

**BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**September 19, 2022**

**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 5:36pm on September 19, 2022, 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, Maria Carrizales-Alonzo, Craig Davis, Kim Mitchell, Tom Pietri

Members Absent:

Ruth Crouch, Mary Mims

Staff Present:

Shannon Brunink (Head of School), Michelle Byrne (Administrative Assistant), John K. Donnelly (Dean of Students), Ericka Foreman (BR Teacher), Jim Levering (Elementary Administrator)

Public Present:

Matt Cawood, Angie Fowler, Errol Goldman, Brandie Navarro, Finleigh Sinclair

Media Present:

None

**Item 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

There being no corrections, all minutes of the Board's August 22, 2022 meeting were approved upon a motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Pietri. (6-0)

**Item 4. BUSINESS REPORT**

A business report was not brought before the board.

**Item 5. ADMINISTRATION REPORT**

Mr. Levering indicated that it has been a great start to the year with routines and procedures coming into place. Curriculum Night was held on August 31st and he has appreciated being able to spend more time in classrooms. He was proud of this year's student work to achieve the longest chain ever in the yearly Reading Chain Celebration. Mr. Levering was excited to

announce that Ms. Kayley Mason has joined the Title I team and 2 classes from the Hope College education department will be visiting campus to learn more about Montessori instruction.

Mr. Donnelly shared that Spirit Week and Homecoming are on the horizon. Student planners have arrived and he shared his gratitude for BR's counseling staff that provide incredible support. He also indicated that he continues to attend the safety trainings with the OASSN.

Mr. Brunink shared that we have had a dynamic and positive start to the year. He explained that the added support of Ms. Ames and Mr. Middleton has allowed him to focus on other things. He shared pride in our students as he's watched them continue to support each other's choices. The summer construction project has been inspected and approved with only a few minor touches remaining. As of today student count is at 945 and he's thankful for all of the work that has been done behind the scenes to make this happen. Ms. Ames, Mr. Middleton, and Mr. Eicher are all working to analyze student data, find trends, and determine which areas need focused attention. Work also continues to make the selected teacher evaluation process more valuable to staff. The OASSN summit last week and the upcoming BTAM training both provide excellent resources on school safety. He also attended a presentation from the Flight Path Program at the West Michigan Regional Airport to learn more about how our students may benefit from these experiences. He also outlined the upcoming Fun Walk Friday which will be the Parent Organization's main fundraiser for the year sharing that Mr. Jim will be in a dunk tank.

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

Ms. Foreman indicated that the Faculty Council is drafting goals for the year. She outlined last year's achievements and current ideas for the board. She also discussed morale, atmosphere, and the overall positive start to the school year.

#### **Item 7. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

Miss Sinclair thanked the Parent Organization for their work on the Fun Walk and the support it provides for student activities. She gave more detailed information about the upcoming Homecoming events and praised the student involvement and support for BR sports and community building events.

#### **Item 8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Ms. Mitchell recommended Mr. TJ McDonald as a new member of Black River's Board of Trustees. She explained his history, relationship with the school, and what his personality and perspective will bring to the board.

**Motion to recommend Mr. TJ McDonald to GVSU for a term on Black River's Board of Trustees. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Pietri. (6-0)**

Ms. Mitchell shared that athletic eligibility discussions are planned with Athletic Director Kyle Lawton. They will dive into the current requirements and evaluate whether a change makes sense.

#### **Item 9. GVSU REPORT**

Mr. Cawood updated the board on an event celebrating 30 years of charter schools and included a reminder of upcoming virtual board trainings.

#### **Item 10. OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business for the board to address.

#### **Item 11. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business brought before the board.

#### **Item 12. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Navarro and Ms. Fowler shared their concerns about the current athletic eligibility requirements. Mr. Pietri asked to share his perspective as a parent and spoke of the academic benefits of sports participation. Ms. Foreman and Miss Sinclair chimed in with the teacher and student perspective as well.

#### **Item 13. CLOSED SESSION**

**Motion to move** into closed session pursuant to Section 8 (h) of the Open Meeting Act at 6:55pm. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Pietri with a roll call vote. (6-0)

**Motion to move** out of closed session at 7:44pm. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Pietri with a roll call vote. (6-0)

#### **Item 14. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:46pm.

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:30 pm on October 17, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'M' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

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Mary M. Mims, Secretary