

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board Meeting Minutes
November 16, 2020

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 5:33pm on November 16, 2020, through a Zoom webinar. 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, Ruth Crouch, Craig Davis, Mary Mims, Kim Mitchell, Tom Pietri

Members Absent:

David Kibler

Staff Present:

Missy Bayn (BR Teacher), Anna Beird (BR Teacher), Shannon Brunink (Head of School), Michelle Byrne (Administrative Assistant), Adriann Divozzo (BR Teacher), John Donnelly (Dean of Students), Krista Ekdahl (BR Teacher), Kyle Lawton (BR Teacher), Jim Levering (Elementary Administrator), Frances Olesen (BR Teacher), Courtney Phillips (BR Teacher), Brent Rowe (BR Teacher), Ann Stimer (BR Teacher), John Zoellner (Business Director)

Public Present:

16162839002, 16165024012, 16165663327, Abbey, Amanda Dykhouse, Amy Dykema, annie m, Annie Simonson, Beth Powers, betsy, Brandie Navarro, Brenda Seymour, Brian, Carrie Russell, Charity Thelen, Cheryl Eshenaur, Chris Russell, Damon, Dave Locher, Dyana Harrelson, Elizabeth Brower, emily casemier, Errol Goldman, Farah Berent, Hailey Huggett, Jane VanderMeer, Jenny Zimmer, jodi, Joe Vandermeer, Julie Benson, Kelley Pasatta, Kelli Best, Kerrie, kim eich, Kim Smit, Lisa Pearson, Matt Cawood, Margo Walters, marlene wreschinsky, Mary Rynsburger, Megan, Megan Loops Fisher, Melissa Tatlock, Michelle, Newman, PGort, Phil Rozema, rachelgoudie, Rebekah Rhys Kean, Robin B., Stacey Vandenbosch, t, whitneygasper8qewxu

Media Present:

None

Item 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no corrections, all minutes of the Board's October 26, 2020 meeting were approved upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo. (8-0)

Item 4. BUSINESS REPORT

Mr. Zoellner summarized the October financial report and explained that the Finance Committee will meet to review the updated budget adjustment.

Item 5. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Mr. Brunink thanked staff and families for their support during this time. He outlined work at the school that has been affected by Covid-19 as well as the state's announcement and how it affects schools. Black River will move to remote learning for grades 6-12 on Wednesday, November 18, and on Monday, November 23 elementary students will begin remote learning. This will continue until at least December 8th. Mr. Brunink shared the many factors that went into this decision as well as how this will impact sports, Special Education and ELL services.

The board heard public comments from Emily Casemier, Megan Loops Fisher, Margo Walters, Jenny Zimmer, Missy Bayn, Annie Simonson, Adriann Divozzo, Kelley Pasatta, Mary Rynsburger, Rachel Goudie, Jodi, Anna Beird, Brandie Navarro, Jim Levering, Elizabeth Brower, Jane VanderMeer and Farah Berent before voting to approve Black River's Extended Covid-19 Learning Plan.

Mr. Pietri commended the school's faculty and staff for the immense amount of work put forth to translate Black River's unique curriculum to a format compatible with remote learning. In the early planning stages the Instructional Committee found that maintaining BR's curriculum was essential to delivering the school's mission and values.

Motion to reauthorize Black River's Extended Covid-19 Learning Plan with the changes presented. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo. (8-0)

The board decided to move the December meeting to Monday, December 7th in order to have the opportunity to recertify the extended learning plan prior to a possible return to in-person instruction on December 9th. The board acknowledged that this timeline would not give families much time to plan but also recognized the value of having the latest information available.

Motion to cancel the December 14 board meeting and hold a special meeting on Monday, December 7th. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Ms. Crouch. (8-0)

Item 6. GVSU REPORT

Mr. Cawood explained that they are in the planning stages of contract renewals and have distributed the full amount of this year's academic grant awards.

Item 7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Pietri read aloud questions and comments about staff praise and building accessibility from Craig Davis and Hailey Hugget. He indicated that questions would be answered personally by individual members of the board.

Item 8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:29pm.

NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:30 pm on December 7, 2020, at Black River Public School's 491 Columbia Avenue Campus.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary M. Mims, Secretary