

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board Meeting Minutes
February 20, 2017

Item 1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Black River Public School was called to order by President Stephanie Elhart at 5:33pm on February 20, 2017, 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:

Maria Carrizales-Alonzo, Gregory Christie, Ruth Crouch, Timothy DuMez, Stephanie Elhart, Chris McNaughton, Mary Mims, Tom Pietri, Brian Porter

Members Absent:

None

Staff Present:

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

Public Present:

Grace Brunink (BR Student), Cheryl Edwards-Canon (GVSU Charter Schools Office), Abby Frankhouse (BR Student), Errol Goldman (BRPS Attorney), Ann Hoekstra (BR Parent)

Media Present:

None

Item 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no corrections, all minutes of the board's January 16, 2017 meeting were approved upon a motion by Ms. Elhart, seconded by Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo. (9-0)

Item 4. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Mr. Donnelly reminded the board that Rat Race registration is now open with the event taking place on April 22nd. A campus clean up is also scheduled in celebration of Earth Day. He congratulated the Boys Varsity Basketball team on their current record of 13-3.

Mr. Levering shared that the 3rd annual Night Out at the Griffins included 206 attendees from Black River. The Odyssey of the Mind competition took place on Saturday and included both the upper and lower elementary teams. Mr. Levering thanked Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo for her work to organize the recent Box Tops community service opportunity. Last fall's group raised \$820 for the school! The varsity basketball team is organizing an elementary night which will include halftime show participation and giveaways. Mr. Levering is working with Representative Garcia to schedule a time in March to read to students.

Mr. Brunink explained that the 2017-2018 school year calendar needs more attention and will be brought to the board for approval at next month's meeting. In addition, Mr. Brunink recently served on the Calendar Committee with other Ottawa Area Superintendents. He also met with local Superintendents to discuss school of choice policies.

Preparations continue for the AdvancED visit and Title I audit next month. The Title I survey is due next week. This work has allowed for the School Improvement Plan to be completed in advance of its regular summer deadline. Updates are being made to the Program of Study for the upcoming year and the Annual Education Report is due. Mr. Brunink was excited by a proposed Art and Music Through History course where he's been asked to be a guest speaker. Discussions continue relating to MStep scores and how much we choose for them to drive curriculum. Teacher evaluations continue.

Open enrollment ends on Wednesday, February 22 at 4pm with the lottery to follow on Friday, February 24. As of Friday 182 applications have been received.

Staff met with Enviroclean and were able to renew the contract at no increase. A switch of yearbook companies has been made, however discussions continue with the previous contract holder. New servers have been ordered.

The Eco Challenge class has presented plans for the pool property which could include trees, trails, and a turtle pond. Presentations from the Be Nice team took place at all grade levels over the last few weeks. This program was brought to Black River by the Mental Health Foundation and is intended to empower kids to help each other as well as themselves. Representative Garcia will visit to recognize Black River's 20 years educating the community.

Item 5. BUSINESS REPORT

Mr. Zoellner shared that staff has been very happy with Black Pearl's response to issues presented during the transition from Axios.

He distributed and discussed the January financial reports and indicated that he continues work on Budget Adjustment 2.

Item 6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Elhart shared that there was a good turn out for the recent open house. There were nearly 30 student tour guides volunteering to show prospective families around Black River's campus.

Ms. Elhart, Ms. Crouch, Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo, Mr. Porter, and Mr. Dumez are all up for renewal of their term on Black River's board of trustees. Mr. Christie will be moving on from the board so members continue the work of filling that position. Ms. Mims will be recognized in September for 20 years of service on Black River's board of trustees.

In conjunction with new website development, re-branding work continues. Wayfinding signage will continue to be developed over the next month.

Item 7. GVSU UPDATE

Ms. Edwards-Canon indicated that she will see Mr. Brunink and Mr. Levering at the principal's meeting next week. Their participation is one aspect in earning the per pupil funding from GVSU.

She also shared that she is developing a website to help GVSU's schools engage their community when it comes to fundraising. More information will follow.

Item 8. STUDENT REPORT

Miss Frankhouse stated that Student Council voted to allocate \$700 for a new sound board. This partnership with the Fine Arts Boosters will support concerts for choir, band, and orchestra. Student surveys as teacher evaluations are being discussed and a school wide breakfast party to promote healthy eating during exams is being planned. Student council is collaborating with West Ottawa and Holland Christian to improve their organizations. A beach clean up is in the works to connect communities.

Item 9. OLD BUSINESS

Motion to accept Board Policy 5501 - Safe and Disruptive-Free Zones. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Ms. Elhart, seconded by Mr. Christie. (9-0)

Item 10. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business brought before the board.

Item 11. PUBLIC COMMENT/OPEN FORUM

Mrs. Gorris was excited to share that the art department has received the new kiln and installation is underway.

Item 12. CLOSED SESSION

It was moved by Ms. Elhart and supported by Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo to move into closed session to review a written legal opinion pursuant to Section 8 (h) of the Open Meetings Act. A roll call vote was conducted. Ayes: Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo, Mr. Christie, Ms. Crouch, Mr. DuMez, Ms. Elhart, Mr. McNaughton, Mr. Porter, Ms. Mims, Mr. Pietri. Nays: None. Motion passed. The Board of Trustees moved into closed session at 6:42 pm.

It was moved by Ms. Elhart and supported by Mr. Pietri to move out of closed session. A roll call vote was conducted. Ayes: Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo, Mr. Christie, Ms. Crouch, Mr. DuMez, Ms. Elhart, Mr. McNaughton, Mr. Porter, Ms. Mims, Mr. Pietri. Nays: None. Motion passed. The Board of Trustees moved out of closed session at 7:11 pm.

Item 13. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the board, a motion was made by Ms. Elhart, seconded by Mr. Christie to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 pm.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:30pm on March 20, 2017, at Black River Public School's Columbia Avenue campus.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary M. Mims, Secretary