

**BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**November 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 Tom Pietri at 5:35pm on November 19, 2018, in room 229 at the school's Columbia Avenue campus. Recognition was made that a quorum was present through a roll call.

Mr. Pietri administered the oath of office to Mr. Davis, Mr. Kibler, and Ms. Mitchell to officially begin their terms on Black River's Board of Trustees.

**Item 2. ROLL CALL**

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Mike Camarota

Staff Present:

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

Public Present:

Matt Cawood (GVSU Charter Schools Office), Rodger Eich (BR Parent), Errol Goldman (BRPS Attorney), Mary Rynsbarger (BR Parent), Aanya Usmani (BR Student Rep.)

Media Present:

None

**Item 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

There being no corrections, all minutes of the Board's October 15, 2018 meeting, were approved upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo. (8-0)

**Item 4. BUSINESS REPORT**

Mr. Zoellner distributed the October financial report. He is continuing the work on Budget Adjustment 1 and the next finance committee meeting will take place in December. Mr. Brunink also added that work continues towards the collection of bids on the Science building repairs.

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

Mr. Eich presented a proposed BR logo and examples of how it can be adapted for multiple areas of use. Mr. Davis, with a background in marketing, provided guidelines on what needs to be considered when rebranding.

In honor of Veteran's day Mr. Donnelly read a speech his father wrote reflecting on his experiences. Many CAP students attended and Mr. Donnelly was proud of their thoughtful participation. The recent Middle School dance was popular with the younger grades and Mr. Donnelly wanted to thank the parent groups that help make extra curricular activities possible. He also took the opportunity to remind everyone that the holidays can be a difficult time of year for some families.

Mr. Levering reminded the board that BR's Twitter (@blackriverrats) provides highlights of the many amazing things taking place each day. This year First Lego League has grown to support two full teams and they enjoyed an eventful season. He congratulated Ms. Letherby's class on collecting 218 items in their food drive benefiting Community Action House. The Barnes & Noble bookfair will take place Saturday, December 1st. The Special Education departments collaborated with their students to create a lunch event for their teachers and paraprofessionals to show their gratitude. The Art and Spanish departments created a beautiful, cross curricular ofrenda for Day of the Dead. Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo added that Total Trek Quest recently ran their race at West Ottawa. This year's team was the largest to date and Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo was happy to see BR's diversity represented in the group.

Mr. Brunink shared that Mr. Constantelos' We the People team placed 2nd in the region and will go on to state competitions in January. Ms. Rowe took a leadership role in this year's Big Read and BR students were able to participate in many of the Holland events. Miss Hannah Huggett has initiated a winter clothing drive to help locals in need. Mr. Brunink thanked voters for their support of the recent enhancement millage. The Parent Organization has set aside more than \$50,000 for the hard surface project and input from the DEQ will be used when put to bid. There has been incredible support for this project from the Fun Walk. Inservices will take place on Tuesday. Mr. Brunink reviewed with the board how he determines when to call a snow day. Dr. Lemmens visited BR during the GVSU Instructional Rounds. The team made some great observations and inspired us to look at the difference between workers and intellectuals.

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

Mr. Pietri did not have anything new to report.

## **Item 7. STUDENT REPORT**

Miss Usmani reiterated the success of BR's We the People team and indicated that Student Council would like to organize a fan bus for the next competition. The December 14 Sock Hop will be Hawaiian themed while the winter Snowcoming will bring back Mock Rock. The student spirit committee continues to recruit more fans to BR sporting events. At a recent sportsmanship summit they brainstormed themes for home games. United Way conducted a penny drive and Be Nice has prepared presentations for Middle School CAP classes.

## **Item 8. GVSU UPDATE**

Mr. Cawood distributed and explained this year's school performance report.

## **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**

Ms. Rynsburger asked if there is any desire to try to recruit new students mid semester. Mr. Brunink explained that he did not feel transitions at that time are always the best idea but indicated that there have been discussions on how to recruit for next year.

Mr. Kibler highlighted the theater performance of The Matchmaker and stated that auditions will be held for The Sound of Music. There is also a December 1st fundraiser that will include a talent show and silent auction.

Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo explained that the "Comfortable Cafeteria" program will begin in January. This program will be supported by the sales of cookbooks developed by the elementary students.

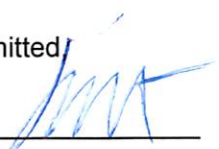
## **Item 12. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the board, a motion was made by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Ms. Crouch to adjourn the meeting at 6:59 pm. (8-0)

### **NEXT MEETING:**

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:30 pm on December 17, 2018, at Black River Public School's 491 Columbia Avenue Campus.

Respectfully submitted

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

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Mary M. Mims, Secretary