

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board Meeting Minutes
October 18, 2021

Item 1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of Black River Public School was called to order by President Kim Mitchell at 5:33pm on October 18, 2021, 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:

Elisabeth Bauman, Mike Camarota (5:35), Maria Carrizales-Alonzo (5:56pm), Ruth Crouch, Craig Davis, David Kibler (6:29), Mary Mims, Kim Mitchell, Tom Pietri

Members Absent:

None

Staff Present:

Shannon Brunink (Head of School), Michelle Byrne (Administrative Assistant), John K. Donnelly (Dean of Students), Jeanne Kane (BR Teacher), Jim Levering (Elementary Administrator), Ann Stimer (BR Teacher), John Zoellner (Business Director)

Public Present:

Matt Cawood, Amy Dykema, Brian Dykema, Katie Dykema, Hanna Garber, Errol Goldman, Beth Tyler, Shawn Thompson, Layne Weatherwax

Media Present:

None

Item 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no corrections, all minutes of the Board's September 20, 2021 meeting were approved upon a motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo (7-0)

Item 4. APPROVAL OF STUDENT HANDBOOK

Motion to approve the student handbook changes. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo. (8-0)

Item 5. BUSINESS REPORT

Mr. Zoellner thanked Ms. Crouch for her work updating the transparency page. He distributed the September Financial Reports and explained the school's new partnership with Horizon Bank.

Motion to approve the mortgage loan with Horizon Bank. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Pietri. (8-0)

Item 6. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Mr. Levering shared that Ms. Jillian Martinez welcomed a new baby and outlined other long term sub positions open throughout this year. He shared details of recent field trips and explained how this has brought back some normal elements to the classroom. He outlined supports in place for struggling and quarantined students and thanked support staff for their help in facilitating these programs.

Mr. Donnelly took the opportunity to thank Ms. Kane for the continued use of her classroom for these board meetings. He acknowledged the work Hi-Tec has been putting in to try to keep campus facilities up and running while continuing to be short staffed. He is thrilled to have the opportunity to participate in the annual Calling All Colors Conference again this year. Mr. Donnelly thanked the volunteers that made the Homecoming festivities possible and outlined the creative ideas Mr. Fisher and members of Student Council came up with to make the traditional dance fit within this year's parameters.

Mr. Brunink explained how the school's work with equity continues. He outlined the school's count day numbers and that open enrollment is already underway for next year. Teachers are working to submit Project Term Course proposals as well as midterm grade reports. Mr. Brunink meets weekly with the Ottawa County Department of Public Health to understand Covid-19 within our community and how it affects the work we do here at school. He was excited to share Black River's recognition in the recent NICHE and US News and World Report. He read a prepared statement in response to accessibility concerns brought up in a recent public comment and provided history on the development and approved standards of the Black River campus.

Item 7. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Mitchell discussed the recruitment of a student representative for next school year as well as plans to partner with Faculty Council to discuss the ideas they've collected from staff. She also reminded members of the board of the GVSU board training schedule.

Item 8. GVSU REPORT

Mr. Cawood indicated that they are in the process of compiling the school performance reports. He also reiterated the board training schedule and requirements.

Item 9. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Camarota asked that the administration research the cost of making meetings more publicly available via a virtual feed and to present ideas back to the board at a future meeting. Mr. Cawood shared some ways other school boards make their meetings available to the public.

Item 10. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Mitchell reminded those present that the next meeting will take place on Wednesday, November 17th.

Item 11. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Dykema read a prepared statement regarding accessibility on campus.

Mr. Pietri presented a response to statements on campus accessibility.

Item 12. CLOSED SESSION

Motion to move into closed session to review a written legal opinion pursuant to section 8h of the open meetings act. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Ms. Crouch through a roll call vote. (9-0)

Item 13. OPEN SESSION

Motion to come out of closed session at 7:57pm. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo through a roll call vote. (9-0)

Item 14. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:58pm. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo.

NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:30 pm on November 17, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary M. Mims, Secretary