

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL

Board Meeting Minutes

November 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 Tom McGough at 5:33pm on November 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, Craig Davis, Kim Koeman, Tom McGough

Members Absent:

Matt Benson, Abe Carillo, TJ McDonald, Mary Mims

Staff Present:

Shannon Brunink (Head of School), Michelle Byrne (Administrative Assistant), Rachel Carlson (Business Manager), John K. Donnelly (Dean of Students), Jake Stid (BR Teacher)

Public Present:

Arabella Benson, Matt Cawood, Errol Goldman, Courtney Stahl

Media Present:

None

Item 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no corrections, all minutes of the Board's October 20, 2025 meeting were approved upon a motion by Mr. McGough, seconded by Ms. Bast. (5-0)

Item 4. BUSINESS REPORT

Ms. Carlson distributed the financial report and explained that we have received the first payment from the State of Michigan as expected. She plans to present Budget Adjustment 1 in January.

Item 5. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Mr. Donnelly highlighted how hard he has seen our students work while participating in a diverse array of activities. He is proud to participate in the upcoming middle school band concert and has appreciated the support he receives from the team here at BR.

Mr. Brunink asked the board if they would be interested in a presentation from our elementary Title I team and middle/high school Interventionist, Mr. Steve Eicher. He outlined statistics that Mr. Eicher has tracked showing a decrease in failing grades. Project Term registration began today and Mr. Brunink credited Mrs. Jen Wise with the immense amount of organization it takes to make that exciting semester possible. He will be meeting with representatives from the Children's Advocacy Center this week to explore the possibility of a pilot program that could include topics such as early technology risks. November 25th will be a half day in-service with presentations created and led by Black River teachers. Ms. Ames and Mr. Middleton continue preparations of the Impact 30 grant proposals. Mr. Brunink also spoke of how snow day decisions are made, and the Special Education's BR Brews program.

Item 6. FACULTY COUNCIL REPORT

Mr. Stid complimented the work of Mr. Steve Eicher, crediting his interventions and after school program as a large reason fewer students are failing classes. He indicated that Faculty Council met with Mr. Brunink to discuss ways they can streamline their processes and timelines when developing their yearly charges. They have already provided a variety of opportunities to create community among the staff including murder mystery party and a Festivus for the Semesterus event. Mr. Stid also provided an update on this year's MS and HS Youth in Government delegations.

Item 7. STUDENT REPORT

Miss Benson shared highlights of the wrap up of volleyball season, the sailing team's competition in Chicago, and last week's Powdertuff event. Upcoming events include the Turkey Jam, Sock Hop, and music concerts. There will also be two productions yet this semester from the Black River Theater Company. Radium Girls and Noises Off. Miss Benson also spoke of Project Term registration, the Math peer to peer program, and the upcoming Chess Club tournament.

Item 8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. McGough did not have a President's report but did share that the board would benefit from presentations from the Interventionist and Title I team. He also proposed the possibility of a new topic presented each meeting.

Item 9. GVSU REPORT

Mr. Cawood thanked members for their survey responses that are used to develop a customized board training. The next virtual board training will take place on December 11th and the board can expect to receive a stakeholder satisfaction survey. He introduced Ms. Courtney Stahl and explained that she will take over as BR's GVSU representative while he takes on other duties.

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 6:17pm.

NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:30pm on December 15, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary M. Mims, Secretary