

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board Meeting Minutes
February 20, 2023

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 5:34 pm on February 20, 2023, 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:

Sarah Bast, Elisabeth Bauman, Ruth Crouch (left at 6:49pm), Craig Davis, TJ McDonald, Kim Mitchell, Tom Pietri

Members Absent:

Maria Carrizales-Alonzo, Mary Mims

Staff Present:

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

Public Present:

Matt Cawood, Ava Conklin, Errol Goldman, Finleigh Sinclair

Media Present:

None

Item 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no corrections, all minutes of the Board's January 16, 2023 meeting were approved upon a motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Pietri. (7-0)

Item 4. BUSINESS REPORT

Mr. Zoellner indicated that the Finance Committee met today to discuss Budget Adjustment 1. He distributed copies and explained that further refinement will be reflected in Budget Adjustment 2.

Motion to approve Budget Adjustment 1 as corrected. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Ms. Mitchell and seconded by Mr. Pietri. (7-0)

Mr. Zoellner distributed a Five Year Projection to members of the board and explained the plans for the future.

Item 5. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Mr. Levering shared that there are a lot of exciting things happening and that this has been a productive month. On February 9th they unveiled the book vending machine made possible by the Parent Organization. A fundraiser is underway to help keep it stocked with books which will now be an incentive for our PBIS program. The school wide spelling bee took place on January 20th with Ben Jorritsma and Max Larsen moving on to the countywide bee that will be held at Black River. A recent Odyssey of the Mind regional competition resulted with the BR team taking second place and moving on to the state championship. The elementary saw high attendance at the open house for prospective parents. Mr. Levering was thrilled with the work by the long term substitute teacher in elementary music. Ms. Poppin has incredible experience to bring to our students and has been a great help while Ms. Andrews is on leave. Swimming lessons for grades K-3 are scheduled to begin in March.

Mr. Donnelly explained that Spirit Week went well and students enjoyed the Snowcoming dance. He's recently worked with a company on exploring air purity devices. Black History Month has encouraged the sharing of many excellent resources and lessons among staff and students. Mr. Donnelly was excited to be able to attend this year's LAUP Conference on February 14th.

On behalf of Ms. Ames and Mr. Middleton, Mr. Brunink shared a 98b Progress Report. He discussed learning loss and the progress our students are making. Citing test data, he explained how adjustments to the curriculum saw improvements in reading, writing, and math. He reiterated the importance of our SAT scores and will be interested to see how those trend.

Motion to accept the 2023-2024 School Year Calendar. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Ms. Crouch. (7-0)

Mr. Brunink reminded those present that Open Enrollment ends on Wednesday, February 22nd. There have been 338 applications to date and he credited Ms. Kelli Heneghan and Ms. Kerrie Esmeier for their work to get the word out. The open house was a great success and the student tour guides provided a wonderfully personal experience.

Item 6. FACULTY COUNCIL REPORT

Ms. Kane shared how pleased everyone has been with the updates to the food service menus with the expanded salad options being particularly popular. Faculty Council is working to review National Honor Society applications. Ms. Kane outlined this year's accomplishments as well as the goals the Faculty Council continues to work on.

Item 7. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Miss Sinclair shared that Ratfest, the school's annual fundraiser for the fine arts department, was held last Friday. Project Term schedules have been posted and she reiterated the excitement around the increased lunch options. Miss Mary Catherine Leahy will represent Black River at the March 4th Poetry Out Loud competition. The Black River Theatre Co. will perform Into the Woods on March 11th. The group will be led by Ms. Bierma and Ms. McCool while Ms. Andrews is on leave. Miss Sinclair indicated that there have been many great lessons and displays in honor of Black History Month. Spirit Week and the Homecoming Dance were a success and thanked the many staff members that were willing to chaperone.

Miss Conklin reminded everyone of the Maize and Blue for Coach Schu game scheduled for February 28th. This year's basketball Senior Night will take place this week and district games begin next week. As more seniors hear back from colleges stress has been lifted for some.

Miss Sinclair shared that the Middle and High School students have loved working with Mr. Holmes who has stepped in to lead the choir classes.

Miss Conklin shared some of the recent outreach of the Be Nice program and explained the steps the Green Team are taking to try to become the first green school in the county.

Item 8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Mitchell shared that the board terms of Ms. Bauman, Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo, Ms. Crouch, and Mr. Davis will end this year.

Motion to recommend the reappointment of Ms. Bauman, Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo, and Mr. Davis for GVSU approval. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Pietri. (7-0)

Item 9. GVSU REPORT

Mr. Cawood explained that Black River met all of the requirements and earned the maximum amount available in this year's Academic Grant. He indicated that they will be increasing the amount next year and shared the additional parameters set to achieve this goal.

Motion to accept the academic grant totaling \$17,980.00 for the 2022-2023 school year. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Ms. Bauman. (6-0)

Mr. Cawood encouraged those present to check out the GVSU Charter School Office newsletter and indicated that they will be hosting the inaugural Board President's Leadership Retreat. Board members will receive the annual survey and they should save the date for this year's board reception on May 8th.

Item 10. OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Mitchell reminded the board of initial discussions that were had a few years ago about updating the school's website. She asked Mr. Davis to explain the committee's current thoughts on the subject. He shared parent perspectives, discussed the need to adapt to mobile devices, and explained how the website should be the school's brand. Members discussed it as a tool to recruit new enrollment, budget estimates and timelines. Ms. Esmeier outlined the timeline for the end of our current plan in June and the need to transfer to another company before that time. Mr. Goldman outlined the generalities of the available options and reiterated the need to maintain compliance. The committee will decide what recommendation they will bring before the board.

Item 11. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business brought before the board.

Item 12. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

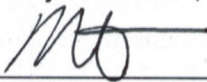
Item 13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:58pm.

NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:30 pm on March 20, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary M. Mims, Secretary