

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board Meeting Minutes
August 26, 2024

Item 1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Board of Directors of Black River Public School was called to order by President Elisabeth Bauman at 5:29pm on August 26, 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, Tom McGough

Members Absent:

TJ McDonald, Mary Mims

Staff Present:

Eliza Bivins-Fink (BR Teacher), Michelle Byrne (Administrative Assistant), Rachel Carlson (Business Manager), Adriann Divozzo (BR Teacher), John K. Donnelly (Dean of Students), Sarah Lozano (BR Teacher), Haley Masse (BR Teacher), Jake Stid (BR Teacher), Kim VanKints (BR Teacher), John Zoellner (Business Director)

Public Present:

Henrik Bauman, Arabella Benson, Matt Cawood, Errol Goldman, Megan Hanneken

Media Present:

None

Item 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no corrections, all minutes of the Board's June 17, 2024 meeting were approved upon a motion by Ms. Bauman, seconded by Mr. McGough. (5-0)

Item 4. BUSINESS REPORT

Mr. Zoellner indicated that the yearly audit began on August 12th and he hopes to present their report at the September meeting. He outlined a few of the new processes that Ms. Carlson has implemented over the last few months. These include online bill pay, Meal Magic food service software, and Timerack, an online timekeeping software.

Item 5. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Ms. Bauman explained that Mr. Brunink was feeling under the weather this evening and read notes on his behalf. She indicated that the year is off to a great start with the faculty inservices covering Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) and cell phone protocols. Mr. Brunink also asked her to share how much everyone is loving the outdoor playscape and thanked everyone who was involved in the development of that new space.

Mr. Donnelly explained MTSS in a bit more detail and indicated that the PBIS program for the Elementary and Middle School lead in to this nicely. He thanked Ms. Heneghan, Mr. Merz, and Ms. Shibley for their work to streamline materials that support school safety. This universal language was presented at the faculty inservice along with student handbook updates, including the school's sexual harassment policy. Mr. Donnelly explained that the Emergency Operations Plan is reviewed every few years and that the state will have the newest template ready soon.

Motion to approve the 2024-2025 Student Handbook. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Ms. Bauman, seconded by Mr. Benson. (5-0)

Mr. Donnelly reviewed examples of cyberbullying and possible consequences. He indicated that involvement may include administration as well as law enforcement. He explained that the start to the school year gave him many opportunities to utilize his translation skills with families. He is grateful for the school's focus on the Spanish language. He also explained that the school has moved toward a one key system, a recommendation from his school safety meetings. Mr. Davis asked how the cell phone procedures are going and Mr. Donnelly outlined the ripple effect that has gone through the community. Although this is not a new plan, consistent implementation has made it more successful.

Item 6. FACULTY COUNCIL REPORT

Mr. Stid introduced members of this year's Faculty Council: Ms. Bivins-Fink, Ms. Lozano, Ms. Masse, Ms. VanKints. He explained the role of Faculty Council and how they support faculty members. They will continue to work on goals, with the Dean of Academics to support new teacher mentoring, and look forward to working with the board. When asked about the cell phone policy he explained that it is more clear and the implementation across the board makes it easier to enforce. Mr. McGough asked Mr. Cawood for suggestions of what mentoring he has observed working well at other schools.

Item 7. STUDENT REPORT

Miss Benson and Mr. Bauman introduced themselves to the board and will rotate attendance with veteran student representative Miss Nitya Gandhi. Mr Davis asked their perspective on the cell phone protocols and they felt it has been effective. It will continue to decrease usage if everyone stays consistent.

Item 8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Bauman did not have anything new to report.

Item 9. GVSU REPORT

Mr. Cawood indicated that the annual calendar of virtual board trainings is now available. The monthly newsletters will continue and the Board President's Leadership Retreat has been scheduled. He also explained that the GVSU CSO leadership structure is complete with the filling of the last position.

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. 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 6:14pm.

NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:30 pm on September 16, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary M. Mims, Secretary