

Columbia Heights Public Schools
Minutes of the
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
February 20, 2024

Chair Mueller called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Clerk Pettway called roll.

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

Members absent: None

AGENDA APPROVAL/ADJUSTMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CORRESPONDENCE

A. Approval of Agenda motion by Houle, seconded by Pettway, to approve the agenda as presented.

B. Announcements

- March 12, Tue 5:00 p.m. Sub Committee on Policy, Community Room
- March 12, Tue 5:00 p.m. Sub Committee on Community Engagement, Training Room
- March 12, Tue 6:00 p.m. Regular School Board Meeting, Community Room
- March 19, Tue 5:30 p.m. School Board Work Session, CHHS Media Center.
- March 25-29: No school. The district office closed on March 29

COMMUNICATION TO THE BOARD –

Kristen S- Tentative Agreement/contract Thank you

Daniel H Ratification of Teacher Contract

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Granlund, seconded by Pettway, to approve the action required to implement the items on the consent agenda.

Personal Report, School Board Minutes: February 6, **Treasury Report** – January 2024

The motion Carried unanimously.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS RESOLUTION

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. On 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, for \$9,175.07

DETAILED BACKGROUND:

Monetary

- A donation of \$25.00 was made to CHHS from Irene Patricia Roback & James D. Roback for the Scholarship Fund 2024.
- A donation of \$2,000 was made to CHHS by Kathleen Welle for the Scholarship Fund 2024.
- A donation of \$2,000 was made to CHHS by Jennifer Correa for the Scholarship Fund 2024.
- A Donation of \$3,883.07 was made to Valley View by the Valley View PTO for Music Risers.

Value in Kind

- A donation of Winter Gear was made to Highland for student needs from Nine and Mike Sokol. Estimated value: \$150.
- A donation of towels and bedsheets was made to CHHS for the Anchor Program by Jeannie Brown. Estimated value: \$100.
- A donation of Books was made to Zoey Schaust's 2nd Grade Class for student needs by Donors Choose. Estimated value: \$217.

- A donation of Feminine Hygiene Products was made to CHHS by The Columbia Heights Lions. Estimated value: \$300.
- A donation of 20-\$25 Target Gift Cards was made to CHHS for Winter Gear for students by Camp Digital. Estimated Value: \$500.

Total fiscal year 2023-2024 monetary contributions to date: \$67,655.42

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was made by Houle and duly seconded by Medearis, and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof:

Granlund – Aye, Houle-Aye, Medearis-Aye, Mueller- Aye, Palmer- Aye, Pettway- Aye

The following opposed: None

Thereupon, the said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Pettway seconded by Houle to move to a closed session to discuss negotiation strategy. All in Favor, Motion carries

RETURN TO OPEN MEETING

The Board returned to an Open Meeting at 6:32 p.m.

REPORTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Ms. Medearis attended two nights of conferences at Highland, meeting parents and their March 14th Book Bash. Tour of the 916 building.

Ms. Pettway was a National History Day judge at CA. I attended the Columbia Heights City Council meeting and North Park National Black Parent Involvement Day; in 1995, after the liberty march, the day was created to help bring parents into the schools and toured 916's newest building. I participated in conferences at North Park and the School Board Work session.

Ms. Granlund was a National History Day Judge at CA. Held conversations with representatives Koegel and Feist and attended the district choir concert. I attended last Saturday's Robotics State tournament performance; they made it to the quarter-semi-finals. I attended a volleyball tournament at the Highlander Center.

Ms. Houle attended meetings with Chair Mueller, Superintendent Stenvik, and Director Hennekens. Participated in the mediation session. Enjoying the science of reading

Ms. Palmer attended the Columbia Heights City Council meeting and Board Work session.

Ms. Mueller met with Director Hennekens, Superintendent Stenvik, and Ms. Houle to prepare for the mediation. She attended the Chair Meeting and the mediation for negotiation. She held conversations with Ms. Medearis, Ms. Granlund, and Superintendent Stenvik.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

I have been working closely with Director Stuenkel and our CESO consultant to wrap up the first phase of the strategic planning process. The community-wide survey will be available on our website through February 23, and I encourage everyone to take a few minutes to give their input. The next phase includes groups of people reviewing the data that has been collected and making recommendations for areas of focus. This is vital work, and I extend my gratitude to all who are taking the time to participate.

I met with the principals last week to begin discussing mid-year progress data- they are compiling it differently. An early look shows that students with ten or more absences and tardies may correlate to lower academic growth and lower academic proficiency. Additionally, early indicators may connect keeping a fast pace for phonics and structured literacy instruction to improvement in literacy scores. Last week a district team met with Ready Set Smile, an organization that provides preventative dental services to students at school during the school day. Ready Set, Smile has treated Columbia Heights Public Schools in Early Childhood through 8th grade. They have the opportunity, through grant funding, to expand their services here in Columbia Heights. There is a great need among our student population to receive this crucial dental care. The students and families greatly benefit from receiving

this free service. More information will come to the Board over the next few months. Since our last Board meeting, I have communicated with Member Houle, Vice Chair Granlund, and Chair Mueller.

Achievement and Integration Budget Bondo Nyembwe, Exec. Dir. of Education Services presented information on The Achievement and Integration budget. This is the first of three years to report on this program. The purpose of the program is to pursue reducing academic disparities in public schools. Approval will be asked at the March 12 Board Meeting.

District Calendar Update. The Board was presented with information on the 2024-2025 calendar. Highlight the Wed. 2-week winter break.

Health Insurance Renewal Lindsey, Bennett, Dir. of Human Resources, and Bryan Hennekens, Dir. of Finance and Operations, presented on the health insurance renewal effective July 1, 2024. Information item: Approval will be sought at the March 12 meeting.

Strategic Direction D- Finance Bryan Hennekens, Dir. of Finance and Operations, presented information on the financial goals of the strategic plan.

Columbia Heights High School WareWashing Alterations Bid Bryan Hennekens, Dir. of Finance and Operations, presented bids submitted to the district for the WareWashing alterations—informational item.

Policy First Reading:

616-System Account, 619- Staff Development Standards, 707 Transportation of Public-School Students, 710 Extra-Curricular Transportation.

2023-2025 Teacher Master Agreement: Lindsey Bennett, Dir. of Human Resources, presented the Master Agreement between Independent School District 13, Columbia Heights, and the Federation of Teachers Local #710. Motion by Granlund seconded by Pettway to accept the Teacher Master Agreement, In Favor: Granlund, Houle, Mueller, Palmer, Pettway. Abstained: Medearis. Opposed: None. Motion Passes.

Resolution on Valley View Full-Service Community School Grant: Superintendent Stenvik presented a Resolution for Valley View Full-Service Community School—motion by Medearis, Seconded by Houle. Roll Call Vote: In Favor: Granlund- aye, Houle-Aye, Medearis- Aye, Mueller-Aye, Palmer-Aye, Pettway- Aye. Opposed: None. Resolution duly passed and adopted.

Be Smart Program Resolution: Superintended Stenvik presents the Resolution to educate parents and guardians on safe practices in gun safety in homes with children. Responsible Gun ownership. March 23rd at Columbia Heights Public Library. Free gun locks are available to citizens at the Police Department. The Be Smart has Free resources and collaborates with the program and the Police department to help improve our community. Motion by Palmer Seconded by Pettway to pass the Resolution of the Be Smart Program. Roll Call Vote: In Favor: Granlund- aye, Houle-Aye, Medearis- Aye, Mueller-Aye, Palmer-Aye, Pettway- Aye Opposed: None: Resolution duly passed and adopted.

BOARD TOPICS

Pettway: Our job is to create safe learning opportunities for all learners.

Granlund: The Be Smart Resolution is very timely, and I would like to take a second to express my grief and support to all involved in and impacted by the Burnsville community's current event.

Mueller: Columbia Academy musical performances of Sponge Bob the Musical on March 8,9, and 10 performances held at the Columbia Heights Performing Art Center.

ADJOURNMENT

Having completed all of the items on the regular agenda, at 8:17 p.m., Chair Mueller adjourned the meeting.

Date minutes approved

Michelle Pettway, Board of Education.
Independent School District 13