

**BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**June 5, 2023**

**Item 1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of Black River Public School was called to order by President Kim Mitchell at 5:32pm on June 5, 2023, 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:

Sarah Bast, Elisabeth Bauman, Ruth Crouch, Craig Davis, TJ McDonald, Mary Mims, Kim Mitchell, Tom Pietri

Members Absent:

Maria Carrizales-Alonzo

Staff Present:

Shannon Brunink (Head of School), Michelle Byrne (Administrative Assistant), Jim Levering (Elementary Administrator), Necia Ornee (BR Teacher), John Zoellner (Business Director)

Public Present:

Bill Barker (GVSU)

Media Present:

None

**Item 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

There being no corrections, all minutes of the Board's April 17, 2023 meeting were approved upon a motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Ms. Bauman. (8-0)

**Item 4. BUSINESS REPORT**

Mr. Zoellner distributed and explained the April financial report. He discussed food service and the governor's proposal for free meals. After the bid process the school has decided to contract West Michigan Janitorial for a 3 year contract.

**Motion to approve** the contract with West Michigan Janitorial. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Ms. Crouch. (8-0)

## **Item 5. ADMINISTRATION REPORT**

Mr. Levering shared that with one week left of school elementary Project Term is well underway for students in 1st-5th grade. Kindergarten screenings are taking place to learn more about our incoming students and home visits will return this year. Mr. Levering highlighted the success of the book vending machine and indicated that every single student was able to receive a book this year. He plans to continue through the summer with a reading challenge. Fifth grade graduation took place on May 25th and was extremely well attended. The elementary school also completed another successful Leukemia and Lymphoma fundraiser.

In Mr. Donnelly's absence Mr. Brunink highlighted a few notes that he provided. He applauded Mr. Fisher and members of Student Council that put on a great Prom at A Cut Above. He thanked the teachers for their dynamic work with Project Term and commended them for their ability to respond to challenges. Mr. Donnelly continues his work with the student handbook and updates to the attendance policy for next school year.

**Motion to approve** Black River's membership with MHSAA for the 2023-2024 school year. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Pietri. (8-0)

**Motion to approve** the addition of the state required personal finance to the BR curriculum starting the 2023-2024 school year. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Pietri. (8-0)

Mr. Brunink highlighted the incredible careers and expressed his gratitude for this year's retirees which include Becky Mousseau, Fran Olesen, Karen Scranton, Joy Shirk, and Marguerite Stephens. Interviews continue and we are almost fully staffed. Ms. Mara Koning has been added to the Social Work team, Mr. Zach Penrice will teach History, and Mr. Dustin Dankaert (a BR alum) will teach Math. Next year's benefits will be presented at the upcoming board meeting.

Mr. Brunink hosted Representative DeBoer, Representative Meerman, and Senator Victory along with Mr. Chris Glass. They were able to observe a sampling of Montessori and Project Term classes while on campus. Students did a fantastic job explaining what they were working on in classes that ranged from the science of Harry Potter, pasta making, and basketball.

Mr. Brunink also shared the success of this year's senior graduation held at Hope College's Jack H. Miller Center. Those who spoke did an excellent job of making it personal for everyone there. The team has brainstormed ways to make even better use of the beautiful space if we are able to rent it next year.

## **Item 6. FACULTY COUNCIL REPORT**

Ms. Ornee indicated that Ms. Angela Aumaugher, Ms. Sarah Lozano, and Mr. Jake Stid will fill vacancies on the Faculty Council for the 2023-2024 school year.



## **Item 7. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**Motion to approve** the appointment of Ketzi Zylstra and Julie DeCook to the OAISD Advisory Committee. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Pietri. (8-0)

Ms. Mitchell explained that Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo will end her time on the board after this school year to focus on her role coaching. Members have met with Mr. Tom McGough and recommend his consideration to the board.

**Motion to recommend** Tom McGough to GVSU for board appointment. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Ms. Crouch. (8-0)

## **Item 8. GVSU REPORT**

Mr. Barker indicated that he will communicate the board appointment recommendation to Mr. Cawood. He reminded members of the last board training on June 29th and presented an award to Ms. Mims for her 25 years of service on the Black River Board of Trustees.

## **Item 9. OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Davis reported that they are ironing out final details before signing the website contract with Final Site.

## **Item 10. NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Mitchell explained that the board is not ready to hold an official workshop but that they continue to think about future planning. Mr. Brunink shared that state proposals could result in state funding for 4 year old preschools. With Black River's healthy wait lists it is important to think of the scope of what we have and explore more opportunities.

## **Item 11. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no comment from the public.

## **Item 12. CLOSED SESSION**

Motion to move in to closed session at 6:38pm to review a written legal opinion. The resolution passed unanimously through a roll call vote upon a motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Pietri. (8-0)

Motion to move out of closed session at 7:40pm. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. McDonald. (8-0)

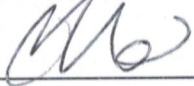
**Item 13. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:41pm.

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:30 pm on June 26, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,



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Mary M. Mims, Secretary