

Columbia Heights Public Schools
Minutes of the
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
November 14, 2023

Chair Mueller called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Clerk Granlund called roll.

Members present: Ms. Granlund, Ms. Mueller, Ms. Palmer, Ms. Medearis, Ms. Houle, Ms. Pettway and Superintendent Stenvik

Members absent: None

HYLANDER HIGHLIGHT

For the state-recognized achievement in the categories of student broadcast, web, and print journalism by the Minnesota High School Press Association. The Heights Herald and the Hylander News Network (HNN). The Columbia Heights High School students: Alazar Getachew, Larisa Kadric, Muna Mohamed, Makagbe Sanoe. Columbia Heights High School teachers: Chris Polley and Matt Townsend.

AGENDA APPROVAL/ADJUSTMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Approval of Agenda motion by Houle, seconded by Palmer to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously

B. Announcements

- Nov. 21, Tue. 5:30 p.m. School Board Work Session, Community Room
- Nov. 23 & 24 No School, District Center Closed
- Nov. 28, Tue. 7:00 p.m. Regular School Board Meeting, Community Room
- Dec. 4, No School
- Dec. 12 5:00 Subcommittee on community engagement, Community room
- Dec. 12, 7:00 Regular School Board Meeting, Community Room

COMMUNICATION TO THE BOARD- None

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to approve the consent agenda as listed by Granlund, seconded by Pettway: Assurance of Compliance, School Board Minutes for October 10, 24 and 17. Policy Second Reading 518-DNR-DNI, 533-Wellness, 535 Service Animals in Schools, 540 Kindergarten Early Entry. All in favor, Motion carries.

Motion to approve the Personnel Report by Palmer seconded by Granlund, All in favor- Granlund, Mueller, Palmer, Houle, Pettway. Apposed-none Abstained- Medearis. Motion carries.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS

Motion to accept the Acknowledgment of Contributions Resolution by Member Medearis Whereas: Minnesota Statute 123B.02 permits school boards to "...receive, for the benefit of the district, bequests, donations, or gifts for any proper purpose and

apply the same to the purpose designated. In that behalf, the board may act as trustee of any trust created for the benefit of the district, and for the benefit of pupils thereof.” Therefore: Be it resolved by the School Board of Columbia Heights Public Schools, Independent School District No. 13 that the School Board accepts with appreciation the contributions, detailed in the background, in the amount of \$4,694 DETAILED BACKGROUND: Monetary • A donation of \$250 to the Activities Department from Clay and Sunshine Carter to support the CrossCountry team. • A donation for \$80 to the Activities Department from Michael and Judith Borrett, to support the Girls Swim and Dive Team. • Donations of \$20 to the Activities department by Joyce Spaeth, Tom Murphy, Alexandra Lewis Sadrant, Faith Schultz, and Paula Zettler for Fall Sports • Donations of \$50 to the Activities department by Gregory Johnson and Diane Johnson-Rose for Fall Sports • A donation of \$5 to the Activities department by Patricia Burger for Fall Sports • A donation of \$200 to the Activities department by Casey Baustian for Fall Sports • Donations of \$20 to the Activities department by Kristen Stuenkel, Diane Johnson-Rose, and Colleen Graf for NY Seminar • Donations of \$50 to the Activities department by Benjamin Hanson and Philip Doherty for NY Seminar • A donation of \$100 to the Activities department by Jennifer Blake for NY Seminar • A donation of \$200 to the Activities department by Michelle Radermacher for NY Seminar • A donation of \$10 to the Activities department by Becky Griseth for a Heights Herald Ad • Donations of \$20 to the Activities department by Amada Marquez Simula, Alissa Lyon, Pete Heryla, Jennifer Pyper-Muno, Erin Westerberg, Karen Karkula and Mary Granlund for a Heights Herald Ad • A donation of \$25 to the Activities department by Stacy Nekora Heights for a Herald Ad • A donation of \$1 to the Activities department by Sean Clerkin Heights Herald Ad • A donation of \$10 to the Activities department by Nancy Kessler-Moore for a Heights Herald Ad • Donations of \$5 to the Activities department by Troy Sagdalen, Sarah Godfrey, Isaac Glidden, Heidi Sell, Nicholas Rohne, Emily Hynes, Jessica Bolles Pulina Falcony at the Staff Taco Bar to support the NY Seminar. • A donation of \$8 to the Activities department by Dawn Hoiium at the Staff Taco Bar to support the NY Seminar. • Donations of \$10 to the Activities department by: Jennifer Blake, Billi Sirvio, Matthew Keseley, Philip Doherty, Sarah Matusovic, Molly Tengwall, Trisha Johnson, Nicholas Hollermann and Alyssa Isaacs at the Staff Taco Bar to support the NY Seminar. • Donations of \$20 to the Activities department by: Zena Stenvik, Sarah Hanf, Duane Berkas, Bryan Hennekens, and Katrina Kruse • A donation of \$50 to the Activities department by Todd Boyd at the Staff Taco Bar to support the NY Seminar. 39 Value in Kind • A donation of winter hats was made to Valley View from Mary Jenkins for student needs. Estimated value of \$45. • A donation of 350 gloves and mittens was made to Valley View from Rebecca Sundquist for student needs. Estimated value of \$3,000. Total fiscal year 2023-2024 monetary contributions to date: \$29,459.67 The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Member Pettway, and upon vote being taken thereon:

Mueller-Aye

Granlund-Aye

Medearis-Aye

Houle- Aye

Pettway -Aye

Palmer -Aye

The following voted against None. Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

REPORTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Pettway: Attended: The Alumni scholarship dinner, Truck or Treat, committee planning event for BIPOC at North Park and North Park Conferences, Celebration at LaBelle Park for Veterans Day.

Houle: Attended the Alumni Scholarship dinner, fielded several questions from the community about the levy, reviewed July and August expenses and attended the Subcommittee on Policy meeting.

Palmer: Attended Subcommittee on Community Engagement and Chair meeting.

Medearis: Attended the Alumni scholarship dinner, Conferences at Columbia Academy and Highland and Book fair at Columbia Academy and Highland, Safety night at Columbia Academy and Valley View, Truck or Treat, Highland PTO meeting. Subcommittee on Community Engagement and completed the final training of MSBA phase 4 on Community Engagement.

Granlund: Attended Alumni Scholarship dinner, Truck or Treat, AMSD Board of Directors Meeting, Robotics meet, Conferences at the high school, toured Columbia Academy with Representative Feist, Policy meeting, and fielded many questions from the community and staff.

Mueller: Attended Truck or Treat, Alumni Scholarship dinner, Black Men Teach gala, Toured Columbia Academy with Representative Feist and toured the high school with and Senator Kunesh, attended the Subcommittee on Policy and the Chair meeting. Had many conversations with members of the community, Member Granlund, Member Medearis and Superintendent Stenvik

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Would like to express gratitude to the community for supporting Columbia Heights Public schools with passage of the Operational Levy and renewal of the Capital Projects Levy, checked in with leaders of various employee groups within our district, attended the Alumni Scholarship dinner, Black Men Teach Gala, Truck or Treat, Safety Night and AMSD conference, Tour with Senator Kunesh and Representative Feist, and participated in conversations with Chair Mueller and Member Granlund.

ELEMENTARY BUILDING VISION CARDS

Bondo Nyembwe, Exec. Dir. of Educational Services, Jeff Cacek, North Park School for Innovation Principal; Michele Janke, Highland Elementary Principal; Jason Kuhlman, Valley View Elementary Principal.

The Columbia Heights Public School District Strategic Roadmap guides the vision and strategic directions. Each school in the district has developed a Building Vision Card with clear measurable objectives and report its annual progress on academic achievement, school climate, mental health and wellness, family engagement, communication and fiscal responsibility.

AMERICAN INDIAN EDUCATION UPDATE

Superintendent Stenvik, Laura Newton, and Yolanda Dorr-Slowey, presented an update. The school board was presented with information on the Columbia Heights American Indian Education Program which included: - American Indian Parent Advisory Council - Indian Education Program 2023-24 Goals - Indian Education Program Activities The goals and activities are determined collectively with the CHPS American Indian Parent Advisory Council, per state statute.

**CANVAS RETURNS OF SCHOOL DISTRICT'S SCHOOL BOARD SPECIAL ELECTION
RESOLUTION**

RESOLUTION CANVASSING RETURNS OF VOTES OF COLUMBIA HEIGHTS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 13 SPECIAL ELECTION HELD NOVEMBER 7, 2023 BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Columbia Heights Independent School District No. 13, State of Minnesota, as follows: 1. It is hereby found, determined and declared that the Special Election of the voters of this school district held on November 7, 2023, was in all respects duly and legally held. 2. As specified in the attached Abstract and Return of Votes Cast, a total of 2,632 voters of the district voted at said Special Election on the election of one (1) school board members for one (1) term to fill the unexpired term caused by a school board member resignation. Votes cast for the office are as follows: Candidate Votes Elected Cheryl Ekstrand 660 Michelle Pettway 1,576 X Gregg Westerberg 237 Write-In 12 3. Michelle Pettway, having received the highest number of votes, is elected to fill the unexpired term beginning immediately after receiving the certificate of election and taking the oath of office. 4. As specified in the attached Abstract of Votes Cast a total of 2,632 voters of the school district voted at said Special Election to consider Ballot Question No. 1 as follows: SCHOOL DISTRICT BALLOT QUESTION 1 Revoking Existing Referendum Revenue Authorization; Approving New Authorization The board of Independent School District No. 13 (Columbia Heights Public Schools), Minnesota has proposed to revoke the School District's existing referendum revenue authorization of \$308.93 per pupil and replace that authorization with a new authorization of \$827 per pupil, subject to an annual increase at the rate of inflation. The proposed referendum revenue authorization would be first levied in 2023 for taxes payable in 2024 and applicable for ten (10) years unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law. Shall the revocation of the existing referendum authorization and the new authorization proposed by the board of Independent School District No. 13 (Columbia Heights Public Schools), Minnesota be approved? 5. Votes cast for and against the question are as follows: Yes Votes No Votes Ballot Question No. 1 1,662 955 6. Ballot Question No. 1 having received the approval of at least a majority of such votes, is hereby declared to have carried. 7. As specified in the attached Abstract of Votes Cast a total of 2,632 voters of the school district voted at said Special Election to consider Ballot Question No. 2 as follows: SCHOOL DISTRICT BALLOT QUESTION 2 Renewal of Expiring Capital Project Levy The board of Independent School District No. 13 (Columbia Heights Public Schools), Minnesota has proposed to renew its capital project levy, scheduled to expire after taxes payable in 2024, in the maximum amount of 5.67% times the net tax capacity of the school district. The proposed renewal of the expiring capital project levy authorization will raise approximately \$1,994,898 for taxes payable in 2025, the first year it is to be levied, and would be authorized for ten (10) years. The estimated total cost of the projects to be funded over that time period is approximately \$19,948,980. The money raised by the proposed authorization will be used to cover the following costs: • deferred maintenance projects at various district facilities, including Safety and Security improvements; tuckpointing; repair and replacement of casework, windows and doors; athletic facility improvements; roof repair and replacement; plumbing repair and replacement; parking and driveway improvements; repair of water damage and siding repair and replacement; and mechanical and signage improvements; and • acquisition, installation, replacement, support and maintenance of software, improved technology, technology systems, network and infrastructure, and related training. The projects to be funded have received a positive review and

comment from the Commissioner of Education. Shall the renewal of the expiring capital project levy authorization proposed by the board of Independent School District No. 13 (Columbia Heights Public Schools), Minnesota be approved? 8. Votes cast for and against the question are as follows: Yes Votes No Votes Ballot Question No. 2 1,907 706 9. Ballot Question No. 2 having received the approval of at least a majority of such votes, is hereby declared to have carried. 10. The clerk is hereby directed to certify results of the General Election to the county auditors of each county in which the school district is located in whole or in part. 11. After the time for contesting the election has passed and the candidate has filed all campaign financial reports required by Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 211A, the clerk is hereby directed to deliver a certificate of election to each person entitled thereto. The clerk is also hereby directed to enclose with the certificate a form of acceptance of office and oath of office The Board was asked to approve a resolution certifying the balloting results from the November 7, 2023 Columbia Heights ISD #13 School Board Special election. Motion by Medearis and seconded by Houle to accept the amended Resolution.

Roll call vote:

Mueller-Aye

Granlund-Aye

Medearis-Aye

Houle- Aye

Pettway -Aye

Palmer -Aye

Resolution Passes.

BOARD TOPICS –

Granlund: Shared about the upcoming Choir concert for Columbia Academy, and wished everyone a Happy Native American Heritage Month.

Palmer: Community Engagement looking to provide more community engagement opportunities. Idea was to provide the opportunity for groups to request Board Members presence at events. Planning a listening session in the future.

Houle: Concern over current events and how they may be impacting the community of our schools, Superintendent Stenvik shared our strength is our Diversity and reports from staff and students is that they are feeling support from the schools.

Mueller: Lasagna pot luck for the work session November 21.

Medearis: Highland Turkey BINGO \$5 a card to play all night. Silent auction 5:30-7:00.

ADJOURNMENT

Having completed all of the items on the regular agenda, at 9:03p.m. Chair Mueller adjourned the meeting.

Date minutes approved

Mary Granlund, Clerk, Board of Education
Independent School District 13