BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL

Board Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2026

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 5:32pm on March 16, 2026, 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, TJ McDonald, Tom McGough

Members Absent:
Matt Benson, Abe Carillo, Mary Mims

Staff Present:
Shannon Brunink (Head of School), Michelle Byrne (Administrative Assistant), Rachel Carlson (Business Director), John K. Donnelly (Dean of Students), Kim Gasper (Paraprofessional), Mara Koning (EL Social Worker), Jim Levering (Elementary Administrator), Sarah Lozano (EL Spanish), Cessie Wright (College Advisor/Teacher)

Public Present:
Henrik Bauman, Arabella Benson, Gina Buma, Errol Goldman, Megan Hanneken, Marisol Lopez, Courtney Stahl

Media Present:
None

Item 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no corrections, all minutes of the Board's February 16, 2026 meeting were approved upon a motion by Mr. McGough, seconded by Mr. McDonald. (6-0)

Item 4. BUSINESS REPORT

Ms. Carlson outlined the January and February financial reports and explained the updated format. The budget is trending as expected. Project Term expenses are on the horizon and

she thanked Mr. Middleton and Ms. Ames for their work to reduce costs and redundancy on the larger field trips. She also shared that they will be meeting next month to review options for next year's medical benefits.

Motion to approve the 2025-2026 Budget Amendment 1. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Ms. Bauman, seconded by Ms. Bast. (6-0)

Motion to approve the upcoming out of state trips as presented. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Mr. McDonald, seconded by Ms. Bauman. (6-0)

Item 5. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Mr. Brunink introduced Ms. Wright to share about her role as College Advisor. The presentation gave an overview focused on programming and resources provided to Black River students. She answered questions about the demographics served, work load, and spectrum of need. She also highlighted both scholarship and FAFSA completion statistics for our students.

Mr. Levering outlined some of the after school enrichment opportunities for this spring including Rats on the Run and Total Trek Quest. He thanked the volunteers that make these along with events like the recent Spelling Bee possible. Black River's Ram Sundar took first place in the county bee with Matthew Tan tied for second. He also expressed gratitude for the work it took to organize this Spring's bookfair which provides support for the book vending machine and classroom libraries. BR's Kindergarten students had their yearly event at the Herrick Library. He also highlighted an opportunity for our elementary students to attend a STEAM intensive summer camp at Hope College. Mr. Levering updated the board on a staff member's recent health concern and explained how the BR community is rallying around them.

Mr. Donnelly shared with those present a statement outlining a recent incident of racism and disparaging words from a member of an opposing team toward a BR player. He indicated that this is not tolerated on Black River's campus and we believe it is important for serious consequences to be assigned to reflect the gravity of the behavior. He was grateful for the communication with the family involved and explained that they were pleased with the response of the school.

Mr. Donnelly also shared that he continues to attend conferences and training to learn all he can about campus safety.

Mr. Brunink updated the board on the recent enrollment lottery outlining trends in the OAISD. He is proud that parents continue to choose BR and believe in the mission of who we are. Middle and High School course selections are underway for next school year and state testing will begin after Spring Break. He thanked Ms. Jen Wise for her incredible work to make these things happen. He also shared that Rep. Nancy DeBoer visited campus with a MAPSA representative to read to our elementary students.

Item 7. FACULTY COUNCIL REPORT

Ms. Lozano stated that Faculty Council met with the board sub committee and is looking forward to continuing to collaborate about their recommendations.

Item 4. STUDENT REPORT

Ms. Benson and Mr. Bauman highlighted recent spring sporting events, music performances, field trips, BRTC production, and testing. They explained that Student Council's next focus will be on Prom planning.

Item 8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. McGough shared that he has recently received a few emails about Black River's cell phone policy and appreciates the continued discussion.

Item 9. GVSU REPORT

Ms. Stahl indicated that applications for the reappointment of BR's board members whose terms are ending are now with the GVSU board for approval. She thanked members for completing this year's board trainings and highlighted upcoming MDE changes. She also outlined multiple events members of the board could participate in the coming month.

Item 10. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. McGough spoke about the work of the Faculty Council sub committee of the board. He also invited those interested to join Ms. Bauman for another upcoming meeting with Mr. Donnelly about campus security.

Item 11. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business brought before the board.

Item 12. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Davis reflected on the statement shared by Mr. Donnelly about the recent behavior issue on campus. He emphasized the importance of protecting Black River's culture of working toward a world view and focusing on accountability and respect. The board offered to support in any way they are able.

Item 13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50pm.

NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:30pm on April 20, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

~~Mary M. Mims, Secretary~~

Thomas M McCaugh 4.20.26
President