

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board Meeting Minutes
February 17, 2025

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 5:34 pm on February 17, 2025, 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, Abe Carillo, Craig Davis, Kim Koeman, TJ McDonald, Tom McGough

Members Absent:

Mary Mims

Staff Present:

Shannon Brunink (Head of School), Michelle Byrne (Administrative Assistant), Rachel Carlson (Business Manager), Adriann Divozzo (BR Teacher), 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:

Henrik Bauman, Arabella Benson, Errol Goldman, Megan Hanneken, Courtney Stahl

Media Present:

None

Item 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no corrections, all minutes of the Board's November 18, 2024 meeting were approved upon a motion by Ms. Bauman, seconded by Mr. McGough. (8-0)

Item 4. BUSINESS REPORT

Ms. Carlson outlined the January financial report and shared highlights from the recent food service audit, which occurs every five years.

Mr. Zoellner explained that work continues on the budget adjustment and the Finance Committee will meet in advance of its presentation at the March meeting. He announced that

after 15 years as Black River's "Interim" Business Director he will retire at the end of next month. Ms. Carlson will step into the position at that time.

Item 5. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Mr. Levering talked about the recent snow days as well as the hiring of two new lower elementary assistants and 4 new recess/lunch helpers. He shared that the winners of the Black River Spelling Bee were Patrick Burch and Ram Sundar. The school will host the regional bee next Tuesday. He is excited to host two school leaders that will be opening a Montessori micro school in partnership with GVSU. Mr. Levering also thanked the Elementary Parent Organization for their help fundraising to support this year's swimming lessons.

Mr. Donnelly explained that he has continued work on the updated Emergency Operations Plan over the last few months and has reviewed it with the police department. Although details of the plan are confidential, he again invited any members of the board that would like to discuss it with him to do so. Mr. Davis requested that, if allowable, the whole board meet in closed session at a future meeting to review the plan and ask questions.

Motion to acknowledge the updated Emergency Operations Plan As of February 17, 2025 which has been reviewed by Black River personnel and approved by law enforcement. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Ms. Bauman, seconded by Mr. Benson. (8-0)

Mr. Donnelly spoke of BR's PBIS implementation and what he has observed at other schools. He also shared how impactful the presenters were at the recent LAUP conference.

Mr. Brunink distributed and explained the proposed 2025-2026 School Year Calendar and spoke of this year's snow days. He reviewed the justification for the half days of professional development and answered questions. Mr. Levering explained how the elementary uses those half days as well. Mr. Stid proposed a schedule change for next year's spring conference times.

Motion to approve the 2025-2026 School Year Calendar. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Ms. Bauman, seconded by Ms. Bast. (8-0)

Mr. Brunink outlined the open enrollment applications received to date and explained the process. He praised Ms. Wise for her work to create this year's Project Term schedules which went live on Friday and spoke of recent school leaders observing in our Middle School. He also shared that the Sex Ed Advisory Board met recently, led by Mr. Middleton.

Mr. Brunink also explained that outside of Children's Protective Services, no outside entities may see students without their parent's permission. Black River will continue to do what we have always done to keep kids safe. Mr. Carrillo shared how immigration has been affecting Hispanic families in our community.

Mr. Brunink then introduced Faculty Council and shared the history and purpose of this committee.

Item 6. FACULTY COUNCIL REPORT

Mr. Stid introduced members and explained that their goal each year is to collaborate with administration and the board on their three recommendations. They recently met with Ms. Bauman and Mr. Brunink to go over the three points highlighted in this year's faculty survey and took the opportunity to thank the board for their continued support. Mr. Stid distributed their report, outlined each recommendation, and took comments and questions.

Item 7. STUDENT REPORT

Miss Benson and Mr. Bauman highlighted the achievements of the winter sports teams and indicated that they were wrapping up. They explained that the spring sports meetings have taken place and those seasons are starting. The dates for upcoming music performances and theater productions were shared as well as a robotics competition. The Snowcoming game and dance were largely attended and Student Council elections will be held soon. Students received their Project Term Schedules, National Honor Society applications are due, and the yearly Open House for prospective students took place.

Item 8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Motion to recommend to GVSU the reappointment of Ms. Bast and Ms. Mims to the Black River Board of Trustees. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Ms. Bauman, seconded by Mr. Davis. (8-0)

Item 9. GVSU REPORT

Ms. Stahl explained the yearly Academic Grant and Ms. Bauman expressed appreciation for the support from GVSU.

Motion to approve the 2023-2024 Academic Grant from GVSU. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Ms. Bauman, seconded by Mr. Carrillo. (8-0)

Ms. Stahl outlined upcoming board training, explained that the CSO Stakeholder Survey is open, and spoke about new bills. She shared that Charter School Week will be May 12 through May 16, the National Charter School Conference will be in June, and to expect a save the date for the CSO social. She presented the School Performance Report for the 2023-2024 school year and took questions from the board.

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.

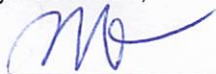
Item 13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:56pm.

NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:30 pm on March 17, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary M. Mims, Secretary