

Columbia Heights Public Schools

Minutes of the REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING April 11, 2023

Vice 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. Houle, Ms. Medearis, Ms. Mueller, Ms. Palmer, Ms. Pettway and Superintendent Stenvik

Members absent: None

HYLANDER HIGHLIGHTS

The Board honored the Scholastic Art and Writing Award winners, Matthew Bermeo, Bianca Cole Avila, Yoselin Diaz Santos, Danielle Dickson, Sabaif Idris, Tamiah Jackson, Natalie Molina, Hannah Severson, Mae Skaja, Greta Wilson.

AGENDA APPROVAL/ADJUSTMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Approval of Agenda motion by Palmer, seconded by Medearis, to approve the agenda as presented.

B. Announcements

- April 18, Tue. 5:30 p.m. School Board Work Session, Community Room
- April 18, Tue. Following Work Session, School Board Sub-committee on Community Engagement
- April 25, Tue. 5:45 p.m. School Board Community Engagement Zoom
- April 25, Tue. 7:00 p.m. Regular School Board Meeting, Community Room
- May 9, Tue, 5:00 p.m. School Board Sub-committee on Policy, Community Room
- May 9, Tue. 7:00 p.m. Regular School Board Meeting, Community Room

COMMUNICATION TO THE BOARD – Elizabeth spoke about reading interventionist at North Park.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Houle, seconded by Palmer, to approve the action required for implementation of the items on the consent agenda. School Board Minutes for March 14 and 28 Regular School Board Meetings, March 21 Work Session and March 7 Joint Meeting with City Council. Policies second reading: 414: Mandated Reporting of Child Neglect, Physical or Sexual Abuse; 414 - Form; 529 - Staff Notification of Violent Behavior by Students. Personnel Report of April 11, 2023. Approve the employment of the following: **Licensed:** Angela Brown: Summer SLP; Jessica Nelson: Summer Special Education Teacher, CA; Peg Nelson: Environmental Camp Lead Teacher, HL; Danielle Berg: Environmental Camp Lead Teacher, HL; Alicean Caskey: Summer ENCORE EL Teacher, VV. **Support – Conditional:** Ava Helmer: Assistant Softball Coach, CHHS; Marjorie Vivanco: ECFE Assistant, CE. **Coach/Advisor/Additional Assignment:** Devon Minke: ENCORE Teacher, NPSfl; Morgan Bialke: ENCORE Teacher Substitute, VV. **Leave Requests:** Alix Kramme: Occup Therapist, DW, requests FMLA from 8/28/23 for up to 12 weeks. Dave Larson: Educ Asst, CHHS, requests medical leave from 3/22/23 for up to 12 weeks (intermittent). Stephanie Kistner: Custodian, CA, requests FMLA from 3/13/23-3/27/23. Resignations/Terminations: Kristen Ellingboe: English Teacher, CA, effective 6/9/23. Reason: Resignation. Motion Carried unanimously.

REPORTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Ms. Pettway attended Phase III with MSBA and the Fine Arts Night at North Park. Ms. Houle attended the policy meeting and has a meeting with Superintendent Stenvik on finances. Ms. Palmer attended the chair meeting. Ms.

Medearis reviewed some educational omnibus bills, reached out to former board member regarding participation in primaries, spoke with Member Mueller and Member Granlund, encouraged those listening to look at the MNDOT plans for Central Avenue and University Avenue and give feedback on the MNDOT website. Ms. Granlund attended the policy meeting, spoke with Chair Mueller, Member Medearis, Council Members Buesgens and Spriggs. Ms. Mueller attended the chair meeting, policy meeting, and had conversations with Member Granlund, Member Medearis and Superintendent Stenvik.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

Superintendent Stenvik reported she spoke at a Valley View training this week. She has been working on Student Board Representatives Networking session and talked with School Board members.

NORTHEAST METRO 916 PRESENTATION

Superintendent Boe and Director of Educational Services from Northeast Metro 916 presented information on services from the program. This is an informational item only.

STUDENT SCHOOL BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Columbia Heights Student School Board Representatives Anoosha Ali and Caroline Raleigh presented information on things that are going on at the High School and Student Board activities. This is an informational item only.

LEVY UPDATE

Directors Hennekens and Stuenkel presented information on a possible levy. This will be brought forward at a future meeting for approval.

TERMINATION OF PROBATIONARY TEACHER CONTRACTS RESOLUTION

Motion by Palmer, seconded by Medearis, to adopt the following resolution to terminate and non-renew the employment contracts of probationary teachers listed therein.

RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE TERMINATION AND NONRENEWAL OF THE TEACHING CONTRACTS OF PROBATIONARY TEACHERS

WHEREAS, the following persons are probationary teachers in Independent School District No. 13:

(See list below)

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 13, that pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 122A.40, Subdivision 5, the teaching contracts of those persons listed on page two of this resolution, probationary teachers in Independent School District No. 13, are hereby terminated and not renewed at the close of the current 2022-2023 school year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that written notice be sent to said teachers regarding termination and non-renewal of his/her contract as provided by law, and that said notice shall be in substantially the following form:

NOTICE OF TERMINATION AND NON-RENEWAL

Mr./Ms. _____

Dear Mr./Ms. _____:

You are hereby notified that at a regular meeting of the School Board of Independent School District No. 13 held on April 11, 2023, a resolution was adopted to terminate your contract effective at the end of the current school year and to not renew your contract for the 2023-2024 school year. Said action of the Board is taken pursuant to M.S. 122A.40, Subd. 5.

PROBATIONARY TEACHERS

Jennifer Bradd	Kyle Kaiser
Aaron Brennaman	Christopher Pashina
Adam Ward	Jessica Bolles
Hanen Bouchrit	Jack Difino
Faustina Allen	Megan Hughes
Ali Farah	Peder Haugsby
Peter McFarlane	Jessica Nelson
Dean Larimer	Montroy Scott
Kim Pepin	Jared Grabko
Morgan Bialke	Sarah Christianson
Kendra Lutteke	Alaina Larson

Roll Call Vote: Granlund – Aye
Houle – Aye
Medearis – Aye
Mueller – Aye
Palmer – Aye
Pettway – Aye

Resolution and Motion carried

REVOCATION OF RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING SCHOOL DISTRICTS PRIMARY ELECTION SYSTEM

Motion by Granlund, seconded by Pettway, to approve the Resolution for Revocation of Resolution Establishing School Districts Primary Election System as presented.

RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING THE GENERAL ELECTION SCHEDULE FOR SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS AND ELIMINATING PRIMARIES AS THE METHOD OF NOMINATION

WHEREAS, Pursuant to M.S. 205A.04, the School Board of Columbia Heights Independent School District #13 has resolved to hold general elections for school board member on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November in all even-numbered years; and

WHEREAS, M.S. 205A.03 states that the school board of a school district may, by resolution adopted by April 15 of any year, decide whether to choose nominees for school board by a primary; and

WHEREAS, the Board does not believe it is in the best interest of the district to continue to hold primary elections as part of the nomination process;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Columbia Heights Independent School District #13 that nominees for school board shall not be determined in a primary election and, instead, candidates who submit an Affidavit of Candidacy for the office of school board Member shall proceed directly to the regular scheduled general election held in November of each even-numbered year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution, upon adoption, shall be effective for all ensuing elections of school board members in this school district until it is revoked.

Roll Call Vote: Granlund – Aye
Houle – Aye
Medearis – Aye
Mueller – Aye
Palmer – Aye

Resolution and Motion carried

RESOLUTION REGARDING SCHOOL DISTRICT PRIMARY ELECTION SYSTEM RELATING TO SPECIAL ELECTIONS

Motion by Houle, seconded by Medearis, to approve the Resolution Regarding School District Primary Election System Relating to Special Elections as presented.

**RESOLUTION REGARDING SCHOOL DISTRICT PRIMARY ELECTION SYSTEM
RELATING TO SPECIAL ELECTIONS**

WHEREAS, M.S. 205A.03 states that the school board of a school district may, by resolution adopted by April 15 of any year, decide whether to choose nominees for school board by a primary; and

WHEREAS, the School Board of Columbia Heights Independent School District #13 (Board) has an obligation to govern the district with a commitment to fiscal responsibility; and

WHEREAS, there are no other elections taking place in November 2023 which would result in a primary election that would allocate part of the cost of a Special Election to other parties; and

WHEREAS, the Board passed a Resolution on April 11, 2023, to eliminate primary elections for the November 2023 election which is a Special Election for one vacant seat; and

WHEREAS, the Board passed the Resolution on eliminating primaries in accordance with State Statute, which eliminates primaries for all ensuing elections of board members in that school district until a Resolution requiring primaries is passed; and

WHEREAS, the Board carefully considered the Resolution to eliminate primaries and agreed that Primary Elections for non-Special Elections were an important part of the elections process;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 13, State of Minnesota, as follows:

1. Following the November 2023 Special Election, and before April 15, 2024, the Board is committed to acting on a Resolution reinstating Primary Elections for all ensuing elections of board members.
2. The Board will continue to assess Primary Elections for Special Elections on an as needed basis to best govern the district with a commitment to fiscal responsibility.
3. Should Primary Elections be reinstated, the school district primary elections shall be conducted pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 205A.03, as amended, and the Minnesota election laws generally. The school district clerk is authorized and directed to take such actions as necessary to be prepared to conduct primary elections.

Roll Call Vote: Granlund – Aye
Houle – Aye
Medearis – Aye
Mueller – Aye
Palmer – Aye
Pettway – Aye

Resolution and Motion carried

BOARD TOPICS – Ms. Houle asked about cyber security issues in the district as it relates to stories in the recent news regarding the topic. Ms. Medearis asked about the retirement celebration. Ms. Pettway asked about phone call from school with no one on the line when answered. Ms. Mueller asked for volunteers for the Community Engagement listening session on April 25, Ms. Medearis and Ms. Pettway volunteer. Ms. Mueller also looked for a volunteer for the Metro ECSU meeting on April 19 that she can not attend.

ADJOURNMENT

Having completed all of the items on the regular agenda, at 8:48 p.m. Chair Mueller adjourned the meeting.

Date minutes approved

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