

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board Meeting Minutes
June 17, 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 6:13pm on June 17, 2024, in room 227 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, Kim Mitchell, Tom Pietri

Members Absent:

Matt Benson, Mary Mims

Staff Present:

Shannon Brunink (Head of School), Michelle Byrne (Administrative Assistant), Rachel Carlson (Business Manager), John K. Donnelly (Dean of Students), Jim Levering (Elementary Administrator), Sarah Lozano (BR Teacher), John Zoellner (Business Director)

Public Present:

Emily Ballard, Matt Cawood, Errol Goldman, Avery Hanneken, Megan Hanneken, Duncan Jackson, Barb Jonker, Becky Pomp, Meika Weiss, Ryan White, Staci Wykes

Media Present:

None

Item 3. APPROVAL of MINUTES

There being no corrections, all minutes of the Board's May 20, 2024 meeting were approved upon a motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Pietri. (7-0)

Item 4. BUSINESS REPORT

Motion to approve the final amended budget for 2023-2024 as presented. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Pietri. (7-0)

Motion to accept the proposed 2024-2025 original budgets as presented. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. McDonald. (7-0)

Motion to approve the final 2023-2024 food service, capital projects, and trust & agency fund budgets. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. McDonald. (7-0)

Motion to accept the proposed 2024-2025 food service, capital projects, and trust & agency fund budgets. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. McGough. (7-0)

Item 5. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Mr. Levering shared elementary highlights from the end of the school year. He thanked the elementary PO for their continued support and shared what efforts he's taken to connect with students over the summer.

Mr. Donnelly reminded the board of Black River's anti-bullying policy and the follow up that occurs when a case is reported. He outlined end of year events and activities for the Middle and High School.

Mr. Brunink was excited to underscore the success of this year's senior graduation, thanking everyone involved. Teacher assignments and staffing are in the final stages for next year. He outlined additional end of year events and recent accolades received by the school. He also thanked the PO for their incredible work to make the new outdoor learning spaces possible. Construction is currently underway. He also touched on the incredible loss of Ms. Misha Dorland felt by the entire BR community.

Motion to approve Black River's MHSAA membership for the 2024-2025 school year. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Ms. Bauman. (7-0)

Item 6. FACULTY COUNCIL REPORT

Ms. Lozano shared Faculty Council's work to increase communication and asked questions about the handbook. She thanked those leaving Faculty Council and introduced the new members that will take their place.

Item 7. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Motion to approve the janitorial contract with West Michigan Janitorial for a new 3 year term. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Ms. Bauman. (7-0)

Motion to approve the new slate of board officers, effective July 1st for the 2024-2025 school year. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Pietri. (7-0)

President - Elisabeth Bauman
Vice President - Tom McGough
Treasurer - Matt Benson
Secretary - Mary Mims

Motion to approve the 2024-2025 annual designations as presented. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. McGough. (7-0)

It was noted that this will be the last meeting for Ms. Mitchell and Mr. Pietri as their terms expire. Members present expressed thanks for the incredible work they have done on behalf of the school and well wishes as they move on.

Item 8. GVSU UPDATE

Mr. Cawood indicated that the virtual board training requirement has been met for this year. He shared information about upcoming trainings and the Board President's Retreat.

Item 9. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business for the board to address.

Item 10. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business brought before the board.

Item 11. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Megan Hanneken outlined research supporting cell phone bans and shared her thoughts on BR's current cell phone policy.

Mr. Duncan Jackson shared challenges parents face when pressured to allow their children to have phones. He expressed a desire for the school to adopt a cell phone ban and asked about how parents can be appointed to the board.

Mr. Ryan White shared his expertise in Educational Psychology giving insight into data that outlines the detriment of increased technology use. He discussed pros and cons of technology and how it can affect both learning and mental health.

Mr. Tom Pietri shared his experience as a parent that finds it important to support and teach his child the responsibility of a cell phone. He indicated that each family can take the course of action that works best for themselves without a school wide decision.

Ms. Barb Jonker shared her passion for the subject and her expertise in mental health. She outlined benefits of phone free time and the life skills built during these interactions expressing a desire for the school to adapt a way for the day cell phone policy.

Ms. Meika Weiss indicated she would like to see BR be a leader in restricting cell phones in school and outlined the frustrations of negative behaviors seen on the devices.

Ms. Becky Pomp supported the comments on how special this year's senior graduation was. She indicated that the evidence supports a cell phone policy change and that she would like to be a part of the conversation.

Ms. Emily Ballard felt there is confusion on the current cell phone policy. She shared her experience in education and how they enforce a ban in her current school.

Ms. Staci Wykes shared a story about a prospective student's shadow experience and how she encountered cell phones while substitute teaching.

Ms. Mitchell thanked everyone for their comments and indicated that the board appreciated the perspective.

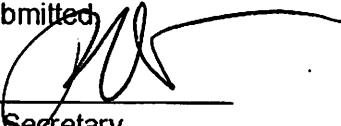
Item 12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:28pm.

NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:30 pm on August 26, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary M. Mims, Secretary

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board Meeting Minutes
Public Hearing Regarding 2024-2025 Budget
June 17, 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 5:33pm on June 17, 2024, in room 227 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 (5:35pm), Tom McGough, Kim Mitchell, Tom Pietri (5:35pm)

Members Absent:

Matt Benson, Mary Mims

Staff Present:

Shannon Brunink (Head of School), Michelle Byrne (Administrative Assistant), Rachel Carlson (Business Manager), John K. Donnelly (Dean of Students), Jim Levering (Elementary Administrator), Sarah Lozano (BR Teacher), John Zoellner (Business Director)

Public Present:

Emily Ballard, Matt Cawood, Errol Goldman, Avery Hanneken, Megan Hanneken, Duncan Jackson, Barb Jonker, Becky Pomp, Meika Weiss, Ryan White, Staci Wykes

Media Present:

None

Item 3. PRESENTATION of PROPOSED 2024-25 BUDGET

Mr. Zoellner distributed and explained Budget Adjustment #2 for 2023-2024. He presented the proposed 2024-2025 budgets (general, food service, capital and trust & agency) and discussed a 5 year projection.

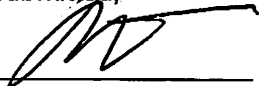
Item 4. PUBLIC COMMENT/OPEN FORUM

Mr. Duncan asked questions about changes to the 2023-24 balances and provided suggestions for improvement on the reports provided.

Item 5. ADJOURNMENT

The public hearing adjourned at 6:12pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MM', written over a horizontal line.

Mary M. Mims, Secretary