BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL

Board Meeting Minutes

October 19, 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 October 19, 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, Abe Carillo, Kim Koeman, Tom McGough, TJ McDonald

Members Absent:
Mary Mims

Staff Present:
Shannon Brunink (Head of School), Michelle Byrne (Administrative Assistant), Rachel Carlson (Business Director), Jim Levering (Elementary Administrator), Sarah Lozano (BR Teacher), Amanda Lubbers (Business Manager)

Public Present:
Henrik Bauman, Arabella Benson, Gina Buma, Megan Hanneken, Claire Rumpsa, Courtney Stahl, Jennifer Trocke

Media Present:
None

Item 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no corrections, all minutes of the Board's September 21, 2026 meeting were approved upon a motion by Ms. Bast, seconded by Mr. McDonald. (7-0)

Item 4. STUDENT REPORT

Mr. Bauman and Miss Benson highlighted athletic achievements as teams move in to districts and toward the end of their seasons. Meetings for winter sports teams have begun during CAP. They also shared a recap of Homecoming events including the pep rally, game, and dance.

Item 5. BUSINESS REPORT

Ms. Carlson distributed this year's audit to members of the board and indicated that our auditor met with the Finance Committee last week. She explained the overall analysis and was excited to share that there were no findings or recommendations. She outlined how grants helped more than expected leaving the school in a great place moving in to this year. Gratitude was expressed for those involved that have made this come together well. Mr. Brunink also added his thanks for the work Ms. Carlson and Ms. Lubbers have done to modernize processes.

Item 6. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Mr. Levering indicated that they are analyzing fall assessment data to identify places in need of intervention. He thanked Ms. Carrie Ames and said that she has been instrumental in their work. He wanted to recognize Championship Martial Arts and showed appreciation for their partnership with RatRaiser and hosting a four week after school program here on campus. Black River is beginning a relationship with Kids Hope to pair mentors with students. Mr. Levering also shared information about this year's Trunk or Treat fundraiser for the Theater Department.

Mr. Brunink shared that Aramark and West Michigan Janitorial plan to partner with teachers and students at Young Adult Services to fill volunteer roles here on campus. He is excited that we can help in these work experience opportunities and feels it will be good for our students as well.

With the PSAT taking place last week, Mr. Brunink expressed his appreciation to Ms. Jen Wise for her unwavering dedication to coordinating student testing. Mid-term grades have been posted and Parent Teacher Conferences will be held next week. He also thanked Ms. Kelli Heneghan and Ms. Jen Wise for their work to keep our enrollment steady.

This year's RatRaiser fundraiser was an incredible success and raised more than $63,000. Mr. Brunink acknowledged the amazing volunteers and the powerful positivity of Ms. Mary VanEenenaam who led the initiative.

Item 7. FACULTY COUNCIL REPORT

Ms. Lozano shared Faculty Council's gratitude to all who worked on this year's cell phone policy. They met with the sub committee, spoke about nomination and recommendation timelines, and continue to work with staff.

Item 8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. McGough shared that he met with Mr. Carrillo and Mr. Benson to discuss the evolving plan for the upcoming strategic planning. They continue to look at broad data to identify opportunities and areas of need. He hopes to have a formal working session in January after they are able to compile information collected to bring back to the group.

Item 9. GVSU REPORT

Ms. Stahl praised Black River for keeping up to date on Epicenter submissions and reminded the board the timeline for approval if they choose to nominate a new board candidate. The contract renewal meeting is set to kick things off the week of November 9th. She outlined upcoming training opportunities, the board retreat, and the learning walk BR will host next month. Ms. Stahl also recognized the school as a top performer in their portfolio on the SAT.

Item 10. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. McGough stated that the 4 student rep candidates interviewed would all be great additions to the group and will be notified of next steps. Next month's meeting will focus on external connections and an update from Mr. Donnelly on how things are going with cell phones.

Item 11. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business brought before the board.

Item 12. PUBLIC COMMENT

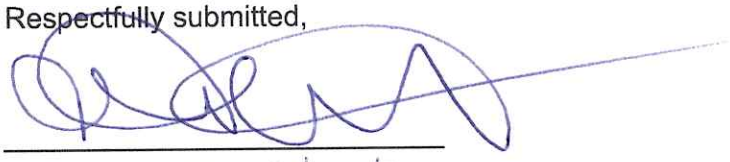
Ms. Hanneken requested to be surveyed annually as an opportunity to provide feedback in a wider range of areas. She explained how this could benefit both families and the school.

Item 13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:52pm.

NEXT MEETING:
The next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:30pm on November 16, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,



Board President