

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board Meeting Minutes
February 15, 2021

Item 1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of Black River Public School was called to order by President Tom Pietri at 5:37pm on February 15, 2021, through a Zoom webinar. Recognition was made that a quorum was present through a roll call.

Item 2. ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Elizabeth Bauman (South Carolina), Mike Camarota (Holland), Maria Carrizales-Alonzo (Holland), Ruth Crouch (West Olive), Craig Davis (Holland), David Kibler (Holland), Mary Mims (Holland), Kim Mitchell (Holland), Tom Pietri (Holland)

Members Absent:

None

Staff Present:

Shannon Brunink (Head of School), Michelle Byrne (Administrative Assistant), Damon Cove (BR Teacher), John Donnelly (Dean of Students), Gregory Dykhouse (BR Teacher), Kendra Kern-VanDam (BR Teacher), Jim Levering (Elementary Administrator), Courtney Phillips (BR Teacher), John Zoellner (Business Director)

Public Present:

15178817857, 16162628083, 16163127300, Ben Vesper, Brandie Navarro, Brian, Eric Scott, Errol Goldman, Farah Berent, FO, Katherine King, Kerrie, Kim Eich, Matt Cawood, Melissa Kamara Liggins, Liggins, Pat Gort, Phil Rozema, Sam Dove, Shane Harrelson

Media Present:

None

Item 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no corrections, all minutes of the Board's January 18, 2021 meeting were approved upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Ms. Crouch. (9-0)

Item 4. BOARD NOMINATIONS

Motion to nominate Mr. Tom Pietri and Ms. Kim Mitchell for an additional 3 year term on Black River's Board of Trustees. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo. (9-0)

Item 5. FINANCE REPORT

Mr. Zoellner explained the January Financial Report that had been distributed explaining that a finance committee meeting had been held to review the working budget. He also shared that they expect the construction loan to be paid off in July.

Item 6. COVID-19 LEARNING PLAN

Mr. Brunink stated that Black River's Covid-19 Extended Learning Plan has not changed and the school will continue to use the specified NWEA and Renaissance Learning testing to define goals.

Mr. Pietri opened the floor for public comment and questions/comments about exam schedules, Star Math/Reading, virtual and in person choices, and Project Term plans were presented by Kim Eich, Jim Levering, and Farah Berent.

Motion to accept Black River's Extended Covid-19 Learning Plan as presented. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo. (9-0)

Item 7. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Mr. Brunink indicated that the work of teachers during this time has been inspiring and he was proud to show off what we do during the recent GVSU contract renewal. He thanked those that participated in that process. He plans to present the 2021-2022 school year calendar at the next board meeting and although there are still many questions about what school will look like next year he anticipates that it will likely mirror normal school years. Black River was added to the list of schools with a Covid-19 "outbreak." Mr. Brunink explained that this term is used when there is one positive case at the school, close contacts are quarantined, and one close contact then also tests positive. The threshold to meet "outbreak" status is low and he wanted to make sure the BR community understood what this term means. Black River athletes and fans have done a great job adhering to this year's Covid-19 protocols at practices and games. Mr. Lawton, serving as the Alliance League President, continues his work with other teams to make sure everyone is on the same page with these expectations. Summer school discussions have begun and a revamped program could offer remediation. Mr. Brunink complimented Ms. Kelli Heneghan's work to prepare for this year's open house. Her partnership with Ms. Kerrie Esmeier to advertise the 2021-2022 open enrollment period has resulted in higher traffic and a further reach. Mr. Brunink also outlined a partnership between Black River's Ms. Fran Olesen and GVSU's Ms. Wendy Miller to provide literacy support. The Ottawa County Department of Public Health has continued work administering Covid-19 vaccinations to those in phase 1a and 1b. Mr. Brunink

shared that they are now able to prioritize 25% of their weekly allotment to educational staff within the county.

Item 8. GVSU REPORT

Mr. Cawood explained that Black River's contract renewal interviews were a highlight for him with students engaged and respectful. He shared that the allowance for virtual board meetings have been approved through the end of March and that GVSU's webinar training series for members of the board has begun.

Motion to approve Black River's School Wellness Policy. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Mr. Camarota. (9-0)

Item 9. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Pietri read aloud questions and comments indicating that questions may be answered personally by individual members of the board after the meeting. This included questions about athletics and graduation from Melissa Liggins and Kim Eich.

Item 10. CLOSED SESSION

Motion to move into closed session to review a written legal opinion pursuant to section 8H of the open meetings act. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo at 6:30pm. (9-0)

Item 11. OPEN SESSION

Motion to come out of closed session at 7:08pm. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Ms. Crouch. (9-0)

Item 12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:11pm.

NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:30 pm on March 15, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary M. Mims, Secretary