

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board Meeting Minutes
March 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 5:39pm on March 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 (Holland), 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), John K. Donnelly (Dean of Students), Kendra Kern-VanDam (BR Teacher), Jim Levering (Elementary Administrator), Frances Olesen (BR Teacher), Courtney Phillips (BR Teacher), Brent Rowe (BR Teacher), John Zoellner (Business Director)

Public Present:

16162640088, Amy Dykema, annie m, annie simonson, Ben Vesper, Bentley R, Brandie Navarro, Brian, Casey Young, Darcy, Don Cooper, Eric Scott, Errol Goldman, farah berent, Kim Eich, Lisa Pearson, Liz McManus, Mary Rynsburger, Pat Gort, Phil Rozema, Shane Harrelson

Media Present:

None

Item 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no corrections, all minutes of the Board's February 15, 2021 meeting were approved upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo. (9-0)

Item 4. FINANCE REPORT

Mr. Zoellner explained the February financial report and indicated that the Finance Committee will meet after Spring Break.

Item 5. 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 offer both remote and in person instruction.

Mr. Pietri opened the floor for public comment and questions about considerations for fall, half days, as well as remote and in person numbers, were presented by Craig Davis, Phil Rozema, and Mary Rynsburger.

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

Item 6. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Mr. Brunink outlined changes to Black River's athletic eligibility requirements which will waive restrictions carried over from a prior semester. Black River has historically held a higher bar than MHSAA and a comprehensive policy for extracurricular activities was also discussed.

Motion to approve changes to athletic eligibility requirements as presented for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo. (9-0)

Mr. Brunink indicated that the planned 2021-2022 school year calendar brings back normal start and end times and, as usual, meets the 180 day requirement with substantially more hours than required.

Motion to accept the 2021-2022 calendar as presented. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Mr. Camarota. (9-0)

Mr. Brunink commended Ms. Kelli Heneghan for the wonderful work she has done with this year's open enrollment. Applications for the 2021-2022 enrollment lottery were due on February 24th and the lottery was held. He also thanked Ms. Kerrie Esmeier for the marketing development that has significantly increased our reach.

Prom will take place on May 8th and Ms. Krista Ekdahl continues her work with the Student Council to work out details. This year's honor's assembly will likely mirror last year's remote format and Mr. Brunink is planning an outdoor senior graduation ceremony. Testing schedule changes have been published and the State of Michigan continues to discuss this year's parameters. Black River has chosen to continue the decision from first semester to forgo formal final exams allowing students to prove content understanding through coursework and remediation. Project Term will include project based learning in each student's already scheduled courses. Black River's Youth in Government team was able to participate in this year's conference. Mr. Brunink was excited to share the achievements of Miss Rebekah

Harrelson and her 1st place award on the AMC 12. He also shared that Mr. Keely Morse was honored as this year's Holland DAR Teacher of the Year, and Ms. Angela Aumaugher is a top ten finalist for MAPSA's Teacher of the Year. This year the school has partnered with Dr. Richard Lemons to complete a book study on Ibram X. Kendi's work How to be an Antiracist.

Item 8. GVSU REPORT

Mr. Don Cooper explained that currently the ability to hold fully remote meetings expires at the end of the month. He shared that GVSU is finalizing Black River's contract renewal report and addressed questions about charter funding.

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/comments about virtual conferences, exams, Project Term, credit recovery, remote options, eligibility, and mental health from Lisa Pearson, Kendra Kern-VanDam and Amy Dykema, and Annie Simonson.

Item 10. CLOSED SESSION

Motion to move into closed session to review a Head of School evaluation. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo at 6:41pm. (9-0)

Item 11. OPEN SESSION

Motion to come out of closed session at 7:51pm. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo. (9-0)

Item 12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:53pm upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Ms. Crouch. (9-0)

NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:30 pm on April 19, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary M. Mims, Secretary