

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board Meeting Minutes
January 22, 2024

Item 1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Board of Directors of Black River Public School was called to order by President Kim Mitchell at 5:33pm on January 22, 2024, 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:

Sarah Bast, Elisabeth Bauman, Matt Benson, Craig Davis, Tom McGough, Mary Mims, Kim Mitchell, Tom Pietri

Members Absent:

TJ McDonald

Staff Present:

Shannon Brunink (Head of School), Michelle Byrne (Administrative Assistant), Rachel Carlson (Business Manager), John K. Donnelly (Dean of Students), Jim Levering (Elementary Administrator), Jake Stid (BR Teacher), John Zoellner (Business Director)

Public Present:

Matt Cawood, Nitya Gandhi, Megan Hanneken, Becky Pomp, Ella Sligh

Media Present:

None

Item 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no corrections, all minutes of the Board's November 13, 2023 meeting were approved upon a motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Pietri. (8-0)

Item 4. BUSINESS REPORT

Mr. Zoellner gave an overview of the finance report and outlined the big expenses on the horizon. He indicated that the Finance Committee will schedule a meeting as he continues work on Budget Adjustment I. Ms. Carlson distributed the annual Conflict of Interest forms required by GVSU to each member of the board. Donations to both the Annual Fund and Outdoor Learning Spaces project have continued to come in.

Item 5. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Mr. Levering shared that Ms. Mallory Jackson has been added to the 1-3 team and Ms. Bonnie Villegas as a paraprofessional. Black River will hold this year's Scripps Spelling Bee on Thursday, January 25 for our 3rd through 8th grade students. We will then host the county bee as a regional site on February 29th. The new chess club has been off to a great start this year and they hope to compete in their first competition. Ms. Alaina Kramer has continued the library card initiative this year focusing on getting every Kindergarten student a library card.

Mr. Donnelly was able to attend a two day safety conference in Lansing and came back with suggestions to make our plans and campus better. He is looking to rephrase language in the handbook regarding cell phones and continue progress with cell phone and vaping issues. He continues to empower teachers to implement BR policies to the fullest extent.

Mr. Pietri shared his thoughts on cell phone policies from the perspective of both a parent and board member.

Mr. Brunink explained that this year's CRASE training will be rescheduled because of the snow day. Enrollment is about in line with last year and applications continue to come in. Staff members in the middle and high school attended a professional development on Artificial Intelligence with Mr. Dave Tebo from the OAISD. Mr. Brunink shared that as Ms. Nicole Sinclair moves on from BR to take an exciting new position we have hired Ms. Eliza Bivins-Fink and Mr. John Hamilton into the English department. He indicated that at this time we have used 4 of the 6 forgiven snow days and briefly explained what goes into canceling school. He also shared how much he enjoyed the concerts and performances that wrapped up last semester.

Item 6. FACULTY COUNCIL REPORT

Mr. Stid shared that Faculty Council continues to work on emails from staff with collaborative solutions. They also continue their partnership with Ms. Mitchell and Mr. Brunink.

Item 7. STUDENT REPORT

Miss Gandhi and Miss Sligh outlined the plans for next Friday's Snowcoming activities. Student Council is working to promote the event in creative ways.

Item 8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Mitchell did not have anything to report.

Item 9. GVSU REPORT

Mr. Cawood shared that the next virtual board training will be held on January 30th. School performance reports will be finalized this month and academic grant awards should be received next month. The annual board member survey and school operations survey will go out soon. Mr. Cawood also reminded the board that the terms of Ms. Mitchell and Mr. Pietri will expire in June.

Item 10. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business for the board to address.

Item 11. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business brought before the board.

Item 12. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

Item 13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:32pm.

NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:30 pm on February 19, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary M. Mims, Secretary