

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board Meeting Minutes
December 19, 2016

Item 1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Black River Public School was called to order by President Stephanie Elhart at 5:33pm on December 19, 2016, 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:

Maria Carrizales-Alonzo, Gregory Christie, Ruth Crouch, Stephanie Elhart, Chris McNaughton, Mary Mims, Brian Porter

Members Absent:

Timothy DuMez, Tom Pietri

Staff Present:

Shannon Brunink (Head of School), Michelle Byrne (Administrative Assistant), John Donnelly (Dean of Students), Jim Levering (Elementary Administrator), John Zoellner (Business Director)

Public Present:

Abby Frankhouse (BR Student), Errol Goldman (BRPS Attorney), John Sanford (Axios Field Representative),

Media Present:

None

Item 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no corrections, all minutes of the board's November 21, 2016 meeting were approved upon a motion by Ms. Elhart, seconded by Ms. Mims. (7-0)

Item 4. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Mr. Levering discussed changes made to elementary grade reports and plans to follow up with teacher and parent surveys. The team is gearing up for the Title I on site review and audit next semester. Mr. Levering is organizing a night for Black River families to attend a Grand Rapids Griffins game on February 18th. He was also proud to share that Black River has received a MDE instructional time grant. Black River plans to use this funding to support reading initiatives for K-3 students.

Mr. Donnelly has continued his work to remain visible around campus while helping with a variety of facility issues. He has closed out the semester with many good talks and looks forward to the start of the new semester.

Mr. Brunink reiterated that in addition to preparing for the Title I audit, staff continues work for the renewal of our Advanced Ed. accreditation. He attended a Model Communities dinner last week where they discussed how to prepare students for life after High School, with the hopes of encouraging them to stay and work within their home community. He also discussed competency based learning with other school leaders and is interested in learning more about how to expand the use of this philosophy at Black River. Grades are due Friday, December 23rd and Mr. Brunink was glad that he was able to maintain a full 2-week holiday break. The transition to Black Pearl Educational Services has continued to go smoothly and they will officially take over as of January 1, 2017.

Item 5. BUSINESS REPORT

Mr. Zoellner distributed the November financial statement and indicated that a budget adjustment will be available at the January meeting.

Item 6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Elhart has made changes to the Head of School evaluation tool to fit Black River's requirements and has been involved in continued discussion regarding the design of a new Black River website. She thanked everyone for their suggestions of potential new board members and reminded them of the January 12 info night and February 4 open house.

Item 7. STUDENT REPORT

Miss Frankhouse explained that the recent Sock Hop went well and supported the Senior Party. Student Council will continue preparations for the winter Snowcoming festivities, which will have a throwback theme.

Item 8. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business for the board to address.

Item 9. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business brought before the board.

Item 10. PUBLIC COMMENT/OPEN FORUM

There were no comments from the public.

Item 12. CLOSED SESSION

It was moved by Ms. Elhart and supported by Mr. Christie to move into closed session to review a written legal opinion pursuant to Section 8 (h) of the Open Meetings Act. A roll call vote was conducted. Ayes: Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo, Mr. Christie, Ms. Crouch, Mr. McNaughton, Ms. Elhart, Ms. Mims, Mr. Porter. Nays: None. Motion passed. The Board of Trustees moved into closed session at 6:05pm.

It was moved by Ms. Elhart and supported by Mr. Porter to move out of closed session. A roll call vote was conducted. Ayes: Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo, Mr. Christie, Ms. Crouch, Ms. Elhart, Ms. Mims, Mr. McNaughton, Mr. Porter. Nays: None. The Board of Trustees moved out of closed session at 6:32pm.

Item 13. ADJOURN

Ms. Elhart administered the oath of office to Mr. McNaughton. Documentation reflecting his renewed terms on the Black River Public School Board of Trustees was signed and will be submitted to Grand Valley State University.

There being no further business to come before the board, a motion was made by Ms. Elhart, seconded by Ms. Mims to adjourn the meeting at 6:34pm.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:30pm on January 16, 2017, at Black River Public School's Columbia Avenue campus.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary M. Mims, Secretary