BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL

Board Meeting Minutes

April 20, 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 5:33pm on April 20, 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, Matt Benson, Craig Davis, Kim Koeman, TJ McDonald, Tom McGough, Mary Mims

Members Absent:
Abe Carillo

Staff Present:
Shannon Brunink (Head of School), Michelle Byrne (Administrative Assistant), Rachel Carlson (Business Director), Kim Gasper (Paraprofessional), Mara Koning (EL Social Worker), Jim Levering (Elementary Administrator), Jake Stid (BR Teacher)

Public Present:
Henrik Bauman, Arabella Benson, Gina Buma, Krista

Media Present:
None

Item 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no corrections, all minutes of the Board's March 16, 2026 meeting were approved upon a motion by Mr. McGough, seconded by Mr. Benson. (8-0)

Item 4. BUSINESS REPORT

Ms. Carlson discussed the March financial report and gave an overview of what has changed from month to month. She reminded the board that we will continue to receive

2025-2026 revenue from the state through August. She will work on the 2026-2027 budget in May and it will be presented at the scheduled June meeting.

Motion to adopt the food service contract renewal with Aramark for the 2026-2027 school year. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Ms. Bast, seconded by Ms. Bauman. (8-0)

Motion to adopt the 2026-2027 board meeting calendar. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Mr. Mcdonald, seconded by Ms. Mims. (8-0)

Item 5. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Mr. Levering presented highlights from the last month including the 5th grade field trip to Lansing, lower elementary musical, and swimming lessons. The reading month fundraiser contributed more than $2,700 to stock the book vending machine and he praised Ms. Alaina Kramer for her work as BR's Literacy Coach. He shared how valuable Letters Training has been for the staff to create a cohesive approach to literacy. Kindergarten screening is underway and has been an incredibly helpful tool over the years to prepare for our incoming students. He also shared how much fun the students had with the Brain Break Academy assembly that was their Ratraiser award.

Mr. Brunink explained that Mr. Donnelly has continued to meet with members of the board to help everyone gain a better understanding of BR's safety plan. Ms. Bauman, Mr. Benson, and Mr. McGough expressed appreciation for this work and plan to continue this connection. Updates to the cell phone policy continue to roll out with the latest step be to not allow cell phones out at all in the classroom. Post lottery applications continue to come in and this year's standardized testing is underway. He explained that although BR's focus is on a well rounded education instead of teaching to a test we tend to do well on these evaluations. He praised Ms. Jen Wise as the "unsung hero" behind the scenes that make things like testing, project term, and scheduling come together.

Mr. Brunink was grateful to GVSU for sponsoring his attendance at this year's ASU GSV conference where he was able to make some great connections. Some of these included networking and content specific to charter schools. He credited the ability to rely on his colleagues to keep things running smoothly as what makes these experiences possible. Mr. Brunink answered questions from the board about testing and cell phones.

Item 7. FACULTY COUNCIL REPORT

Mr. Stid said that Faculty Council is preparing for their next meeting with the board sub committee and beginning the process for the election of their 2026-2027 members.

Item 4. STUDENT REPORT

Ms. Benson and Mr. Bauman provided highlights, stats, and schedule for spring athletics and shared that Spring Thing is coming up the beginning of May. Other highlights included Fine Arts Night, the BR Theater Company's upcoming performance, National Honor Society ceremony, testing, Rat Race, Prom, and graduation.

Item 8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. McGough met with Mr. Levering to talk about general technology in the elementary. He said he appreciates the communication he has received from a few parents over the last month and also wanted to congratulate Mr. Brent Rowe on his great finish for his race today in Boston.

Item 9. GVSU REPORT

In Ms. Stahl's absence Ms. Carlson shared a few details that she emailed. One more board member will need to attend a board training session to meet this year's requirements. College prep week at GVSU will take place this summer and is geared toward giving 10th-12th grade students an academic and cultural experience. Mr. Stid spoke of a Future Presidents of America opportunity that Grand Valley has selected BR as one of the schools to pilot.

Item 10. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business for the board to address.

Item 11. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. McGough explained that Mr. Goldman will be retiring after this school year and they have been interviewing law firms to fill that role.

Item 12. PUBLIC COMMENT

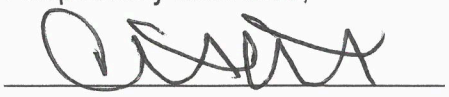
There was no public comment.

Item 13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:37pm.

NEXT MEETING:
The next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:30pm on May 18, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,



Tom McGough
Board President