

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board Meeting Minutes
December 7, 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 5:37pm on December 7, 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, David Kibler, Mary Mims, Kim Mitchell, Tom Pietri

Members Absent:

None

Staff Present:

Missy Bayn (BR Teacher), Anna Beird (BR Teacher), Becky Bierma (BR Teacher), Shannon Brunink (Head of School), Michelle Byrne (Administrative Assistant), Damon Cove (BR Teacher), Rayna Davids (BR Teacher), Adriann Divozzo (BR Teacher), John Donnelly (Dean of Students), Krista Ekdahl (BR Teacher), Danny Johns (BR Teacher), Alaina Kramer (BR Teacher), Kyle Lawton (BR Teacher), Jim Levering (Elementary Administrator), John Newman (BR Teacher), Frances Olesen (BR Teacher), Christie Phillips (Administrative Assistant), Courtney Phillips (BR Teacher), Brent Rowe (BR Teacher), Ann Stimer (BR Teacher), John Zoellner (Business Director)

Public Present:

16163127300, 16165663327, 16169906072, 16162839002, 16162985718, Aanya Usmani, Amy L, Amy-Lynn Halverson, andrewb, Angela A, Annie Simonson, Ashley Fues, Ben Vesper, Bertha, betsy, Bonnie Villegas, Brandie Navarro, Brenda Seymour, Brian, Brian Burch, Cheryl Eshenaur, Chris Russell, Dave Locher, Dave Rozman, Dyana Harrelson, Emily Ballard, emily casemier, Eric, Eric Smith, Errol Goldman, holly, Jane Vandermeer, Jennifer Owens, jessica, jodi sotok, Julie Decook, Julie Wight, Kate Davis, katievanduren, Kerrie, Ketzi Zylstra, Kimberly Smit, Kurt Stimer, Liesje Jones, Mallorie, Mandy Compagner, Margo Walters (she/her/hers), Marlene Wreschinsky, Mary Rynsburger, Matt Cawood, Matthew Benson, Matthew Wreschinsky, megan, Melissa Durfee, mfberent, Michelle, Michelle, Pasatta, Peg Marra, Pennington, PGort, Phil Rozema, Rachel Goudie, Rachelle Rokos, Robin B, Rosi, rsteenwyk, Sarah Lozano, Sarah Menkveld, Savannah, Stephanie Fegel, syebbs, t, Tina Bush, Todd, Tricia, Tyler, Veronica, whitney gasper 8qeWXu, Zahabia Ahmed-Usmani

Media Present:

None

Item 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no corrections, all minutes of the Board's November 16, 2020 meeting were approved upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo. (8-0) Mr. Kibler abstained.

Item 4. BUSINESS REPORT

Mr. Zoellner indicated that the Finance Committee met to discuss the budget adjustment. He outlined the document and answered questions from the board.

Motion to approve the budget adjustment. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Mr. Camarota. (9-0)

Item 5. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Mr. Brunink thanked Mr. Zoellner for his work on the finance report and outlined continuing work on campus as we move toward the end of the semester. He explained what today's MDHHS announcement to extend closures means for Black River and cited local health department Covid-19 data. Mr. Brunink explained the reasoning behind the difficult decision to recommend the board approve remote learning for all grades until January 11, 2021.

Mr. Levering shared elementary specific insights and supported the recommendation. He will post a new Return to Learn survey where families can indicate their intent to return in person on January 11 or remain remote.

Ms. Kate Davis, a pediatrician in the area, gave an on the ground medical assessment of Ottawa County's current Covid-19 situation discussing how this data can play into decisions made by local schools.

The board heard comments and questions associated with Mr. Brunink's presentation, the decision to continue remote learning, Covid-19 data, mental health concerns, as well as campus accessibility from John Newman, Zahabia Ahmed-Usmani, Frances Olesen, Kimberly Smit, Brian Burch, emily casemier, Annie Simonson, Cara Vanderjagt, Julie DeNooyer, Pasatta, Alison Hilgert, Sarah Menkveld, Julie DeCook, Brandie Navarro, Phil Rozema, Kim Eich, Kate Davis, Adriann Divozzo, rsteenwyk, Brian, tyler, Margo Walters, Katie Vanduren, Savannah, Michelle, Jennifer, and Mary Rynsburger.

Motion to implement Black River's Extended Covid-19 Learning Plan with the changes presented. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Mr. Camarota. (9-0)

Motion to extend remote learning for grades K-12 through Friday, January 8th with a return to in-person instruction for those that elect the option on Monday, January 11th. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Mr. Pietri, seconded by Ms. Carrizalez-Alonzo. (9-0)

Item 6. GVSU REPORT

Mr. Cawood explained the amendment to the Open Meetings Act and how it affects virtual board meetings.

Item 7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Pietri read aloud questions and comments about mental health, the decision to continue remote learning, and school day length from Savannah, Kate Smith, Frances Olesen, Dave Rozman, Cara VanderJagt, Andrew, Melissa Caropepe, Rachel Goudie, Missy Bayn, Kate Davis, tyler, and Brian Burch. 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 8:16pm.

NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:30 pm on January 18, 2021, at Black River Public School's 491 Columbia Avenue Campus.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary M. Mims, Secretary