

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board Meeting Minutes
May 20, 2024

Item 1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Board of Directors of Black River Public School was called to order by President Kim Mitchell at 5:34pm on May 20, 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, Matt Benson, Craig Davis, Kim Mitchell, Tom Pietri

Members Absent:

TJ McDonald, Tom McGough, Mary Mims

Staff Present:

Michelle Byrne (Administrative Assistant), Rachel Carlson (Business Manager), John K. Donnelly (Dean of Students), Jim Levering (Elementary Administrator), Jake Stid (BR Teacher)

Public Present:

Matt Cawood, Nitya Gandhi, Errol Goldman, Megan Hanneken, Barb Jonker, Becky Pomp

Media Present:

None

Item 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no corrections, all minutes of the Board's April 22, 2024 meeting were approved upon a motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Pietri. (6-0)

Item 4. BUSINESS REPORT

Ms. Carlson explained that Mr. Zoellner continues his work on Budget Adjustment II and it will be presented at the June meeting.

Item 5. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Mr. Levering indicated that everyone is wrapping up the school year and 5th grade graduation will take place this Thursday. Kindergarten screeners have been completed and they will help

determine placements to balance classes. There will be an elementary field day to celebrate the last day of school and Officer Hamberg will be here with the Polar Patrol.

Mr. Donnelly explained that the meetings to discuss cell phone policies with parents and staff have continued. Although he was unable to attend the recent Assistant Principal's meeting he appreciated the notes that were provided. This information sharing has allowed him to see the many pros and cons of other school's strategies regarding cell phones. The school will continue to empower teachers to enforce the current policy. He expressed condolences to Mr. Brunink at the loss of his father and indicated that he was glad to be able to cover many aspects of their shared roles in his absence. Senior graduation will take place next Thursday at the Jack H. Miller Center at Hope College. Mr. Donnelly continues his work with the Holland Police Department and thanked them for support with a recent issue. He indicated that campus safety continues to be of the utmost importance. Ms. Mitchell asked Mr. Donnelly what the plan is for cell phone management and Mr. Pietri asked about possible stumbling blocks to the implementation.

Item 6. FACULTY COUNCIL REPORT

Mr. Stid explained that Faculty Council discussed enhancing the current mentorship program during their meeting with Ms. Mitchell and Mr. Brunink. They have distributed the ballots to elect next year's Faculty Council members. Mr. Stid also passed along the recommendation for the board to maintain a larger, diverse membership among its members.

Item 7. STUDENT REPORT

Miss Gandhi thanked members of the board for the opportunity to be a part of the discussions and indicated that she plans to apply for another board representative position next year.

Item 8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Motion to approve the 3 year Aramark Food Service Contract with the option to continue for an additional 2 years. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Pietri. (6-0)

Motion to move the June board meeting to June 17, 2024. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Ms. Bauman. (6-0)

Motion to cancel the July board meeting. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Ms. Bast. (6-0)

Ms. Mitchell explained that the board will vote on the slate of offices at the next meeting. While they continue the search for possible candidates they will move to a 7 member board for the summer. They intend to add new members when the decision is made and approved by GVSU.

Motion to move to a 7 member board effective August 1, 2024. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Ms. Bauman. (6-0)

Item 9. GVSU REPORT

Mr. Cawood recognized Ms. Mitchell and Mr. Pietri for their time on Black River's Board of Trustees. They were presented with a plaque and letter of recognition from GVSU. He reminded members that the next virtual training will take place on June 3rd.

Item 10. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Davis was excited to share that the new Black River website launched this week. He expressed gratitude for the work of Ms. Kerrie Esmeier and Ms. Rachel Carlson on its development and acknowledged the undertaking on top of their regular daily jobs. The team hopes this will be a more modern experience that will tell the story of Black River. Work to complete the project continues and the community will notice new additions over the summer. Ms. Mitchell and Ms. Bauman also thanked Mr. Davis and Mr. Pietri for their expertise during this project.

Item 11. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business brought before the board.

Item 12. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

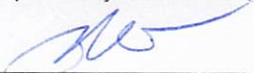
Item 13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:24pm.

NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:30 pm on June 17, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary M. Mims, Secretary