

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board Meeting Minutes
November 21, 2016

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 5:35pm on November 21, 2016, 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, Mary Mims, Tom Pietri, Brian Porter

Members Absent:

Chris McNaughton

Staff Present:

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

Public Present:

Delaney Cavanagh (BR Student), Cheryl Edwards-Canon (GVSU Charter Schools Office), Kathy Ehmann (BR Parent), Sam Ehmann (BR Student), Abby Frankhouse (BR Student), Errol Goldman (BRPS Attorney), Shane Harrelson (BR Parent), Emma Hubbell (BR Student), John Sanford (Axios Field Representative),

Media Present:

None

Item 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no corrections, all minutes of the board's October 17, 2016 meeting were approved upon a motion by Ms. Elhart, seconded by Mr. Christie. (8-0)

Item 4. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Mr. Donnelly congratulated the BR theater group on their play this past weekend and indicated that he was impressed with the varying roles our students took on. He will be participating in the yearly faculty vs. student basketball game which takes place this evening.

Mr. Donnelly also explained that he has continued his work addressing cultural sensitivity and bullying. He explained how Mr. Brunink's recent letter to families reaffirming Black River's mission statement has helped him in this role.

Mr. Levering shared that many of the after school enrichment programs have ended for this semester including the recent First Lego League and Noetic Math competitions. He plans for Odyssey of the Mind to begin next semester. He also congratulated Ms. Michelle Letherby's class on their recent food drive for Community Action House.

Mr. Brunink referenced the letter he recently shared with families to address those struggling with insensitivities. He has appreciated the feedback and hopes this, along with the upcoming Be Nice assemblies and other continued work, serves to improve the culture of the school.

Project Term catalogs and registration forms have gone out and a former favorite has returned to the list of offerings. Ms. Marcia Windemuller has agreed to take her middle school Smoky Mountains trip again this year since she will be in a long term sub position during that time. The Title I Audit and Advanced Ed External Review remain on the horizon and staff is working to prepare the necessary documents. Mr. Brunink has been in contact with the Outdoor Discovery Center and is excited by the possibility of starting a Black River archery club, an activity that he has always enjoyed.

Mr. Brunink congratulated Mr. Porter's son, Cedric, for his work to obtain Black River's first perfect ACT score. Cedric was recognized for his hard work in the classroom and on the field at the recent sports night with the presentation of a Black River soccer jersey with the number "36" on the back.

Item 5. BUSINESS REPORT

Mr. Zoellner circulated a copy of the 2015 990 to members of the board and solicited questions. He also distributed and explained the October Financial Report.

Item 6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Elhart administered the oath of office to Mr. Christie and Ms. Mims. Documentation reflecting their renewed terms on the Black River Public School Board of Trustees was signed and submitted to Grand Valley State University.

Ms. Elhart reminded the board of the February 4th Open House and asked the Student Council representatives to encourage students to sign up as tour guides. There will also be an Information Night on January 12th at 5:30pm for Elementary and 7pm for MS/HS.

She also reminded the board of Tom White's superintendent evaluation training at last month's board meeting. The executive team will work to modify the tool to Black River's needs.

It was moved by Ms. Elhart and supported by Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo to adopt the MASB Superintendent Evaluation tool and to authorize the executive committee to make alterations to the tool as needed. (8,0) The tool will be presented to the board for final review.

Ms. Elhart also encouraged members of the board to join a committee that will focus on filling board member positions that may be opening in June of 2017 and June of 2018.

Ms. Crouch has begun the process of interviewing website management companies as BRPS will be building a new website to be launched in 2017. In addition to a new website, the school will also be considering a new identity to replace the wave and fonts that were put in place 20 years ago.

Item 7. STUDENT REPORT

Miss Cavanagh shared that Student Council is working to distribute more plants throughout Black River. They have created a Student Council Twitter account and a FAQ for their website. Planning has also begun for Snowcoming festivities as well as a casual "sock hop" themed dance.

Miss Frankhouse attended a Sports Section Leadership Conference to help develop a more positive student cheering section. Student Council has a goal of creating community by encouraging attendance by all ages.

Item 8. GVSU UPDATE

Ms. Edwards-Canon distributed GVSU's academic performance report and highlighted the staff working within the schools to provide support. She also explained that the recent Share Fair Stemosphere event was attended by more than 3,000 people. Next year the event will be held in Detroit.

Item 9. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business for the board to address.

Item 10. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Elhart stated that last month the board approved a motion to terminate the relationship with Charter HR ES (Axios) effective January 1, 2017. Through a lengthy interview process, Black Pearl Educational Services has been selected to handle Black River's human resources, payroll, insurance, 401k, etc.

It was moved by Ms. Elhart and supported by Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo to approve the contract with Black Pearl Educational Services effective January 1, 2017. (8, 0)

It was also moved by Ms. Elhart, seconded by Ms. Crouch to amend the contract with Grand Valley State University to reflect the change from Charter HR ES (Axios) to Black Pearl Educational Services. (8, 0)

Item 11. PUBLIC COMMENT/OPEN FORUM

Mr. Ehmann and Miss Hubbell introduced themselves as members of the newly developed Black River club, Open Democratic Assembly. They shared their mission statement and explained that they are issue focused and meet after school.

Mr. Harrelson asked about a complaint against Black River regarding a federal law violation. Mr. Goldman explained that no violation has been found. The status is an investigation and in no way implies that a determination has been made. During the inquiry, the OCR is a neutral fact-finder, collecting and analyzing relevant evidence from the complainant, the recipient, and other sources.

Item 12. CLOSED SESSION

It was moved by Ms. Elhart and supported by Mr. Pietri 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, Ms. Mims, Mr. Pietri, Mr. Porter. Nays: None. Motion passed. The Board of Trustees moved into closed session at 6:37pm.

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, Ms. Mims, Mr. Pietri, Mr. Porter. Nays: None. The Board of Trustees moved out of closed session at 7:17pm.

Item 13. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the board, a motion was made by Ms. Elhart, seconded by Ms. Mims to adjourn the meeting at 7:18pm.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:30pm on December 19, 2016, at Black River Public School's Columbia Avenue campus.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Mary M. Mims, Secretary