BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL

Board Meeting Minutes

May 18, 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 May 18, 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, TJ McDonald, Tom McGough, Mary Mims

Members Absent:
Matt Benson, Abe Carillo, Craig Davis, Kim Koeman

Staff Present:
Michelle Byrne (Administrative Assistant), Rachel Carlson (Business Director), John K. Donnelly (Dean of Students), Jim Levering (Elementary Administrator), Sue Martinez (Special Education Director), Adam Naylor-Tatterson (BR Teacher)

Public Present:
Henrik Bauman, Gina Buma, Errol Goldman, Megan Hanneken, Courtney Stahl

Media Present:
None

Item 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no corrections, all minutes of the Board's April 20, 2026 meeting were approved upon a motion by Mr. McGough, seconded by Mr. McDonald. (5-0)

Item 4. BUSINESS REPORT

Ms. Carlson explained that the OAISD budget for the upcoming school year needs to be approved by the boards of area districts and answered questions.

Motion to approve the resolution of the OAISD budget for the 2026-2027 school year. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Mr. McGough, seconded by Ms. Bauman. (5-0)

She distributed a pre-budget packet ahead of the June meeting to allow members time to review prior to the vote to approve. She explained the yearly flow from original budget to adjusted, to final budget and how estimates become actual during the financial audit in August.

Item 5. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Mr. Levering celebrated the end of year traditions that make our student experiences special. This included the senior walk through, 5th grade graduation, and field day. Students in 4th and 5th grade have begun Project Term and grades 1-3 will finish out the last two weeks of the year with these classes. He also shared some of the many summer programs to combat learning loss. Finally, Mr. Levering congratulated Ms. Kreuze on the arrival of her twins and indicated that we will be interviewing to fill that opening in the near future.

Mr. Donnelly explained that Project Term has been a fun change in atmosphere and highlighted some of the classes offered. He thanked Mr. Middleton for his work on the Honors programs for both Middle School and High School. Everything is ready for senior graduation which will be held on Thursday, May 28th. Final approval will be submitted for next year's student planners.

Mr. McGough thanked Mr. Donnelly for his continued diligence with the security plan.

Ms. Martinez, Black River's Director of Special Education, distributed an overview of her department's program and services. She explained that 12% of our school's population receive these services and highlighted the many ways these needs are met.

Item 7. FACULTY COUNCIL REPORT

Mr. Naylor-Tatterson distributed and explained this year's recommendations from Faculty Council. The themes of these recommendations were developed by compiling information from the staff survey. They will continue to meet with members of the board and Administration to discuss ways to work on these ideas. He also indicated that Mr. Danckaert and Mr. Morse will fill the open positions left by Mr. Stid and Ms. Masse for the upcoming school year.

Item 4. STUDENT REPORT

Mr. Bauman shared that now that exams are done Project Term in the Middle/High School is fully underway. He highlighted some of the classes offered and gave an overview of the current sports standings as those seasons come to an end. Fine Arts Night was a great success and included a mixture of art displays and performances. Spring Thing, Prom, and senior graduation are additional high points of this time of year.

Item 8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. McGough shared his experience with and encouraged members of the board to attend graduation along with other end of year events. With Mr. Goldman's retirement on the horizon, they have been interviewing law firms to fill that role.

Item 9. GVSU REPORT

Ms. Stahl recognized Ms. Bast for finishing 5 years of service on Black River's board of trustees. She also presented the school with a plaque honoring their 30 years as a school. She indicated that Mr. McGough and Ms. Bauman will be sworn in for the renewal of their terms and explained a new website the CSO will roll out in June.

Ms. Stahl also explained this year's school performance review and indicated that although there is always a goal of improvement this data is something to be proud of. There are no concerns from GVSU.

Mr. Levering wanted to thank Ms. Kramer and Ms. Ames whose work directly impacted the data growth seen in the elementary.

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 7:02pm.

NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:30pm on June 22, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

