BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board Meeting Minutes
Public Hearing Regarding 2026-2027 Budget
June 22, 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 5:35pm on June 22, 2026, in the Large Ensemble Room 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 Carrillo, Kim Koeman, TJ McDonald, Tom McGough, Mary Mims

Members Absent:
Craig Davis

Staff Present:
Shannon Brunink (Head of School), Rachel Carlson (Business Director), John K. Donnelly (Dean of Students), Jim Levering (Elementary Administrator), Dustin Danckaert (BR Teacher)

Public Present:
Errol Goldman, Sarah Kornfield, Tom Chappell, Claire Rumpsa, Becky Pomp, Crystal Ludwig DeJong, Rebecca Padnos Altamirano, Jennifer Johnson, Gary Egans, Julie Evans, Kendra Thomas, Jonathan Buma, Scott Rumpsa, Donald Taylor, Alex Cibor, Stephanie Chrisman, Daniel Poppen, Staci Wykes, Susanna Childress Banner

Media Present:
None

Item 3. PRESENTATION OF PROPOSED 2026-2027 BUDGET

Ms Carlson distributed and explained the proposed 2026-27 budget (general, food service, capital projects, and school/student activity fund). She highlighted that the fund balance is in the target zone and explained the proposed changes. Mr. McGough thanked Ms. Carlson for her excellent work.

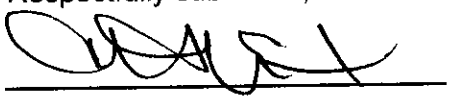
Item 4. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

Item 5. ADJOURNMENT

The public hearing adjourned at 5:58pm.

Respectfully submitted,



BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board Meeting Minutes
June 22, 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 5:59pm on June 22, 2026, in the Large Ensemble Room 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 Carrillo, Kim Koeman, TJ McDonald, Tom McGough, Mary Mims

Members Absent:
Craig Davis

Staff Present:
Shannon Brunink (Head of School), Rachel Carlson (Business Director), John K. Donnelly (Dean of Students), Jim Levering (Elementary Administrator), Dustin Danckaert (BR Teacher)

Public Present:
Errol Goldman, Sarah Kornfield, Tom Chappell, Claire Rumpsa, Becky Pomp, Crystal Ludwig DeJong, Rebecca Padnos Altamirano, Jennifer Johnson, Gary Evans, Julie Evans, Kendra Thomas, Jonathan Buma, Scott Rumpsa, Donald Taylor, Alex Cibor, Stephanie Chrisman, Daniel Poppen, Staci Wykes, Susanna Childress Banner and others

Media Present:
None

Item 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no corrections, all minutes of the Board's May 18, 2026 meeting were approved upon a motion by Mr. McGough, seconded by Mr. Benson. (8-0)

Item 4. BUSINESS REPORT

Ms. Carlson reminded the Board that the fiscal year ends June 30, 2026 with the annual audit coming in August. She explained the reasons behind the changes in the budget. Mr. McGough thanked Ms. Carlson again for her work and modernizations in presenting the budget.

Motion to approve the final amended budgets (general, food service, capital projects, and school/student activity fund) for 2025-2026 as presented. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Mr. McGough, seconded by Mr. Benson. (8-0)

Motion to accept the proposed budgets (general, food service, capital projects, and school/student activity fund) for 2026-2027 as presented. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Mr. McGough, seconded by Mr. Benson. (8-0)

Item 5. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Mr. Levering shared about end of the year traditions in the elementary school including field day, 5th grade graduation, and the red carpet. He said elementary summer camps started last week, and summer enrichment programming begins July 6. Mr. McGough congratulated Mr. Levering on the 5th grade graduation improvements and excellent summer programming offerings. Mr. McDonald thanked Mr. Levering for his efforts to prevent the summer slide among students.

Mr. Donnelly reminded the board of Black River's anti-bullying policy and follow-up that occurs when a case is reported, in compliance with state regulations. He thanked teachers and support staff for their work.

Mr. Brunink highlighted that we are celebrating 30 years of Black River! He shared end of the year highlights, including graduation and the many academic and athletic achievements of this year's graduates. He also shared Ms. Gaffney's request to change the wording of our mission statement within the curriculum category.

Mr. Brunink then thanked the many members of the public for their attendance and interest in technology policies. He stated that the elementary school will adopt an Away for the Day policy in 2026-27, highlighted that the middle and high school policy is already ahead of state policy, and shared that he is initiating a technology policy task force among area superintendents. Mr. Carillo congratulated Mr. Brunink on BR's 30 years and encouraged us to share this milestone more broadly. Mr. McGough thanked Mr. Brunink for creating a positive school culture and for the wonderful graduation and honors assemblies this spring. Mr. McDonald asked for clarity on which superintendents will be on the technology policy task force and Mr. Brunink clarified that all OAISD superintendents are invited. Ms. Koemen asked for clarity about the elementary technology policy for the 2026-27 school year.

Motion to change the wording of Black River's mission statement regarding core curriculum from "foreign" languages to "world" languages. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Ms. Koemen, seconded by Mr. Carrillo. (8-0)

Motion to approve Black River's MHSAA membership for the 2026-2027 school year. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Mr. Carrillo, seconded by Ms. Bauman. (8-0)

Item 6. FACULTY COUNCIL REPORT

Mr. Danckaert shared that next year's faculty council members are Mr. Murphy, Ms. Lozano, Mr. Naylor-Tatterson, Ms. Gorris and himself. Ms. Koemen asked for clarification about the selection process.

Item 7. STUDENT REPORT

There was no student report.

Item 8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. McGough thanked Mr. Goldman for his fifteen years of service to the board and his incredible support of the school. Mr. McGough acknowledged the efforts of parents and community members regarding technology policies and announced an upcoming survey about technology that will launch in July, with follow up conversation in August. He also reported that strategic planning is ongoing.

Motion to approve the new slate of board officers, effective July 1st for the 2026-2027 school year. The resolution passed unanimously upon a motion by Mr. Benson, seconded by Mr. McDonald. (8-0)

President - Tom McGough
Vice President - Elisabeth Bauman
Treasurer - Matt Benson
Secretary - Mary Mims

Item 9. GVSU REPORT

There was no GVSU report. Mr. Benson was sworn in for an additional three year term by Mr. McGough.

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

Sarah Kornfield, BR elementary parent and Hope communications professor, expressed her support of an Away for the Day technology policy as outlined in the binders distributed to board members. She also shared her observations and experiences in the classroom as a Hope professor, as well as her recommendations.

Tom Chappell shared his experience as a Little Hawks outdoor preschool teacher and the early childhood impacts of technology on learning.

Claire Rumpsa, BR elementary parent, voiced her appreciation of BR and thanked the board for their partnership. She shared Dr. Jeanne Poel's observations and recommendations as a local pediatrician and reminded the board that more details can be found in the email section of the binder.

Jennifer Johnson, BR elementary parent, shared her experiences as a BR lunch and recess support staff and the unique challenges technology poses during this time of day.

Becky Pomp, BR parent, shared her concerns about increased temptations to cheat because of access to phones/tech in the classroom.

Julie Evans, BR student, spoke about her experiences as a student and the many difficulties and challenges that arise because of phones and technology in the classroom.

Gary Evans, BR parent, invited the board to consider comparable scenarios from the past that would equate with the challenges of technology today.

Crystal Ludwig DeJong expressed her support of an Away for the Day policy. As a former teacher, she also voiced concerns about access to phones during a lockdown scenario.

Rebecca Padmos Altamirano, BR parent, expressed her support of an Away for the Day policy and shared her experiences as a former teacher in California. She raised concerns about loneliness and harm that can come through technology, as well as its detrimental effect on learning.

Kendra Thomas, BR parent and Hope psychology professor, cited numerous studies that support an Away for the Day policy. She also shared concerns about negative side effects and harm from access to phones in school.

Jonathan Buma, BR parent and lawyer, spoke to the board's role of oversight and the school's role of care during the school day.

Scott Rumpsa, BR elementary parent and CEO of Community Action House, encouraged BR to adopt an Away for the Day policy and challenged the board to become leaders in technology policy in the area.

Donald Taylor, BR elementary parent, encouraged the board to move toward a solution around technology and shared his experiences as a parent managing technology usage at home.

Alex Cibor, BR elementary parent, spoke to the benefits of technology limits. He also stressed that communication is not an issue and scheduling issues should not be a driving factor in a technology policy.

Stephanie Chrisman, BR parent, spoke about how to manage technology restrictions better and encouraged more parental involvement.

Dan Poppen, BR parent, shared his concerns about technology in the classroom, and how phones, specifically, can become addicting.

Stacie Wykes, BR parent, suggested using email to communicate changes that can happen during a school day rather than texting and using phones.

Susanna Childress Banner, BR parent, related her experiences of not giving her kids phones, even in middle and high school. She also said she has never had any problems getting communications from the school about changes in scheduling that happen during the day.

Item 13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:11pm.

NEXT MEETING:
The next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:30pm on August 31, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

