

**BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**April 21, 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 5:34pm on April 21, 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, Mary Mims

Members Absent:

None

Staff Present:

Shannon Brunink (Head of School), Michelle Byrne (Administrative Assistant), Rachel Carlson (Business Director), Adriann Divozzo (BR Teacher), John Donnelly (Dean of Students), Mara Koning (BR Social Work), Krystin Krasnowski (BR Teacher), Jim Levering (Elementary Administrator), Haley Masse (BR Teacher), Cara Thiele (BR Teacher)

Public Present:

Anne Baker, Henrik Bauman, Matt Cawood, Laura DeWit, Nitya Gandhi, Errol Goldman, Megan Hanneken, Barb Jonker, Kristin Jackson, Becky Pomp, Jennifer Rozman, Zahabia Usmani, Staci Wykes

Media Present:

None

**Item 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

There being no corrections, all minutes of the Board's March 17, 2025 meeting were approved upon a motion by Ms. Bauman, seconded by Mr. McDonald. (9-0)

**Item 4. BUSINESS REPORT**

Ms. Carlson explained that they are in the midst of summer planning which will include things like vehicle maintenance, building repairs, and West Michigan Janitorial's deep cleaning. She distributed and explained the financial report.

## **Item 5. ADMINISTRATION REPORT**

Mr. Levering shared that the fundraiser to support the book vending machine raised more than \$4,000. He spoke of recent and upcoming events including the lower elementary musical, third grade bowling party, fifth grade graduation, and senior send off. He also highlighted the work of the Elementary Parent Organization to design activities that create community among parents. Mr. Levering answered questions about Montessori certification and social themes highlighted in his newsletter.

Mr. Donnelly explained that he has been able to support Mr. Peter Middleton as he takes on the Middle School and High School Honor Assemblies. He shared information about the NHS Induction ceremony, added detention options, community service, and next year's planners.

Mr. Brunink shared that preparations are underway for Project Term. He spoke about exams, Honor Assemblies, NHS Induction, state testing, and Fine Arts Night. He was excited to attend a recent meeting with the Ottawa Area Safe and Secure Schools Network, participate in the Special Education Funding Committee, as well as the Ottawa Area Superintendents Association. He reiterated the benefit Black River will see from the upcoming Special Education Millage and shared that he will attend the MAPSA Charter Day at the Capitol. The City of Holland's Columbia Avenue Resurfacing Project has begun and Mr. Brunink shared his gratitude for how thoughtful they have been in considering what will affect/benefit both Black River and Hope College. He also highlighted the impressive college acceptance statistics of this year's seniors. With so many great things going on he indicated that there is also always room for improvement. He encouraged anyone that would like to discuss a concern to reach out. Mr. Brunink stated that he is honored to begin his 30th year at Black River along side Mr. Tim Ewald and Mr. Greg Dykhouse.

## **Item 6. FACULTY COUNCIL REPORT**

Ms. Masse shared details of their most recent staff community building activity, updated resources for staff, meeting schedule, and the ballot for next year's committee members. They look forward to their continued work with the school's administration and board.

## **Item 7. STUDENT REPORT**

Mr. Bauman highlighted spring athletics and fine arts performances.

Miss Gandhi spoke of spirit week, Prom, NHS Induction, and the upcoming BR Theatre Company show.

## **Item 8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**Motion to Approve** the 2025-2026 Board Meeting Calendar. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Ms. Bauman, seconded by Mr. Davis. (9-0)

#### **Item 9. GVSU REPORT**

Mr. Cawood reminded the board that the terms of three members are set to expire in June and approval for reappointment has been submitted to GVSU. He recognized Ms. Bauman's five years on Black River's Board of Trustees and thanked her for her service to the school. He spoke of their stakeholder survey results, the next virtual board training, and Charter School Day at the capitol.

#### **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**

Ms. Hanneken outlined areas where she felt Black River could improve and expressed interest in being more actively involved.

#### **Item 13. CLOSED SESSION**

**Motion to enter** closed session at 6:41pm. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Ms. Bauman, seconded by Mr. McGough. (9-0)

**Motion to exit** closed session at 7:09pm. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Ms. Bauman, seconded by Mr. Davis. (9-0)

#### **Item 14. EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN**

**Motion to adopt** Black River's Emergency Operations Plan. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Ms. Bauman, seconded by Mr. Davis. (9-0)

#### **Item 13. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:12pm.

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:30pm on May 19, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Mary M. Mims, Secretary