

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF BLACK HAWK
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MARCH 11, 2026



The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm in the upper commons by President Dee Paulson the following members were present Dee Paulson, Jim Baumgartner, Mindy Stauffacher, Clayton Ruegsegger, Jason Figi, Cali Schliem arrived late absent Val Dunlavey also present was Administration of Willy Chambes, Tammy Zimmerman, Eric Erickson and 5 guests.

Motion by Baumgartner and seconded by Figi to approve to consent to agenda which includes the financial report as presented: which includes checks written, ACH payments, journal entries, cash receipts, and the cash reconciliation for the prior month, posting of the agenda, minutes from the February 11, 2026 meeting, resignation of paraprofessionals Shawna Gallagher, Amiee Blackburn. The motion carried on a voice vote.

Administration Report:

Chambers: Mr. Milz will not be present tonight. He has been ill for a couple of days and did not want to share the fun.

I want to thank Bud Strunz for taking the time and initiative to discuss the lack of delivery of the EDDM to all the Browntown residents. Bud was able to recover the cost of the mailing, which was deposited back in the activities account from which it came. Apparently, this was not the first time deliveries were missed, and the post office has dealt with the issue.

I have secured a bid for an option for VLN Education to offer Spanish I and possibly Spanish II for the district. There are also slightly different options that they offer for higher-level courses.

The Region 9 New School Board Member meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 22, from 7 to 9 PM at the CESA #3 building in room c/d. The facility is located at 1300 Industrial Drive, Fennimore.

I have added a referendum presentation to my list. On March 24, 2026, I will be presenting at the Gratiot Community Center at 5:30 PM. If you have any additional ideas of where to present, please let me know.

I thank Kevin and Seth Dunlavey for coming in and looking at the receptacle for the sound system in the gym. Thank you to Val for keeping on top of items that need to be done to get everything for the sound system.

I thank the referendum committee for their efforts to provide information to the community and for putting the information in very consumable format. information

Dee Paulson was recognized with Level 1 achievement from WASB.

Milz:

- Tara Kammes, M.S. student council advisor, completed running a cookie dough fundraising effort to continue to raise funds for middle school related activities, such as the annual ski trip and incentive activities for 4th and 5th graders. We want to thank her for continuing the work that needs to be done to continue what has become a tradition here at Black Hawk Middle School. Ms. Kammes rewarded the top sellers by taking them to Sherrel Jean's diner for malts and sundaes. Big thank you to our students and all of the community members who purchased items supporting our students.
- Elementary staff hosted for students during the week of March 2-7, Read Across America Week, a spring fling for the elementary students. Each day was a different dress up day and reading challenge for our students. High school students were paired up with elementary students for some collaborative reading. Thank you to high school student council, middle school student council, and Black Hawk FFA, for reading to our elementary students.
- Last week was FFA week. The week was filled with FFA officers greeting our student body at the doors in the morning, handing out dairy products and produce. Thank you to Lisa Hagen and her small business, "Baking Me Happy" for making the cookies for the students to hand out.

- Musical, Little Women, will be performed at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 27; Saturday, March 27 @ 7 pm; and Sunday matinee performance at 2 p.m. on March 29. I would like to thank Mr. Duff-Bowers, Mr. Sniff, and Mr. Amweg for their work in preparing our students for this performance. Students are working very hard right now, putting in some long days, we are proud of their efforts. Also, I would like to thank Isaach Cheatham and Mr. Gary Cooley for assisting with set design.
- Freshman – juniors will be registering for their 2026-2027 classes this month. I will not begin putting the master schedule together until after Mr. Chambers can provide more direction after April.
- Mr. Behlke took a team to the JA Titan business simulation competition at Madison College on March 4. The team consisted of Javin Stietz, Brody Argall, Shane Wand, Jackson Berget, Justin Patton, and David Eckerman. “They won the imaginary trophy for Best Dressed at the competition.”
- On March 5, Ms. Crotty took the sophomores and juniors to Monroe High School for the Green County Youth Apprenticeship Job Fair.
- 4K Screenings for the 2026-2027 school year will be taking place on March 30 and March 31.
- Forensics team will be competing on March 17 at the District meet in Barneveld, for an opportunity to compete at Forensics State being held at Neenah High School on April 11.
- Black Hawk’s Digital Marketing class will be making the new logo for the Browntown Foundry, after Grede sold the foundry to TRM Equity. The students toured the facility to brainstorm some ideas.
- Brian Kenney, funded by a School-Based Mental Health Services grant, continues to work with our students on building class cohesion, teamwork, and sense of belonging with our students. This past month he has been working with our 2nd - 5th graders.
- March 11th’s Professional Collaboration Day focused on final preparations for state testing which begins on March 17 with 3rd - 5th grade Forward testing and middle school Forward testing. High school Pre-ACT and ACT statewide testing will take place on March 24 and March 25. Additionally, m.s. and h.s. teachers continued their focus on grade level writing and using A.I. to help give students immediate feedback on their writing. Elementary teachers examined student achievement data on our district diagnostic tools, Aimsweb, Fastbridge for reading and IReady for mathematics.
- Brooks Duff-Bowers was chosen by his peers as the Feb. Employee of the Month. Mr. Duff-Bowers serves the district as our high school special education instructor, Gifted and talented coordinator, E-sports coach, Sources of Strength advisor, and our musical director. Brooks goes above and beyond to help all of our staff build an understanding and accommodation for many of our students who are experiencing school in different capacities. Mr. Duff-Bowers is a tremendous asset to the students and staff at Black Hawk

Erickson:

- The Winter seasons are all finished for our student/athletes. Post-season honors went to:
 - Boys Basketball - Honorable Mention All-Conference to Cole Dunlavey, Grant Quinn, and Jacob Woodruff. Brody Argall was named after the Sportsmanship team.
 - Girls Basketball - 2nd Team All-Conference went to Mya Milz. Maddy Place was selected for the Honorable Mention team. Emily Figi was named to the Sportsmanship Team.
 - Wrestling - Evan Sigafus was named to the First Team Ridge and Valley Wrestling All-Conference team. Emma Hocking, a team member from Shullsburg School District, was named to the First Team as a girl. Trent Bidlingmaier was named to the boys’ second team. Brigitte Stauffacher and Isabella Bird (Shullsburg) were named to the second team.
- The wrestling coop finished well, and most were happy with the first season as it was a learning experience for many of us. It culminated with a pep rally for Evan Sigafus, who qualified for the state tournament.
- We have started to migrate all scheduling over to Bound Wisconsin. After we have been granted access to the system, it’s a tedious process, but it has been going ok.
- I have been talking with coaches, parents, administrators, and the WIAA about the future of our basketball programs. Each of the programs, boys and girls, had issues during the season with participation numbers. These issues were created by injuries, illness, ineligibility, and general low participation numbers, which created challenges for each program during the season. It resulted in canceling the JV season on the girls’ side and needing to alter the JV games on the boys’ side, including a cancellation. There are several scenarios we are looking at for the future. On the boys’ side of things, our numbers are able to maintain teams at both levels, but there is not a lot of room for the previously mentioned circumstances. Coach Michael Flanagan has indicated that his numbers should be similar, if not a bit higher, over the next few years.

We had two players this past season who moved from basketball to wrestling. This is not a bad thing, but it was a reality in terms of participation numbers. The girls' program is where we need to focus more of our time to determine what steps we take moving forward. As you may recall, prior to last season, we had parent and community meetings regarding all of our winter sports. At that time, it was decided that we would continue to play girls' basketball on our own and try to develop teams at both levels. With the onset of the issues above, we find ourselves looking at a few options:

- Continue 'as is' - We will graduate 4 seniors this season (one did not play due to a career-ending injury during the summer) and our 8th grade only had 2 girls. We finished the season with 8 girls suited to play. With these numbers, it would result in only a varsity team.
- Move to play only a JV schedule or modify to a JV/Varsity schedule where we choose which games would be varsity and JV. This was one of WIAA's suggested remedies.
- Coop with another school that would be willing to forego their WIAA tournament eligibility. We have started to have those conversations with Juda. These talks are in the very beginning stages, and we will be in discussions in the coming weeks. Juda has initiated this proposal and has included both the girls' and boys' programs.
- Spring Sports - Track started on Monday with 43 kids out. The first few days of practice were energetic and productive. Baseball coaches have met with some of the boys here at Black Hawk a couple of times and will start pitcher's conditioning next Monday and full team on March 23. Right now, they are holding a meeting in Argyle for parents and players for the baseball season. Softball also begins next week, on March 16. Coach Ganshert has been in contact with our players, although I will not have numbers for either of those sports until they start practices.

Question was asked about the Basketball program for both Girls and Boys we should act on something sooner rather than later to better give a direction to all for Basketball and have something to act on next month.

Board of education: It was noted that Canvas of Election results will take place on April 10, 2026, at 2:00 pm in the District office. A big shoutout to Danica Hay-Skattum, Bud and Pagie Strunz, Dusty Williams, Melissa Pickett for all the work that they are doing for Community Pride for the referendum next meeting will be Monday March 16, 2026, at 6:00 pm. Dee Paulson was also recognized for achieving Level # 1 for WASB.

Donations:

Pat Baumgartner		Donated funds to cover the cost of the State FBLA Overnight Trip	
Very Generous Donors to the Shop with a Cop Program (Lafayette County)		Clothing and hygiene supplies for students.	February
Community Bank		Financial Literacy Program - Banzai (\$695/year for the last 3 years)	
Jason and Linda Figi		Picking up popcorn kettle	
Brandon Behlke	Coaching	High School Basketball	
Brandon Behlke	Game manager	2/13 Girls Basketball Game	
Brandon Behlke	teacher sub	sub for others - no hours submitted	

Public comment was called for: None.

Motion by Figi and seconded by Stauffacher to approve FBLA overnight trip to Green Bay on April 12-14, 2026, and Thanks to Pat Baumgartner for donating money to cover the cost of part of the trip. The motion carried on a voice vote.

Motion by Ruegsegger and seconded by Baumgartner to approve FFA overnight trip to Stevens point to attend the E.D.G.E. Middle School Conference March 20-21, 2026. The motion carried on a voice vote.

Motion by Stauffacher and seconded by Figi to approve overnight cheerleading camp on June 28-30, 2026, in Des Moines, Iowa for the NCA High School Cheerleading Camp. The motion carried on a voice vote.

Motion by Figi and seconded by Stauffacher to approve Academic Excellence Scholarship Recipient as Ms. Alyvia Ruegsegger and alternates of Ms. Kiera Brunner and Ms. Mya Milz The motion carried on a voice vote. Ruegsegger abstained

Motion by Figi and seconded by Stauffacher to approve technical excellence scholarship recipient as Ms. Taylor Stegall and approve alternates of Ms. Payton Stietz and Mr. Cooper Hagen. The motion carried on a voice vote.

Motion by Ruegsegger and seconded by Figi to approve Dual Credit/Dual Enrollment for 12 students that have requested to do so. The motion carried on a voice vote.

Motion by Baumgartner and seconded by Stauffacher to approve updating the employee handbook bereavement and emergency to include one day of Bereavement for Grandparent in law. The motion carried on a voice vote.

Motion by Ruegsegger and seconded by Schliem to approve the attachment as presented outlining the definition Good Standing students for the purpose of dual enrollment courses. The motion carried on a voice vote.

Motion by Figi and seconded by Baumgartner to approve the calendar #1 as recommended by the calendar committee also wanted to have November 25, 2026 off for the Holiday and that was granted. The motion carried on a voice vote.

Motion by Figi and seconded by Baumgartner to approve CESA #3 Contract for 2026-27 at a cost of \$134,626. The motion carried on a voice vote.

Motion by Baumgartner and seconded by Stauffacher to approve Donna Gabel as part-time paraprofessional. The motion carried on a voice vote.

Motion by Baumgartner and seconded by Figi to convey to executive session at 6:45pm. President announcement of the purpose of executive session under 19.85(1) items b, c and f Wisconsin State Statutes personnel- Motion carried on a roll call vote YES-, Baumgartner, Stauffacher, Schliem, Ruegsegger, Paulson, Figi, NO-None, ABSENT Dunlavey .

The Board returned to open session at 7:46pm.

Act on matters deliberated in closed session: None

Motion by Ruegsegger and seconded by Stauffacher to adjourn at 7:47pm. The motion carried on a voice vote.

Next regular meeting is April 8, 2026, at 6:00 pm.

Submitted by,

Jason Figi, Clerk