

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL

Board Meeting Minutes

September 22, 2025

Item 1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Board of Directors of Black River Public School was called to order by President Tom McGough at 5:33pm on September 22, 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, Matt Benson, Craig Davis, TJ McDonald, Tom McGough, Mary Mims

Members Absent:

Elisabeth Bauman, Abe Carillo, Kim Koeman

Staff Present:

Shannon Brunink (Head of School), Rachel Carlson (Business Manager), Jim Levering (Elementary Administrator), Tara Gorris (BR Teacher)

Public Present:

Henrik Bauman, Arabella Benson, Matt Cawood, Adriann Divozzo, Megan Hanneken, Haley Masse

Media Present:

None

Item 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no corrections, all minutes of the Board's August 25, 2025 meeting were approved upon a motion by Mr. McGough, seconded by Mr. Benson. (6-0)

Item 4. BUSINESS REPORT

Ms. Carlson 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, with improvement shown from last year. Ms. Carlson distributed the

final draft of the Audit Report as well as the Independent Auditor Communication and explained the key points.

Motion to accept the 2024-2025 Audit Report as presented. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. McDonald. (6-0)

Ms Carlson distributed the July and August financials and explained that the shortfall for both months is expected, as state aid does not begin until October.

Item 5. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Mr. Levering reported on the success of this year's RatRaiser, headed by Mary VanEeneman and Mia Mahaney. Participation was high, those who attended had a great time, and it raised a similar amount for the school as previous years. The Book Fair was also a success this fall, and raised enough money to continue to fund the book vending machine. Mr. Levering also gave an update on elementary after school enrichments which include Chess Club, First Lego League, and a Book Club led by Ms Brooke, and Dungeons and Dragons, led by Mr. Jesse.

Motion to accept the 2025-2026 Elementary, Middle, and High School Handbooks as a living document. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Benson. (6-0)

Mr. Brunink thanked the Parent Organization for their incredible work for this year's RatRaiser. He highlighted how those involved ensured that all participants could have a good time, no matter their giving level. He also highlighted the Blue Envelope training that was offered to Middle and High School teachers, with elementary training to come. On Thursday, BR will host a GVSU leadership coffee, bringing guests to campus from other schools. Mr. Brunink shared the most recent construction update from the city, including how it is still a cooperative effort and is scheduled for completion on the next day off, Friday, October 10.

Item 6. FACULTY COUNCIL REPORT

Ms. Gorris is new to the Faculty Council this year (having previously served several years ago), and said they are getting acquainted with the new group and are planning various after school meet-ups.

Item 7. STUDENT REPORT

Mr. Bauman gave an update on fall sports, including soccer, cross country and sailing, and also shared about theater presenting two fall plays. Miss Benson shared about volleyball, as well as upcoming band, orchestra, and choir concerts. She also shared that the NHS elections are complete, and Homecoming will be next week, including Spirit Week and Powder Puff. Mr. Bauman talked about Rat Radio, a new news video program produced by high school students each week, with Ms. Pyle helping. Mr. Levering expressed interest in adding content for Elementary students.

Item 8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

There was no President's Report.

Item 9. GVSU REPORT

Mr. Cawood reminded the board that the academic grant requirements have changed to include customized board training as driven by a board self-assessment survey. He also reported that the Charter School Office is now part of the Division of K-12 Education Innovation and Scholar Success. He also encouraged applying for an Impact 30 innovation grant.

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 6:40pm.

NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:30 pm on October 20, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary M. Mims

Mary M. Mims, Secretary