

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board Meeting Minutes
May 19, 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 May 19, 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, Tom McGough, Mary Mims

Members Absent:

Kim Koeman, TJ McDonald

Staff Present:

Eliza Bivins-Fink (BR Teacher), Shannon Brunink (Head of School), Michelle Byrne (Administrative Assistant), Rachel Carlson (Business Director), John Donnelly (Dean of Students), Jim Levering (Elementary Administrator)

Public Present:

Sara Alsum-Wassenaar, Henrik Bauman, Matt Cawood, Errol Goldman

Media Present:

None

Item 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no corrections, all minutes of the Board's April 21, 2025 meeting were approved upon a motion by Ms. Bauman, seconded by Mr. Benson. (5-0)

Item 4. BUSINESS REPORT

Ms. Carlson distributed the OAISD proposed budget and answered questions from members of the board.

Motion to support the proposed OAISD budget. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Ms. Bauman, seconded by Ms. Bast. (6-0)

Ms. Carlson circulated the most recent 990, an informational tax document prepared by our auditors and explained its use. She also indicated that things are progressing as expected with the end of year budgeting that was shared. She will continue final preparations of the 2024-2025 year end budget and the proposed 2025-2026 budget which will be presented at the June meeting.

Item 5. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Mr. Levering shared information about 5th grade graduation, the TTQ 5k, Senior walkthrough, and roster meetings. He explained how beneficial the post enrollment kindergarten screenings have been to the balancing of classrooms and preparations for new students. He also outlined plans to honor the one year anniversary of the passing of Ms. Misha Dorland.

Mr. Donnelly highlighted recent events including the Tulip Time parade, Prom, and graduation. He continues to analyse data on the implementation of the cell phone policy and will again this year present the 2024-25 data on bullying.

Mr. Brunink explained that Project Term is well underway and that the transition has allowed for a different academic feel. He thanked Ms. Jen Wise for her work to make this year's testing happen and explained how unknown the State of Michigan budget is right now. He attended the recent Charter Day at the Capitol with MAPSA and was able to speak with representatives about school funding. Mr. Brunink invited members of the board to participate in next week's graduation ceremony and highlighted the recent honors assemblies. Mr. Brett Bittrick was honored with the MAPSA MI Charter Hero Award. Hiring continues for next year with the addition of Ms. Hannah Coates to fill the position of Ms. Kim Bishop as she retires. We have also added Ms. Cecelia Sieting in communications. Mr. Brunink was also pleased to share that the Special Education millage passed in the recent election and will continue to support Black River.

Item 6. FACULTY COUNCIL REPORT

Ms. Bivins-Fink shared that after the recent election next year's Faculty Council representatives will be Ms. Tara Gorris, Ms. Sarah Lozano, Ms. Haley Masse, Mr. Adam Naylor-Tatterson, and Mr. Jake Stid.

Item 7. STUDENT REPORT

Mr. Bauman outlined recent events in athletics, theatre, and highlighted Project Term trip itineraries. He also explained that the Spring Thing game, spirit week, and prom were all a success.

Item 8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Bauman indicated that the Head of School evaluation process continues and she has enjoyed the conversations as well as reviewing artifacts.

Item 9. GVSU REPORT

Mr. Cawood explained that the GVSU board has approved the renewal of board terms for Ms. Bast, Mr. McDonald, and Ms. Mims. He administered the oath of office to Ms. Bast and Ms. Mims and will do the same for Mr. McDonald at the June meeting. He also highlighted the last two virtual board trainings for this year.

Item 10. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business for the board to address.

Item 11. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Mims complimented Miss Greta Bast for her poise and intelligence while receiving her recent scholarship from the bar association.

Item 12. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Alsum-Wassenaar presented information about the Macatawa Manoomin Marsh project she has been working on with Black River's 4th and 5th grade students. This grant supported project engages students with the local waterscape through sculptures allowing them to engage the public's imagination of what could be re-established.

Item 13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:31pm.

NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:30pm on June 23, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary M. Mims, Secretary