

**BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**October 15, 2018**

**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 5:34pm on October 15, 2018, in room 229 at the school's Columbia Avenue campus. Recognition was made that a quorum was present through a roll call.

Mr. Pietri administered the oath of office to Mr. Kibler to officially begin his term on Black River's Board of Trustees. Documentation was signed and submitted to the Grand Valley Charter Schools Office.

**Item 2. ROLL CALL**

Members Present:

Maria Carrizales-Alonzo, Ruth Crouch, Stephanie Elhart, David Kibler, Kim Mitchell, Tom Pietri, Brian Porter

Members Absent:

Mike Camarota, Mary Mims

Staff Present:

Shannon Brunink (Head of School), Michelle Byrne (Administrative Assistant), John Donnelly (Dean of Students), Krista Ekdahl (BR Teacher), Jim Levering (Elementary Administrator)

Public Present:

Matt Cawood (GVSU Charter Schools Office), Craig Davis (Proposed Board Member), Errol Goldman (BRPS Attorney), Mary Rynsburger (BR Parent), Aanya Usmani (BR Student Rep.)

Media Present:

None

**Item 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

There being no corrections, all minutes of the Board's September 17, 2018 meeting, were approved upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Ms. Elhart. (7-0)

**Item 4. BUSINESS REPORT**

In Mr. Zoellner's absence Mr. Pietri distributed the September Financial Report.

## **Item 5. ADMINISTRATION REPORT**

Mr. Donnelly explained that homecoming took place the weekend of September 28 with Black River celebrating a win! He also announced that the Parent Organization raised more than \$19,000 with this year's Fun Walk and thanked all of the many volunteers that worked to make these events possible. The donations will support many aspects of the school including a hard surface basketball court, teacher gift cards, and field trips!

Mr. Levering shared that Black River's elementary has been featured in the Holland Sentinel twice recently. One article outlined the benefits of the Refreshing Recess program that has been adopted this year while the other was a Classroom Spotlight highlighting the work of Ms. Kristen VanRavenswaay. Mr. Levering was excited to share ideas they have been working on for an incident/injury reporting app and was thrilled by the work being done in the classrooms of Ms. Kendra Kern and Ms. Jamie Fredenburg to teach about the Holland community.

Mr. Brunink asked Mr. Donnelly to explain his recent work with the Ottawa Area Secure Schools Network where school safety is addressed with a collaborative approach. He indicated that students are doing well as the semester progresses and there is continued development of the Help Team to support struggling students. Mr. Brunink was proud to state that Black River's SAT scores have again topped others in the county. He was also excited to share that Dr. Richard Lemons will be visiting Black River along with the GVSU Learning Network to conduct Instructional Rounds. They will take up the problem of practice addressing student engagement. The school is still waiting on findings from the insurance company before completing repairs to the water damage in the science labs. The upcoming enhancement millage was discussed at the recent Governmental Affairs breakfast and Mr. Brunink will hold two informational sessions during this month's Parent/Teacher Conferences.

## **Item 6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Pietri explained his desire to help the community understand what Black River has to offer, break misconceptions, and work to bring our mission to as many students as possible.

## **Item 7. STUDENT REPORT**

Miss Usmani indicated that Student Council was busy with Homecoming preparations and although it was an overall success they were disappointed that the tailgate activities were canceled due to weather. The group has divided into committees to focus on areas such as Snowcoming theme, community building, and school spirit. They were able to provide financial support to a recent travel opportunity for the math team competition as well as the Advanced Orchestra field trip.

## **Item 8. GVSU UPDATE**

Mr. Cawood explained that Grand Valley is working to complete the school performance reports which will compare Black River to statistically similar schools. Board appointments will go before the GVSU board in November to be finalized.

#### **Item 9. OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business for the board to address.

#### **Item 10. NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Elhart was proud to inform the board of recent feedback she has received from Black River graduates. Many have expressed that they left high school feeling well prepared for the academic requirements of their chosen colleges.

Mr. Porter provided the board with the details of Mr. Jim van Putten's funeral. Mr. van Putten was a founding board member for Black River and played a crucial role in the development and growth of the school.

Ms. Crouch took the opportunity to thank Ms. Elhart for her tireless work as a member and president of Black River's Board of Trustees. She indicated that she was a pillar of the capital project and a fabulous leader. She stated that Ms. Elhart's incredible contribution to the school will prove to be hard to live up to.

#### **Item 11. OPEN FORUM / COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were no comments from the public.

#### **Item 12. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the board, a motion was made by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Ms. Elhart to adjourn the meeting at 6:21 pm. (7-0)

#### **NEXT MEETING:**

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:30 pm on November 19, 2018, at Black River Public School's 491 Columbia Avenue Campus.

Respectfully submitted,



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Mary M. Mims, Secretary