

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL

Board Meeting Minutes

October 20, 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 5:34pm on October 20, 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, TJ McDonald, Tom McGough

Members Absent:

Kim Koeman, Mary Mims

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), Adam Naylor-Tatterson (BR Teacher)

Public Present:

Henrik Bauman, Arabella Benson, James Bongard, Matt Cawood, Megan Hanneken

Media Present:

None

Item 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no corrections, all minutes of the Board's September 22, 2025 meeting were approved upon a motion by Mr. Benson, seconded by Mr. McDonald. (7-0)

Item 4. BUSINESS REPORT

Ms. Carlson distributed the financial report and explained the passing of the state budget. She was excited to share that Michigan has approved the continuation of the free meals program for our students and the first budget adjustment is expected in January.

Item 5. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Mr. Levering shared that their team continues the yearly observations, meetings, and individual development plans with teachers. We recently hosted educators from Walden Green for observations and are excited for the opportunity for our new teachers to do the same on their campus. The partnership with Hope College continues this year with their students learning about the Montessori philosophy through classroom observations. Highlights from the elementary include the return of Run/Walk Club and this Friday's Trunk or Treat, hosted by the Fine Arts Department.

Mr. Donnelly was grateful to attend the Behavioral Threat Management Team training with MI State Police and spoke about Michigan's Safe Storage Law. He plans to complete an AED Heart Response Team drill later this semester. He explained how staff respond to concerns brought up through Securely and highlighted some of the positive things students have been doing over the last month.

Mr. Brunink explained that mid-term grade reports were released on Infinite Campus and parent/teacher conferences are scheduled for October 23 and 24. He was excited to host GVSU's Charter Schools Office and other charter school leaders for a campus tour and spoke about continued work with the OAISD's Special Education Funding Committee. Project Term planning is underway and teachers are submitting their course proposals. With the incredible expense of this program, attempts are being made to use resources responsibly without cutting experiences. The Columbia Avenue construction project is complete and Mr. Brunink shared how positive the experience was working with the City of Holland and their contractors throughout this process. He also spoke with members about parent engagement with Infinite Campus and how communication/training begins in elementary and builds over the years.

Item 6. FACULTY COUNCIL REPORT

Mr. Naylor-Tatterson explained Faculty Council's initiative to organize BREAD Club events. This has been a great opportunity to build community and they continue to facilitate communication with faculty and staff.

Item 7. STUDENT REPORT

Mr. Bauman and Ms. Benson highlighted the end of the fall sports season with updates on the district matches later this month. They shared the success of Homecoming events and recent music performances, while also advertising the upcoming BR Theatre Company performance.

Item 8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

There was no President's Report.

Item 9. GVSU REPORT

Mr. Cawood spoke about the Impact 30 Grants and explained that applications are being accepted now.

Motion to support Black River's proposal for grant funds from GVSU's Impact 30 Grant program. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Mr. McGough, seconded by Mr. Davis. (7-0)

Mr. Cawood is developing the customized board training for this year's academic grant requirement. He also spoke about the new transparency dashboard published by MDE.

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 spoke of her experience with Black River's college advising program and outlined research of the program at other local districts. She also explained her experience with communicating with the board and posed questions about the structure of that exchange.


Item 13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:35pm.

NEXT MEETING:

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

Respectfully submitted,



Mary M. Mims, Secretary