

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board Meeting Minutes
January 17, 2022

Item 1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of Black River Public School was called to order by President Kim Mitchell at 5:33pm on January 17, 2022, 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:

Elisabeth Bauman, Mike Camarota (5:34), Ruth Crouch, Craig Davis, David Kibler, Mary Mims, Kim Mitchell

Members Absent:

Maria Carrizales-Alonzo, Tom Pietri

Staff Present:

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

Public Present:

Matt Cawood, Amy Dykema, Brian Dykema, Katie Dykema, Errol Goldman, Marianne Manderfield, Beth Taylor, Layne Weatherwax

Media Present:

None

Item 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no corrections, all minutes of the Board's December 13, 2021 meeting were approved upon a motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Ms. Bauman. (7-0)

Item 4. BUSINESS REPORT

Mr. Zoellner distributed and explained the December financial report. He indicated that they met with Horizon Bank on December 23rd to close on the new loan.

Item 5. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Mr. Levering explained that today's Peace March activity was an enriching experience that helped students tie in the significance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. He outlined recent staff changes and promoted the January literacy initiative created by Ms. Alaina Kramer. He also shared that Black River will be hosting the annual Scripps Spelling Bee on January 18th.

Mr. Donnelly shared some of the many ways the Middle and High School teachers marked Martin Luther King Jr. Day. He shared ways he is trying to keep the PBIS program exciting now that we have reached mid year. He also indicated that he continues to find the Wednesday meetings with members of the GVSU CSO valuable.

Mr. Brunink explained that all reports of school security concerns are taken seriously and that safety is always on their minds. He stated that many changes to Covid-19 recommendations have occurred over the last week. He explained how these filter through the CDC, MDHHS, OCDPH, and finally to Black River. The school's universal masking has allowed us to implement the 5 day isolation rules which will help with staffing issues and get students back to school more quickly. He indicated that the 2022-2023 School Year Calendar will be brought before the board at the February meeting. He stated that discussions continue with the Office of Civil Rights to understand what the school can do to make Black River's campus better for everyone. Winter weather continues and we are in a good position with our snow day count. Mr. Brunink outlined some staffing changes and explained that finding appropriate candidates has proven difficult. He thanked Mr. Zoellner and the Finance Committee for their help to update the teacher pay scale in the hopes that this study of area schools can help Black River remain competitive.

Item 6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Mitchell reminded those present of the changes to upcoming meeting dates. February's meeting will be held on Monday, February 14th and April will take place on Monday, April 11th.

Item 7. GVSU REPORT

Mr. Cawood reiterated that National School Choice Week will be January 23-29. He distributed and explained the School Performance Reports and indicated that the Academic Grant Awards will be distributed later this month. He also reminded the board that Mr. Camarota, Mr. Kibler, and Ms. Mims have terms set to expire this June.

Item 8. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Camarota asked about the progress on virtual board meeting options and Ms. Mitchell indicated that research continued on equipment and policies.

Item 9. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Camarota shared the concerns about staffing issues and stressed the importance of the mental health support team.

Ms. Kane shared that the Be Nice group will be hosting the Varsity Basketball game this Friday with mental health resources and a presentation.

Item 10. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Amy Dykema distributed campus maps and read a prepared statement about campus accessibility. She requested a response by January 31st.

Item 11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:34pm.

NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:30 pm on February 14, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary M. Mims, Secretary