

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board Meeting Minutes
October 21, 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 5:33pm on October 21, 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, TJ McDonald, Tom McGough, Mary Mims

Members Absent:

None

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), Haley Masse (BR Teacher), Jake Stid (BR Teacher), Kim VanKints (BR Teacher), John Zoellner (Business Director)

Public Present:

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 September 16, 2024 meeting were approved upon a motion by Ms. Bauman, seconded by Mr. McDonald. (7-0)

Item 4. BUSINESS REPORT

Mr. Zoellner shared that the Finance Committee met to review the audit report with the lead auditor from Rehmann. They were pleased to report that Black River received an unqualified opinion as expected. Mr. Zoellner distributed the final draft of the Audit Report as well as the Independent Auditor Communication and explained the key points.

Motion to accept the 2023-2024 Audit Report as presented. The resolution passed unananimously upon a motion by Ms. Bauman, seconded by Mr. McDonald. (7-0)

Mr Zoellner was also excited to share that they were able to purchase a second bus today.

Item 5. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Mr. Levering outlined the elementary clubs that are being offered as enrichment opportunities this year. They will again host Hope College education students interested in observing Montessori classrooms. Mr. Levering has communicated with Hope college to collaborate on community events and BR families were able to enjoy a recent men's soccer game. Some of the rewards earned at the RatRaiser are underway, including experiences from Mr. Levering and other staff members.

Mr. Donnelly was grateful to be able to attend recent meetings with colleagues across the county that covered a variety of topics including school safety and vaping. This has allowed them to take a proactive approach to school safety.

Mr. Brunink thanked the Parent Organization for their incredible work for this year's RatRaiser. They raised more than \$60,000 to support everything that they do for the BR community. Count day ended above budget, Project Term course proposals were due today, and Parent Teacher Conferences will be held this week. Mr. Brunink outlined recent highlights including interviews for the open marketing position, attending a recent meeting with the Ottawa Area Secure Schools Network, and meeting with the Special Education Funding Committee. He also explained how a surplus is used when the school comes in under budget.

Item 6. FACULTY COUNCIL REPORT

Mr. Stid asked about ways to support teachers on carts. He indicated that Faculty Council is preparing their annual teacher survey. This will help them compile recommendations of things they can collaborate on with the board.

Item 7. STUDENT REPORT

Miss Benson shared highlights from Homecoming, Sailing, and other sports. She also outlined plans for this year's Snowcoming events, Turkey Jam 3v3 tournament, mock elections, and the theater performances of The Rememberer and Mama Mia.

Item 8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Bauman shared that Grand Valley State University's Board has approved the appointment of Mr. Abe Carrillo and Ms. Kim Koeman to the Black River Board of Trustees and they will be sworn in at the November meeting.

Motion to move from a seven to a nine member board as of the November 18, 2024 meeting. The resolution passed unanimously up on a motion by Ms. Bauman, seconded by Ms. Bast. (7-0)

Item 9. GVSU REPORT

Mr. Cawood was able to answer a question about the timeline of charter school funding and shared that the next virtual board training will be held on December 16th. MStep and SAT data is being compiled for their annual report.

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 6:37pm.

NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:30 pm on November 18, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary M. Mims, Secretary