

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board Meeting Minutes
March 20, 2023

Item 1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of Black River Public School was called to order by Vice President Elizabeth Bauman at 5:31pm on March 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, Maria Carrizales-Alonzo, Craig Davis, TJ McDonald, Mary Mims, Tom Pietri

Members Absent:

Ruth Crouch, Kim Mitchell

Staff Present:

Shannon Brunink (Head of School), Michelle Byrne (Administrative Assistant), Rachel Carlson (Business Manager), John K. Donnelly (Dean of Students), Ericka Foreman (BR Teacher), Jim Levering (Elementary Administrator)

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 February 20, 2023 meeting were approved upon a motion by Ms. Bauman, seconded by Mr. Pietri. (7-0)

Item 4. BUSINESS REPORT

In Mr. Zoellner's absence, Ms. Carlson distributed and outlined the February financial statements. She indicated that the next budget adjustment will be presented in June.

Item 5. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Mr. Levering shared that BR's First Lego League finished the season with an in-house competition and he was proud to attend the recent Odyssey of the Mind state competition. Swimming lessons for elementary students have begun and the 5th graders will travel to Lansing for a field trip this Friday. Sheila Linville will be here this week to work with staff in addition to those currently completing Montessori training. Mr. Levering kicked off this year's character read alouds for March is Reading Month as The White Rabbit from Alice in Wonderland. The book vending machine has created excitement across the building as 30 students are selected per week to pick a book.

Mr. Donnelly shared that this year's honors assemblies will be held in person on April 27th. Senior graduation will take place on June 1st at the Jack H. Miller Center on Hope College's campus. He commended students on their excellent performance of Into the Woods. He also attended the recent Ottawa Area Safe and Secure Schools conference, indicating that he appreciates this opportunity to learn and network with those involved. Rat Race will be held this year on April 29th.

Mr. Brunink outlined the data from this year's open enrollment lottery and explained that we are fully enrolled for the 2023-2024 school year. He explained that Mr. Middleton is working with BR parent Ms. Sara Alsum-Wassenaar on a grant through the Macatawa Area Coordinating Council for student enrichment.

Motion to authorize the pursuit of the grant through the Macatawa Area Coordinating Council. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Ms. Bauman, seconded by Mr. Davis. (7-0)

Mr. Brunink stated that RFPs have been shared with 20 companies for the upcoming custodial bids. Building repairs continue in the south stairwell. Representatives from the Michigan Department of Education visited campus last week and Mr. Brunink enjoyed showing them the great things our students were working on. He will spend April 22 in Lansing with MAPSA to discuss charter school funding with Michigan's legislators.

Item 6. FACULTY COUNCIL REPORT

Ms. Foreman shared that the book vending machine excitement has been felt in her own home with her elementary students. As the season changes, nicer weather has allowed teachers to plan more outdoor activities. Faculty Council has discussed an updated faculty handbook with Mr. Brunink for the upcoming school year. While recognizing the challenge of balancing the schedule, they have brainstormed ways to make up for missed blocks in the future.

Item 7. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Miss Sinclair explained that this year's production of Into the Woods had the largest turnout for a spring show and applauded Miss Mary Catherine Leahy for her performance in Poetry Out Loud. Spring sports are underway along with elementary swimming lessons. She felt the 7th

grade Asian Feast was a good bonding experience and was excited that it is possible to have more field trips this time of year. Miss Sinclair also enjoyed seeing Education students from Hope College visiting campus last week. The HS Robotics team had a great showing at their recent competition coming in 19th place overall.

Miss Conklin reiterated the success of the musical production and commended their hard work to put it all together. She indicated that there will be a spirit week and pep rally for Spring Thing and that there was great participation in the recent Youth in Government conference.

Miss Sinclair thanked the Parent Organization for supporting the baseball team's event at the LMCU ballpark. Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo clarified that this year's Spring Thing will take place on May 6th with girls varsity soccer.

Item 8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Bauman did not have a president's report to share at this time.

Item 9. GVSU REPORT

Mr. Cawood outlined the next board training and asked members to save the date for the May 8th board reception.

Item 10. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Davis explained that meetings about a website update have continued and they will commit to a 3 year contract with Finalsity. They are developing a roadmap to improve our brand story and showcase what makes Black River special.

Mr. Pietri explained that although they felt forced down this path they feel it can work well for our needs.

Mr. Pietri asked about the rollout of the updated athletic eligibility requirements and Mr. Brunink indicated that Mr. Lawton will communicate those changes.

Item 11. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Davis shared recent developments with artificial intelligence and how this can affect schools. He felt teachers should familiarize themselves with what is coming. Those present discussed the potential for harm and possible policies to be developed. Ms. Foreman, Miss Sinclair, and Miss Conklin shared staff and student perspectives.

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 6:39pm.

NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:30 pm on April 17, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary M. Mims, Secretary