. Rat Race sign-ups have begun and he is continuing work in preparation for this year's graduation. Both Middle School and High School honors assemblies will take place during the school day of April 26th.

Mr. Levering shared that the book fair set a new spring sales record and that books have been delivered to all the classrooms. Black River hosted our first regional spelling bee competition and Miss Mary Catherine Leahy was the winner. Four teachers will travel to Denver, Colorado to attend this year's American Montessori Society conference. Black River hosted Ms. Betsy Lockhart for a parent information night and day of professional development for faculty. The elementary raised \$2,000 supporting the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society during their week long coin drive. Black River has been selected for M-Step observations by the Michigan Department of Education this year.

Mr. Brunink indicated that the open enrollment lottery is complete and this first year with SchoolMint went well. A parent night for incoming 6th graders will take place on March 20th. Faculty took part in a recent QPR training focusing on suicide prevention. Mr. Brunink had the opportunity to speak at a Leadership Holland event with other Ottawa Area Superintendents and will travel to Lansing tomorrow. Instructional Rounds are scheduled for March 21st with guests from the GVSU Charter School Office and the problem of practice was distributed to the board. Mr. Brunink also distributed copies of the 2018-2019 school year calendar.

Motion to accept the Black River Public School 2018-2019 school year calendar as presented. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Ms. Elhart, seconded by Ms. Crouch. (6-0)

Mr. Brunink expressed how proud he was of all Black River students during the recent National School Walkout and indicated that both those that participated and those that chose to stay in class conducted themselves well. He also outlined safety discussions that took place before the event.

Item 6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Elhart indicated that the Executive Committee has discussed succession planning as two members of the board prepare to leave. Ms. Mims and Ms. Crouch have volunteered to be on a nominating committee. She has received mixed responses on a new Black River identity.

Item 7. GVSU UPDATE

Mr. Barker reminded the board of the reception on Monday, April 9th and distributed an invitation for the GVSU night at Comerica Park. He thanked Mr. Brunink for hosting Instructional Rounds and indicated that the yearly golf outing will take place on June 21st. Mr. Levering was

also congratulated for his nomination as a semifinalist for the MAPSA Administrator of the Year award.

Item 8. STUDENT REPORT

Miss Frankhouse shared that Black River's Youth In Government delegation of 44 students was honored with one of the Premier Delegation distinctions at both the early and late conference. Mr. Aaron Seymour's bill was also voted "best bill." Mr. Sam Lowry was chosen as the Michigan Youth Governor for next year. The awards ceremony for winter sports took place last week and soccer practices have begun. Miss Camarota shared that both track and baseball begin this Friday and robotics will also have a competition that day. Students interested in registering voters recently traveled to the Fillmore Complex to be deputized. This will allow them to check identification of those interested in applying for absentee ballots as they prepare to leave for college. Miss Camarota also outlined the events of the recent National School Walkout and indicated that many students felt as though it was a good experience stating that they were "part of something bigger."

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. OPEN FORUM / COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public.

Item 12. CLOSED SESSION

It was moved by Ms. Elhart and supported by Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo to move into closed session to review a written legal opinion pursuant to Section 8 (h) of the Open Meetings Act. A roll call vote was conducted. Ayes: Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo, Mr. Camarota, Ms. Crouch, Mr. DuMez, Ms. Elhart, Ms. Mims, Mr. Pietri. Nays: None. Motion passed. The Board of Trustees moved into closed session at 7:17 pm.

Item 13. OPEN FORUM

It was moved by Ms. Elhart and supported by Ms. Crouch to move out of closed session. A roll call vote was conducted. Ayes: Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo, Mr. Camarota, Ms. Crouch, Ms. Elhart, Ms. Mims, Mr. Pietri. Nays: None. Motion passed. The Board of Trustees moved out of closed session at 8:12 pm.

Item 14. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board, a motion was made by Ms. Elhart, seconded by Mr. Pietri to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 pm.

NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:30 pm on April 16, 2018, at Black River Public School's 491 Columbia Avenue Campus.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'MM', written over a horizontal line.

Mary M. Mims, Secretary