

**BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**September 16, 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 5:35pm on September 16, 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:

Elizabeth Bauman, Maria Carrizales-Alonzo, Ruth Crouch, Craig Davis, David Kibler, Kim Mitchell, Tom Pietri, Brian Porter

Members Absent:

Mike Camarota, Mary Mims

Staff Present:

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

Public Present:

Mike Bonagara (Hope Student), Matt Cawood (GVSU Charter Schools Office), Alec Driscoll (Hope Student), Jackson Keske (Hope Student)

Media Present:

None

**Item 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

There being no corrections, all minutes of the Board's August 19, 2019 meeting, were approved upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo. (7-0)

**Item 4. BUSINESS REPORT**

Mr. Zoellner distributed and reviewed the audit report and management letter from the 2018-2019 audit. The Finance Committee met on September 11 to discuss the report and Mr. Zoellner indicated that there were no findings.

**Motion to accept the 2018-2019 fiscal year audit. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Ms. Carrizales. (7-0)**

#### **Item 5. ADMINISTRATION REPORT**

Mr. Donnelly explained that the Juniors traveled to Chicago for their yearly field trip to the Museum of Science and Industry, Art Institute, and Shedd Aquarium. He thanked the Parent Organization for their organization and support of this trip. Concrete was poured today for the new hard surface project. Mr. Donnelly has worked with members of Student Council on the details of next week's Spirit Week and thanked Hope College for allowing Black River to rent the field for the event.

Mr. Levering explained that the K-5 began the year with the Elementary Open House, Parent Orientation/Picnic, the Reading Chain Celebration, and Kindergarten signing day. He stated that he was grateful to find all of the amazing new hires needed to round out his staff for the year ahead. His team has strategized the tone of the morning welcome and he has registered the school for this year's Spelling Bee.

Mr. Brunink thanked Mr. Levering for his hard work to get good candidates into the open positions Black River had this summer and welcomed Mr. Jacob Stid to the History Department. He reiterated that the concrete was poured today for the new basketball courts and thanked the Parent Organization and Rat Race for their incredible contributions to the project. We have been able to see CAP/Flex Time in action for a few days a week and Mr. Brunink outlined the phenomenal work Ms. Kerrie Esmeier has done to facilitate this offering. Officer Nicole Hamberg has long supported Black River and will expand her time on campus to include Flex offerings as well as reading to Elementary classrooms. Thrive will be starting again this year on Mondays with Ms. Tricia Schrottenboer. Departments are looking at their homework assignments and assessments and the Spanish Department has implemented a new redo/retake policy to develop skills. Mr. Brunink explained that the school is moving away from the current online enrollment system and developing a new data collection system that better suits our needs. Department Heads are being trained on the new 5D+ teacher evaluation tool. Mr. Brunink also enjoyed attending the Hope College inauguration of President Matthew A. Scogin, the father of a new BR family.

#### **Item 6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Pietri shared how much he has enjoyed coaching the BR Boys MS Soccer team this year. He thanked the teachers/coaches for their support of these programs and the students for their maturity and dedication.

#### **Item 7. STUDENT REPORT**

A student report was not brought before the board.

**Item 8. GVSU UPDATE**

Mr. Cawood explained that GVSU is working to finalize documents for the Contract Charter Amendment and Performance Report. New board member orientation will take place on November 4th and 5th.

**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**

The board clarified state funding allocations to charter schools for the visitors from Hope College.

**Item 12. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:39pm.

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:30 pm on October 21, 2019, at Black River Public School's 491 Columbia Avenue Campus.

Respectfully submitted,



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Mary M. Mims, Secretary