

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board Meeting Minutes
February 17, 2020

Item 1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Black River Public School was called to order by President Tom Pietri at 5:36pm on February 17, 2020, 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:

Elizabeth Bauman, Mike Camarota, Maria Carrizales-Alonzo, Ruth Crouch, Craig Davis, David Kibler, Mary Mims, Tom Pietri

Members Absent:

Kim Mitchell

Staff Present:

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

Public Present:

Matt Cawood (GVSU Charter Schools Office), Errol Goldman (BR Attorney), Rep. Bradley Slagh (Michigan House of Representatives), Aanya Usmani (BR Student Rep.)

Media Present:

None

Item 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no corrections, all minutes of the Board's January 20, 2020 meeting, were approved upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo. (8-0)

Item 4. BUSINESS REPORT

Mr. Zoellner distributed Budget Adjustment #1 and demonstrated how State Aid is calculated. He shared his 5 year projection and asked to schedule a meeting with the Finance Committee.

Motion to approve the 2019-2020 Budget Adjustment #1 as written. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo. (8-0)

Item 5. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Mr. Donnelly explained that the Snowcoming dance was well attended even though a few other schools held events on the same date. He thanked Mr. Caleb Fisher, and Ms. Jeanne Kane for taking over Student Council leadership. Mr. Donnelly was excited for the opportunity to attend Hope College's LAUP conference again this year and indicated that there were excellent speakers to engage the students.

Mr. Levering indicated that swimming lessons are underway at the Holland Aquatic Center. The elementary has tackled the issue of food insecurities with a "Share Table" for emergency snacks. A variance from the Health Department has been obtained so breakfast and lunch leftovers can be collected for use in the program reducing food waste. Black River will host the regional spelling bee again this year on February 25th. Mr. Levering thanked the many volunteers involved in the event and highlighted the work of Ms. Karen Rowe for her dedication as Black River's pronouncer. He shared the success of the school's Odyssey of the Mind teams and indicated that the Elementary Parent Organization is preparing March is Reading Month activities.

Mr. Brunink explained that the end of Open Enrollment is approaching and the school has decided to move away from SchoolMint. As of February 17th, 291 applications have been received. The marketing committee would like to address the lower interest for High School applicants and determine the best ways to get the word out about what Black River has to offer. There was a very good turn out for this year's Saturday Open House and he felt the Discover BR presentations were an important way to provide a targeted message in addition to the student led tours. He thanked Mr. Kibler for donating coffee for the event.

Mr. Brunink thanked Ms. Angela Aumaugher and Mr. Nate Meyer for their work to find replacements for recently vacated positions. He also acknowledged the incredible support of the We the People team parents during their transition and as they prepare for the national competition in April. Mr. John Knoester will be teaching AP Statistics, Ms. Marcia Windemuller will handle Math 9, and Mr. Peter Letzmann will take over We the People. Mr. Jim DenUyl has agreed to help as an interim Biology teacher while the team continues their search for a permanent candidate. Ms. Anneliese Hornberger began shadowing Ms. Marianne DeVree and will take over her position in the Business Office this summer. Mr. Brunink also notified the board that Ms. Brenda Seymour has taken a position at the Ottawa Area Center and will be training a replacement over the next few weeks. We wish her well in her next position!

Becca Schipper with Opportunity Thrive presented at the staff inservice last Friday. She discussed self care and how to stay healthy. This came at a time when BR recently experienced the loss of former staff member Victor Walbridge. Mr. Brunink explained that Black River

employs one full time and two part time social workers and addition to one full time counselor. Groups like Be Nice and Opportunity Thrive help the school work toward creating a safe and healthy place for staff and students. The March staff meeting will be held at Big E's and focus on community building. Mr. Brunink congratulated Mr. Donnelly on his nomination for MAPSA's Administrator of the Year. He also praised Ms. Melissa Bayn, Ms. Rayna Davids, and Ms. Karen Rowe for their nominations for MAPSA's Teacher of the Year.

Item 6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Pietri indicated that he is looking into the possibility of April's board meeting being held at Grand Valley prior to their scheduled board reception. He reminded members of the upcoming We the People fundraiser as well as the BR Theatre Company's performance of Little Women. He also encouraged them to attend the May 29th senior graduation. The board brainstormed ways to recognize faculty and student accomplishments in response to recommendations made by the Faculty Council.

Item 7. STUDENT REPORT

Miss Usmani outlined the We the People fundraising efforts and invited members of the board to the Brew Merchant auction on March 19th. Be Nice has planned an event in conjunction with an upcoming basketball game. The annual Faculty vs. Student basketball game will take place tonight in the main gym. Snowcoming events went well again this year and the dance produced more than \$200 in profit. Student council continues work with Mr. Fisher and Ms. Kane to develop new projects to benefit the student body.

Item 8. GVSU UPDATE

Mr. Cawood thanked the board for completing a recent survey and indicated that GVSU will provide a summary of common themes. He reminded them of the board reception on April 20 and briefly spoke about the Governor's proposed budget.

Item 9. OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo stated that applications have been received for the Sexual Education Advisory Board and plans are in place for upcoming meetings.

Item 10. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo shared that Mr. Duncan Elmer qualified for state competitions as a member of Black River's Ski Team partnership with Muskegon. Miss Laine Kibler has also qualified for this year's Poetry Out Loud state competition.

Item 11. OPEN FORUM / COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Representative Slagh asked about the We the People accomplishments. He also asked members of the board what they would like state representatives to do to help charter schools.

Item 12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:02pm.

NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:30 pm on March 16, 2020, at Black River Public School's 491 Columbia Avenue Campus.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary M. Mims, Secretary