

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board Meeting Minutes
September 19, 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 5:32pm on September 19, 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, Chris McNaughton, Tom Pietri, Brian Porter

Members Absent:

Mary Mims

Staff Present:

Shannon Brunink (Head of School), Michelle Byrne (Administrative Assistant), John K. Donnelly (Dean of Students), Jim Levering (Elementary Administrator), John Zoellner (Business Director)

Public Present:

Matt Benson (BR Parent), Delaney Cavanagh (BR Student Rep.), Laura Chesser (BR Parent), Amy Dykema (BR Parent), Brian Dykema (BR Parent), Cheryl Edwards-Canon (GVSU Charter Schools Office), Abby Frankhouse (BR Student Rep.), Corey Freimark (BR Parent), Tracy Gerow (BR Parent), Errol Goldman (BRPS Attorney), Angela Griffin (BR Parent), Haley Griffin (BR student), Shane Harrelson (BR Parent), Kelli Huggett (BR Parent), Gabe Millen (BR Parent), Scott Millen (BR Parent), Shelly Millen (BR Parent), Mary Rynsburger (BR Parent), Tom Shuff (BR Parent), Penny Shuff (BR Parent), Mary Youngerman (BR Parent), Shannon Youngerman (BR student)

Media Present:

None

Item 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no corrections, all minutes of the board's August 22, 2016 meeting were approved upon a motion by Ms. Elhart, seconded by Mr. Christie.

Item 4. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Mr. Levering indicated that the students have been able to settle in to the Montessori environment over the last few weeks and Curriculum Night was a great opportunity to invite parents into the classroom to learn more about the way their children are learning at Black River. Work continues on the student mentor program as well as morning announcements presented by 5th graders. Mr. Levering also shared that preparations are being made for the Fun Walk Friday fundraiser organized by the Parent Organization.

Mr. Donnelly has been working to get students registered for parking passes and explained that MS/HS grades will be published on Friday. He also shared that the Homecoming game takes place at Van Andel on September 30th, with the dance following on October 1st.

Mr. Brunink shared that 7 staff members were recognized for 10 years of service and 2 were recognized for 20 years of service at the recent Convocation. He also outlined curriculum nights for both Elementary and MS/HS, explaining that Dan Quisenberry from MAPSA was able to interview families. SAT scores were released and Mr. Brunink was proud to share that BR's were the highest in the county. He stated that he is honored that parents choose BR for their children and was disheartened by statements made in the recent Grand Rapids Press article on schools of choice. Advanced Ed accreditation will take place this year and will help Black River evaluate whether or not we are living up to our mission statement. Teachers are taking a break from Instructional Rounds and doing peer-to-peer observations this year. Mr. Brunink also read a written statement sharing how the school has addressed accessibility to ensure available information is shared openly.

Item 5. BUSINESS REPORT

Mr. Zoellner explained that the annual audit took place August 1-4 and resulted in an unqualified opinion. He distributed and explained the details of the audit report.

Motion to accept the audit of year ending June 30, 2016 as presented. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Mr. Christie, seconded by Mr. Pietri. (8-0)

Item 6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Elhart explained that there will be an inservice at the next board meeting to provide training on evaluations with Tom White.

Item 7. STUDENT REPORT

Miss Cavanagh indicated that Student Council has been very busy preparing for the events of Homecoming week. Her work on the pep rally committee has involved developing spirit day

themes. As a member of the game committee Miss Frankhouse is working to organize the powderpuff game and brainstorm new ways to advertise.

Item 8. GVSU UPDATE

Ms. Edwards-Canon distributed the results of the 2015-2016 academic grant along with the specifications for the 2016-2017 academic grant. She also shared information on the art contest from the National Charter Schools Institute and the Share Fair exploring the STEMosphere.

Motion to accept the 2015-2016 academic grant from Grand Valley State University. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Mr. Christie, seconded by Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo. (8-0)

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. PUBLIC COMMENTS/OPEN FORUM

Brian Dykema spoke.
Amy Dykema spoke.
Angela Griffin spoke.
Kelli Huggett spoke.
Scott Millen spoke.
Shelly Millen spoke.
Laura Chesser spoke.
Tracy Gerow spoke.
Matt Benson spoke.
Shane Harrelson spoke.
Corey Freimark spoke.
Gabe Millen spoke.
Mary Rynsburger spoke.

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, Timothy DuMez, Ms. Elhart,

Mr. McNaughton, Mr. Porter, Mr. Pietri. Nays: None. Motion passed. The Board of Trustees moved into closed session at 7:18pm.

It was moved by Mr. Christie and supported by Mr. McNaughton to move out of closed session. A roll call vote was conducted. Ayes: Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo, Mr. Christie, Ms. Crouch, Timothy DuMez, Ms. Elhart, Mr. McNaughton, Mr. Porter, Mr. Pietri. Nays: None. The Board of Trustees moved out of closed session at 8:05pm.

Item 13. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the board the meeting adjourned at 8:06pm.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:30pm on October 17, 2016, at Black River Public School's Columbia Avenue campus.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary M. Mims, Secretary