

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board Meeting Minutes
December 18, 2017

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 5:35pm on December 18, 2017, 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, Mike Camarota, Ruth Crouch, Stephanie Elhart, Chris McNaughton, Mary Mims, Brian Porter

Members Absent:

Timothy DuMez, Tom Pietri

Staff Present:

Brett Bittrick (BR Teacher), Shannon Brunink (Head of School), Michelle Byrne (Administrative Assistant), John Donnelly (Dean of Students), Krista Ekdahl (BR Teacher), Jim Levering (Elementary Administrator), John Zoellner (Business Director)

Public Present:

Bill Barker (GVSU Charter Schools Office), Sophia Camarota (BR Student Rep.), Abby Frankhouse (BR Student), Errol Goldman (BRPS Attorney), Shane Harrelson (BR Parent)

Media Present:

None

Item 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no corrections, all minutes of the Board's November 20, 2017 meeting, were approved upon a motion by Ms. Elhart, seconded by Ms. Carrizales-Alonzo (7-0).

Item 4. BUSINESS REPORT

Mr. Zoellner distributed the November Financial Report and indicated that a Finance Committee Meeting will take place in early January before Budget Adjustment 1 is brought before the board.

Item 5. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Mr. Donnelly indicated that it has been the goal to provide mental health support leading up to exam week. He outlined an assortment of CAP activities he witnessed this season including holiday cards for veterans and Adopt-a-Families. He also stressed the importance of outdoor duty assignments. He has been busy addressing student choices and Mr. Brunink praised his ability to “make a positive out of a negative.”

Mr. Levering thanked Ms. Dyana Harrelson for her incredible work with the fall season of the Noetics math club who boasted the highest scoring Black River group to date. He has hired Ms. Gina Johnson as a new Elementary paraprofessional as well as a new recess/lunch supervisor. The Elementary adopted a unit in Afghanistan and have enjoyed their communications. The first round of donations has been sent out and they hope to become pen pals.

Mr. Brunink has conducted interviews to fill the long term sub position for Rachel Andrews. He explained issues encountered with a Wood TV 8 school closing glitch and indicated that more discussions regarding an enhancement millage will take place in January. He recognized the work of those leading the robotics partnership with Holland Public Schools and explained that Black River’s involvement in these programs has grown dramatically. Recent Instructional Rounds allowed staff to observe how students are engaged in BR’s student centered classrooms. Mr. Brunink hopes to utilize Title II funds to their findings with upcoming professional development.

Item 6. PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Ms. Elhart explained that the annual letter was restructured and has been sent out to all current families. She discussed upcoming communication related to security updates and indicated that she is processing logo feedback and Head of School goal suggestions.

Item 7. FACULTY REPORT

Mr. Bittrick and Ms. Ekdahl distributed the 2017 Faculty Council goals outlining each point for the board.

Item 8. GVSU UPDATE

Mr. Barker indicated that he appreciated Black River’s board leadership and explained that he will have a nomination resolution for Mr. Pietri at the next meeting.

Item 9. STUDENT REPORT

Miss Frankhouse explained that Student Council is currently investigating which school groups it can support with dance profits. They are also considering the purchase of a new rat mascot costume.

Miss Camarota outlined the benefits of Google Classroom and explained that Student Council would like to see it more widely used. She also expressed concern for the care of the school's current technology.

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. OPEN FORUM / COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public.

Item 13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 7:03pm.

NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:30 pm on January 15, 2018, at Black River Public School's 491 Columbia Avenue Campus.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary M. Mims, Secretary