

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board Meeting Minutes
October 21, 2019

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 5:37pm on October 21, 2019, 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:

Elizabeth Bauman, Mike Camarota, Maria Carrizales-Alonzo, Craig Davis, David Kibler, Kim Mitchell, Tom Pietri

Members Absent:

Ruth Crouch, Mary Mims

Staff Present:

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

Public Present:

Matt Cawood (GVSU Charter Schools Office), Michael Cousins (GVSU Student), Errol Goldman (BR Attorney), Dyana Harrelson (BR Parent), Aanya Usmani (BR Student Rep.), Annie Veld (GVSU Social Work Intern)

Media Present:

None

Item 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no corrections, all minutes of the Board's September 16, 2019 meeting, were approved upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo. (7-0)

Item 4. BUSINESS REPORT

Mr. Brunink distributed the September Financial Report on behalf of Mr. Zoellner. He also distributed an article outlining the challenges of school lunch debt.

Item 5. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Mr. Donnelly thanked the Social Work team and Special Education Department for the work they are doing to support our students. He also thanked Ms. Merielle De Dios for her time at Black River explaining we are welcoming a new afternoon crossing guard next week. He also explained that conferences take place this week.

Mr. Levering outlined some of the after school enrichment taking place at Black River including First Lego League and Total Trek Quest. A partnership with Christ Memorial Church has brought the Hand2Hand program to BR providing families with extra food on the weekend. The Comfortable Cafeteria program continues this year fostering independence and social skills in the lower grades. The Elementary has added myON, an online resource for books, to their Renaissance Learning usage and Mr. Levering has enjoyed tracking their reading progress.

Mr. Brunink stated that the school administered the PSAT to this year's Juniors last Wednesday and thanked Ms. Martinez for her work with accommodations. Last year's cumulative ACT average reached 27.5. This year's NJHS induction ceremony was held last week recognizing Middle School students doing great things! He explained that there are decisions currently being made that may allow for flexibility in future Michigan Merit Curriculum requirements. Mr. Brunink was excited to participate in the Dean's Advisory Council with GVSU's College of Ed this week. There may also be an opportunity to partner with GVSU for a dual enrollment computer science offering. The board discussed Governor Whitmer's decision to withhold the funding increase for public charter schools and about how best to utilize the funds we have. Mr. Brunink met with the OASA Legislative Committee last Friday to speak with representatives and lobbyists as well as attending the Governmental Affairs breakfast today. Black River's Emergency Operations Plan will be formalized to fit the state template. Mr. Brunink thanked the Parent Organization for the work they have done to fund the nearly completed basketball court and in preparation for the annual Fun Walk on November 1st.

Mr. Brunink asked Mr. Camarota to share his ideas to raise private funds to support operations and possibly create an endowment.

Item 6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Pietri explained that Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo continues work with the team to modernize Black River's sexual education curriculum.

Motion to adopt the Ottawa Area Intermediate School District's template for Black River's sexual education program development. The resolution passed upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo, and unanimously carried. (7-0)

Motion to adopt the new Grand Valley State University bylaws as written. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Ms. Mitchell, and unanimously carried. (7-0)

Mr. Pietri indicated that the marketing committee would like to analyze data compiled by Ms. Klunder as families leave BR in order to understand why they may choose another district.

Item 7. STUDENT REPORT

Miss Usmani shared that National Honor Society will be hosting a Powder Tuff fundraiser on October 25 and that Green Team is conducting a school wide paper drive. She also provided a summary of the Homecoming festivities and discussed how students are adjusting to Flex Time.

Item 8. GVSU UPDATE

Mr. Cawood encouraged the board to raise their voice in regard to the recent funding cuts and reminded members that there are 4 terms set to expire after 2020.

Item 9. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business for the board to address.

Item 10. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business brought before the board.

Item 11. OPEN FORUM / COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Ms. Harrelson provided a Fun Walk Friday update on behalf of the Parent Organization.

Item 12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50pm.

NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:30 pm on November 18, 2019, at Black River Public School's 491 Columbia Avenue Campus.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary M. Mims, Secretary