

**Columbia Heights Public Schools
Minutes of the
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Community Room, Family Center
January 23, 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

Motion by Pettway, seconded by Granlund, to approve the agenda as presented. All in Favor. Motion
passes

Announcements

Jan 29, Monday, 6 p.m., Joint City Council Meeting at Columbia Heights City Hall.

Feb 6, Tuesday, 6:00 p.m., Regular School Board Meeting, Community Room.

Feb. 8 Thur. Flex Learning Day

Feb. 9 Fri. No School

Feb. 19 Mon. No School, District Closed

Feb. 20 Tue. 5:30 Work Session, Community Room.

Feb. 20 Tue. 6:00 Regular School Board Meeting, Community Room.

COMMUNICATION TO THE BOARD –

Four teachers communicated to the Board: Jill on staffing for English Learners. Ariane on class sizes and negotiations. Natasha provided a teacher testimonial. Daniel, on behalf of an elementary teacher on English Learner teaching and caseload management.

CONSENT AGENDA

Personnel Report **Licensed: Brad Boleman:** Change to PE Teacher, CA, 1.33 FTE, effective 1/29/24-6/7/24 (86 days total). **Support – Conditional: Veronica Paolini:** Education Assistant (EL/Bilingual), DW, new hire, step 3, \$22.70/hr for 102 of 183 days for the 2023-2024 school year (the conditional offer of employment is subject to successful completion of a criminal background check). **Eli Forsline:** Education Assistant, VV, new hire, step 2, \$19.04/hr for 94 of 183 days for the 2023-2024 school year (the conditional offer of employment is subject

to successful completion of a criminal background check). **Patrick O'Brien:** Assistant Cook Manager, CA, new hire, \$25.01/hr for 94 of 183 days for the 2023-2024 school year (the conditional offer of employment is subject to successful completion of a criminal background check). **Support: Rose Szurek:** Change to Medium Hour Cook, CA, 6 hrs/day, effective 1/8/24. **Willie Bluth:** Change to Education Assistant, CA, 6.5 hrs/day, effective 1/16/24. **Karissa Ouren:** Change to EC/ECSE Coordinator, FC, 1.0 FTE, for 115 of 228 days effective 1/12/24. **Nancy Sibri Guaman:** EL Education Assistant, HL, rehire, step 3, for 100 of 183 days for the 2023-2024 school year. **Coach/Advisor/Additional Assignment: Chris Hoffer:** Assistant Boys Basketball Coach, CA, new hire, effective 2023-2024 school year (the conditional offer of employment is subject to successful completion of a criminal background check.) **Tina Shaefer:** CHHS Building Leadership, CHHS, current employee, effective 2023-2024 school year. **Leave Requests: Meredith Shafer,** Elem Teacher, NP, requests Statutory Extended Leave of Absence for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 school years. **Becky Boe:** Elem Teacher, NP, requests Parental Leave of Absence for the 2024-2025 school year. **Marc Jerue:** The CHHS teacher asks for military leave from 1/3/24 to 4/1/24. **Peg Nelson:** Teacher, VV, requests FMLA leave from 5/6/24 to 6/7/24. **Isabel Rowles:** Elem Teacher, NP, requests Statutory Extended Leave of Absence for the 2024-2025, 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school years. **Resignations/Terminations: Louis McKinley:** Custodian, CHHS, effective 1/4/24. Reason: Termination. **Revision to 9/12/23: Marcela San Martin Manquez:** EL Teacher, CA, new hire, step 6, lane 1 (BA), \$32,842.22 (22-23 salary schedule) for the 2023-2024 school year for 121 of 189 days. **Treasurer's Report - December 2023**

Motion by Houle, seconded by Palmer, to approve the Consent Agenda. All in Favor, Motion passes.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT 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, in the amount of \$10,654.73.

DETAILED BACKGROUND:

Monetary

- A donation of \$750.00 was made to Activities from Columbia Heights Athletic Boosters to support Dance Team
- A donation of \$2,500.00 was made to Activities from Columbia Heights Athletic Boosters to Support Wrestling
- A donation of \$1,000.00 was made to Activities from Columbia Heights Athletic Boosters to Support Science Bowl
- A donation of \$10.00 was made to Columbia Heights Public Schools from Anonymous to Help Boost CHPS Student Literacy Skills
- A donation of \$75.00 was made to Columbia Heights Public Schools from Rob Bute to Columbia Heights Public Schools
- A donation of \$125.00 was made to Columbia Heights Public Schools from Gina Anderson to Columbia Heights Public Schools
- A donation of \$100.00 was made to Columbia Heights Public Schools from Gina Anderson to Help Boost CHPS Student Literacy Skills

- A donation of \$75.00 was made to Columbia Heights Public Schools from Alissa Lyon to Columbia Heights Public Schools
- A donation of \$50.00 was made to Columbia Heights Public Schools from Mary Granlund to Columbia Heights Public Schools
- A donation of \$115.00 was made to Columbia Heights Public Schools from Bob Besinger to Columbia Heights Public Schools
- A donation of \$25.00 was made to Columbia Heights Public Schools from Nick Zeimet to Columbia Heights Public Schools
- A donation of \$50.00 was made to North Park School for Innovation from Zach Garman to North Park School for Innovation
- A donation of \$4,440.00 was made to Columbia Heights Public Schools from James R and Patricia Hemak Fund of Minneapolis Foundation to Student involvement in JA Biz Town
- A donation of \$250.00 was made to Valley View from Christine Levens for New Risers for Music Class
- A donation of \$40.00 was made to North Park School for Innovation from Anonymous for school supplies

Value in Kind

- A donation was made to Valley View from Donor's Choose for Christina Cronen's 3rd-grade class. The Estimated value is \$549.73.
- A donation was made to Columbia Heights High School - DCD Special Education Room from Naziyat Calderon for Supplies/ needed items for the Lifeskills Special Education Program. Estimated value: \$500.

Total fiscal year 2023-2024 monetary contributions to date: \$48,818.35

Motion by Houle Seconded by Pettway Roll call vote:

Palmer Aye,

Granlund Aye

Houle Aye

Medearis Aye

Pettway Aye

Mueller Aye

All in Favor, Resolution passes.

Reports from Members of the Board

Granlund Volunteered at Columbia Academy. Attended the first chair meeting and work session at Highland. Spent 12 hours with the Robotics Team. Columbia Heights had five teams participating, and The Cyber Nights are going to State. Thank you to the participating students, supporters, and Coach Orcutt for participating in the long season. Attended conferences at Columbia Academy and participated in a Board interview with CESO. During these events, I held many conversations with parents. **Houle:** I attended the work session last week. Before this meeting, I participated in the Sub-Committee on Policy and reviewed the November financial report.

Medearis Attended the work session at Highland, Columbia Academy conferences, and the Sub-Committee on Policy.

Mueller Attended the Sub-Committee on Policy, the Chair meeting before this meeting, and the Work Session at Highland. Held conversations with Superintendent Stenvik and participated in the CESO

interview. Loved the science of reading discussion and how we connected aspects with our strategic plan.

Palmer Attended the MSBA leadership conference and participated on a board panel with Superintendent Stenvik on Student representation on School Boards. I attended the work session at Highland and the 916 Board Meeting. I am Encouraging Members to visit 916.

Pettway Attended the MSBA two-day conference, learned and networked, and had a Board interview with the CEO's strategic plan. Work Session, Family game night at Valley View played some GaGa Ball. Attended the Sub-Committee on Community Engagement.

Superintendent's Report and Correspondence: We closely monitor Columbia Academy enrollment. We are nearing capacity at that building. The Board can expect a request to take action to close Columbia Academy to open enrollment, likely at the next Board meeting. Today, Coordinator Emily Gartner, Director Thukral, and I attended a meeting at the metro service cooperative Brightworks to provide input on plans for carrying out the Read Act and the MN Multi-tiered systems of support. This is going to be a significant undertaking for all Minnesota school districts, and there are a lot of pieces that are still in development. The American Indian Education program is running a series of regalia-making. Over the weekend, I got to participate in this room to see the amazing ribbon skirts and ribbon shirts the students are making, parents helping all under the direction of Yolanda Dorr-Slowey. Lastly, this week, we are celebrating our Paraprofessional staff. That includes educational assistants, bilingual home-school liaisons, student support, and classroom assistants. I am so impressed with this group of educators. When I am out in the buildings, I see paraprofessional staff assisting students in classrooms, lunchrooms, and playgrounds, connecting with parents, and providing care for children with unique needs. From the bottom of my heart, I thank the Columbia Heights Public Schools Paraprofessionals. Since our last Board meeting, I have communicated with each Board member.

English Learner Program Update

Presenter: Bondo Nyembwe, Exec. Dir. of Educational Services, Sarah Baumann EL Coordinator Presented information on the English Learner Programming.

Strategic Direction C

Presenter: Bondo Nyembwe, Exec. Dir. of Educational Services, Kristen Stuenkel
The Board was presented with information on Strategic Direction C -
We are improving our daily interaction with students, families, and the community.
Information update, no governance.

Northeast State Bank Corporate Authorization Resolution

The Board will be asked to approve the Northeast State Bank Corporate Authorization.

Resolution. Presenter: Bryan Hennekens, Dir. of Finance and Operations

Motion by Granlund to wave the reading of the Corporate Resolution seconded by Palmer. All in Favor, Motion Passes.

Motion by Medearis and seconded by Granlund to approve Northeast State Bank Corporate Authorization Resolution.

Roll call Vote

Mueller Aye

Medearis Aye
Houle Aye
Granlund Aye
Palmer Aye
Pettway Aye

All in Favor, Resolution Passes

US Bank Authorizing Resolution

Description: The Board will be asked to approve US Bank Authorization Resolution

Presenter: Bryan Hennekens, Dir. of Finance and Operations

Motion by Granlund, seconded by Medearis, to wave the reading of the US Bank Authorizing Resolution.

All in Favor. Motion passes.

Motion by Pettway, seconded by Houle, to Approve the US Bank Authorizing Resolution.

Roll Call Vote:

Mueller Aye
Medearis Aye
Houle Aye
Granlund Aye
Palmer Aye
Pettway Aye

All in Favor, Resolution Passes.

Discontinuance of Programs and Positions Resolution

Description: The Board will be asked to approve a resolution directing the

Superintendents and Administration to consider the discontinuance of programs and positions to effectuate economies in the School District and reduce expenditures.

Presenter: Lindsey Bennett, Dir. of Human Resources; Bryan Hennekens, Dir. of Finance and Operations

Motion by Houle, seconded by Palmer, to accept the Discontinuance of Programs and Positions Resolution.

Roll Call Vote:

Mueller Aye
Medearis Aye
Houle Aye
Granlund Aye
Palmer Aye
Pettway Aye

All in Favor, Resolution passes.

Bid Authorization

Description: CHHS Warewashing Space Alterations Request for Bid Authorization

Motion by Granlund, seconded by Medearis, to approve the Bid Authorization for the Warewasher space. All in Favor, Motion Passes.

Primary Election Resolution

Motion by Palmer to accept the Primary Election Resolution seconded by Granlund.

Roll Call Vote:

Mueller Aye

Medearis Aye

Houle Aye

Granlund Aye

Palmer Aye

Pettway Aye

All in Favor, Motion Passes.

BOARD TOPICS

Palmer We own a part of these buildings, and we should be proud of the work of the 916 students and staff.

Pettway 916 tours are important to get out and tour—continued partnership.

Granlund Robotics State Tournament will take place on Presidents Day weekend, Friday and Saturday.

Stenvik/ Mueller: After being awarded the VH1, a long time was spent in the making of an all-district band concert on Wednesday, January 24, 2024. Starting at 7 PM, performances from the following bands: 5th grade, middle school, high school. The final performance of the evening will be all-district bands performing together.

Mueller January 29, 2024, The School Board will attend a Joint Meeting with Columbia Heights City Council at 6 PM in the City Council chambers.

Adjournment: After completing all items on the agenda, Chair Mueller called the meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Date minutes approved

Michelle Pettway, Clerk, Board of Education.

Independent School District 13