

**BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**April 22, 2024**

**Item 1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Board of Directors of Black River Public School was called to order by Vice President Elisabeth Bauman at 5:33pm on April 22, 2024, 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, Craig Davis, TJ McDonald, Tom McGough, Mary Mims, Tom Pietri

Members Absent:

Matt Benson, Kim Mitchell

Staff Present:

Shannon Brunink (Head of School), Michelle Byrne (Administrative Assistant), Rachel Carlson (Business Manager), John K. Donnelly (Dean of Students), Krista Ekdahl (BR Teacher)

Public Present:

Matt Cawood, Nitya Gandhi, Errol Goldman,

Media Present:

None

**Item 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

There being no corrections, all minutes of the Board's March 18, 2024 meeting were approved upon a motion by Ms. Bauman, seconded by Mr. Pietri. (7-0)

**Item 4. BUSINESS REPORT**

Ms. Carlson distributed the financial report and provided an overview for the board. She indicated that Mr. Zoellner is working on Budget Adjustment II. She gave an update on the elevator modernization scheduled for this summer and distributed the proposed board calendar.

**Item 5. ADMINISTRATION REPORT**

Mr. Brunink shared the tragic news of the passing of Mr. Zamudio, one of our BR parents. He explained what steps are taken when the Black River community experiences a loss and outlined the support available.

Mr. Donnally outlined the timeline of the recent threatening call to campus. Mr. Brunink highlighted what went well and what can be improved. Mr. Pietri asked Miss Gandhi to share the student experience and Mr. Davis proposed the addition of a public health aspect to the school's Health curriculum, indicating that gun violence is the #1 killer of children.

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

Ms. Ekdahl explained that faculty council looks forward to continued collaboration with Mr. Brunink and Ms. Mitchell. They will distribute ballots soon to vote for next year's Faculty Council representatives.

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

Miss Gandhi indicated that Student Council is preparing for the May 11 Prom which will have an Ancient Greece theme. They are developing the spirit week days and the game will be held on May 10th. Elections will take place over the following weeks for next year's student council members.

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

Ms. Bauman explained that members of the board should have received copies of the proposed Black Pearl ESP Agreement as well as the proposed retainer for the services of our board attorney.

**Motion to approve** the July 2024 - June 2027 Black Pearl ESP Agreement. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Ms. Bauman, seconded by Mr. Pietri. (7-0)

**Motion to approve** the retainer agreement to maintain the services of Mr. Errol Goldman as board attorney. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Ms. Bauman, seconded by Mr. McGough. (7-0)

**Motion to approve** the 2024-2025 Board Meeting Calendar as amended. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Ms. Bauman, seconded by Ms. Bast. (7-0)

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

Mr. Cawood shared that Ms. Leah Breen has been appointed as the head of the GVSU CSO. He recognized Mr. Davis for 5 years of service on Black River's Board of Trustees and will honor Ms. Mitchell with the same recognition at the next meeting. The next virtual board training will be held on April 29th and he asked members to mark their calendars for the April 13 and 14 board

receptions. Teacher appreciation week begins on April 6th and National Charter School Week begins on April 13th. He thanked the board for their participation in the yearly board survey and explained the structure of upcoming CSO communications.

**Item 10. OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Donnelly explained that board interviews for student representatives will likely take place in May. Those that would like to be included should email with their intent.

**Item 11. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business brought before the board.

**Item 12. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

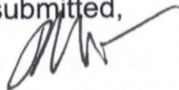
**Item 13. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:43pm.

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:30 pm on May 20, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,



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Mary M. Mims, Secretary