

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board Meeting Minutes
November 20, 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 5:37pm on November 20, 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, Timothy DuMez, Stephanie Elhart, Tom Pietri, Brian Porter

Members Absent:

Chris McNaughton, Mary Mims

Staff Present:

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

Public Present:

Bill Barker (GVSU Charter Schools Office), Sophia Camarota (BR Student Rep.), Errol Goldman (BRPS Attorney), Cheri Weisner (BR Parent)

Media Present:

None

Item 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no corrections, all minutes of the Board's October 5, 2017 special meeting and October 16, 2017 regular meeting, were approved upon a motion by Ms. Elhart, seconded by Mr. Pietri (7-0).

Item 4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Elhart began by administering the oath of office to Mr. Porter in order to renew his term on the Black River Board of Trustees. The necessary documentation was signed and submitted to the GVSU Charter Schools Office.

Ms. Elhart indicated that she recently met for lunch with the student representatives. She would like to obtain student and faculty input in selecting the new Black River identity and distributed materials to narrow the choices down to the top three. A goals survey and draft of a reinvented annual letter were also circulated.

Item 5. BUSINESS REPORT

Mr. Zoellner distributed the October Financial Report and indicated that he is in the process of creating Budget Adjustment 1. The Board discussed possible procedural changes regarding negative food service balances.

Item 6. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Mr. Donnelly shared information regarding recent student choices, Ms. Olesen's bunny, and thanked the teachers for their dedication. He was also proud to reveal that he was able to announce the starting lineup at a recent Middle School basketball game.

Mr. Levering explained that many of the elementary enrichment clubs are ending their season next week. TTQ participants ran in a 5k to conclude their time together while the First Lego League team scored in the top 8 at a recent competition. He also highlighted the work of students that recently participated in a Noetic math contest. Ms. Letherby's class collected nearly 400 food items for a Thanksgiving food drive and Mr. Levering shared that this year's Barnes & Noble bookfair will take place on Saturday, December 2nd. Mr. Matthew Harrelson was named as the recipient of recent recognition at the High Achieving Talented Student (HATS) Off ceremony.

Mr. Brunink stated that the staff will participate in Instructional Rounds on December 4th and 5th. The focus will be on student centered classrooms, student curiosity, and students understanding the importance of their work. Tomorrow's inservice will focus on trauma and how it affects the lives of our students. Black River celebrated a fall graduate this week as they completed their final graduation requirements over the summer. Mr. Constantelos' We the People team took first place at a recent competition winning 5 out of 6 units. Ms. Lucia Rios from Disability Network recently gave CAP presentations and students have been signing up for this year's Project Term classes. The DEQ has assigned a new parameter, now requiring Black River to test for vapor intrusion. Mr. Brunink reminded the BR community that they can help the school by contacting state representatives in support of the proposed enhancement millages currently under debate.

Item 7. GVSU UPDATE

Mr. Barker distributed the grant award information and indicated that Black River's contract renewal visit will take place in 2021. He also reminded members of the board of the retreat scheduled for April 11th.

Item 8. STUDENT REPORT

Miss Camarota shared that fall sports concluded with an awards night on November 15th. Cross Country had three all state runners including Josh Fink, Sam Sharnas, and Mia Phillips. As a group, the Boys Varsity Cross Country team came in 3rd in the state in addition to winning the recognition of having the highest GPA of state qualifying teams. CAP classes are completing finance modules and this year's Turkey Jam fundraiser benefitting BR Basketball will take place on Saturday, November 25th. Miss Camarota explained that Student Council is proposing big changes and would like to move more toward representing students while focusing less on event planning. Members of the board thanked Ms. Hulst for taking on the leadership of Student Council.

Item 9. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business for the board to address.

Item 10. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Elhart took the opportunity to remind those present of the Open House scheduled for Saturday, February 3rd from 10am-12pm.

Item 11. OPEN FORUM / COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public.

Item 12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 7:17pm upon a motion by Ms. Elhart, seconded by Mr. Dumez. (6-0)

NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:30 pm on December 18, 2017, at Black River Public School's 491 Columbia Avenue Campus.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary M. Mims, Secretary