

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2023

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 November 13, 2023, in room 229 at the school's Columbia Avenue campus. Recognition was made that a quorum was present through a roll call.

Ms. Mitchell administered the oath of office to Mr. Tom McGough to begin his term on Black River's Board of Directors.

Item 2. ROLL CALL

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Elisabeth Bauman, TJ McDonald

Staff Present:

Shannon Brunink (Head of School), Michelle Byrne (Administrative Assistant), Rachel Carlson (Business Manager), John K. Donnelly (Dean of Students), Carly Johnson (BR Teacher), John Zoellner (Business Director)

Public Present:

Nitya Gandhi, Errol Goldman, Megan Hanneken, Duncan Jackson, Paul Matz, Becky Pomp, Evan Rummel, Ella Sligh

Media Present:

None

Item 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no corrections, all minutes of the Board's September 18, 2023 meeting were approved upon a motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Pietri. (7-0)

Item 4. BUSINESS REPORT

Mr. Zoellner introduced two auditors from Rehmann, the firm that Black River contracts to complete the yearly audit. Mr. Paul Matz reviewed the Single Audit as well as the Financial Statements for the 2022-2023 school year explaining what they look for and how they evaluate.

Motion to accept the 2022-2023 Annual Audit and Single Audit as presented. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Pietri. (7-0)

Item 5. STUDENT REPORT

Miss Gandhi and Miss Sligh explained that Student Council is looking at what went well and what can be improved with this year's powder tuff homecoming game. New subcommittees have been created and Miss Gandhi and Miss Sligh summarized the work of each.

Item 6. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Mr. Donnelly shared that an external audio system has been installed and will help increase safety on campus. He attended the Ottawa County Security Directors meeting at the ISD as well as the Assistant Principal's meeting where cell phones and vaping are hot topics of discussion.

Mr. Brunink indicated that Project Term course proposals are being compiled and reviewed. Open enrollment began on October 1st for the 2024-2025 school year. He was pleased to share that Black River was celebrated in a recent Sentinel article for high attendance rates. The school also received AP Honor Roll accolades from the College Board. He applauded teachers who create dynamic class offerings and Ms. Jennifer Wise whose hard work makes it all happen. Next Tuesday's inservice will highlight Montessori Language Materials for the elementary and Artificial Intelligence for the middle and high school. Other recent highlights included the BR Theatre Company's performance of Puffs, College Awareness Week, Youth In Government, Skate Night, and Mr. Brunink being scheduled to guest teach in Jazz Band tomorrow.

Mr. McGough shared how impressed he was with the Homecoming Dance security.

Mr Pietri explained how appreciated it is that there are adults at the front doors welcoming students each morning in a positive way.

Item 7. FACULTY COUNCIL REPORT

Ms. Johnson explained that Faculty Council has analyzed the results of the recent staff survey, met with Mr. Brunink and Ms. Mitchell, and will use the information gathered to determine where their focus will be next.

Item 8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Mitchell explained that Mr. Cawood from GVSU was unable to attend today. He asked her to share staffing changes in the Charter Schools Office and invite members of the board to upcoming virtual training opportunities. She also shared that the board can now apply for the 2023 Core Values Award. The Continuing Education Scholarship Application window is now open as well.

Ms. Mitchell asked Mr. Benson to present the work done at a recent meeting that looked at cell phone use on campus. This meeting was inspired by continued work with student behavior and parent concerns. They discussed goals, the current policy, and possible next steps.

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. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Jackson outlined updates he'd like to hear regarding the cell phone policy and possible changes. He asked those present to imagine a school without phones and explained the pressure parents feel to allow their children to have cell phones.

Ms. Hanneken thanked everyone for hearing their concerns and shared ways she has heard students use their phones while on campus. She stressed how tech savvy students are, and highlighted the addictive nature of cell phones, indicating that very few students actually need a phone.

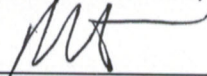
Item 12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:57pm.

NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:30 pm on December 18, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary M. Mims, Secretary