

Columbia Heights Public Schools
Minutes of the
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
January 9, 2024

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moment of Silence for former Columbia Heights Student Jayden Lee Kline, who died December 21, 2023.

Clerk Pettway called roll.

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

Members absent: None

HYLANDER HIGHLIGHT Columbia Heights High School Student Jack Israelson's article: The need for bike- and pedestrian-friendly development in Columbia Heights persists, was published nationally in Best of SNO (Student Newspaper Online). Chris Polley spoke about Jack's achievement.

AGENDA APPROVAL/ADJUSTMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Announcements

- Jan. 15, Mon. No School
- Jan. 16, Tue. 5:30 p.m. School Board Work Session, Community Room
- Jan. 23, Tue. 5:00 p.m. Subcommittee on Policy, Community Room
- Jan. 23, Tue. 5:00 p.m. Subcommittee on Community Engagement, Training Room
- Jan. 23, Tue. 6:00 p.m. Regular School Board Meeting, Community Room
- Jan. 26, Fri. No School Jan. 29,
- Mon. 6:00 p.m. Joint meeting at Columbia Heights City Council at Columbia Heights City Hall, 3989 Central Ave NE.

COMMUNICATION TO THE BOARD – Five members of the Columbia Heights Teacher Union Local 710 members spoke: Daniel and Emily about the Negotiations, Angela about challenges as teachers, Kristen about the teacher's contracts, and Brad about class sizes and averages.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Palmer, seconded by Houle, to approve the action required to implement the items on the consent agenda. **School Board Minutes** for December 12, 2023, Regular School Board Meetings; **Personnel Report** Support – Conditional Tyler Neppel: Custodian, CHHS, new hire, step 2, \$19.66/hr for 145 of 261 days for the 2023-2024 school year (the conditional offer of employment is subject to successful completion of a criminal background check). Laurie Nelson: Lunch Duty Monitor, NP, new hire, step 3, \$22.70/hr for 117 of 183 days for the 2023-2024 school year (the conditional offer of employment is subject to successful completion of a criminal background check). Rosa Amaya: Change to Education Assistant, HL, 6.5 hrs/day, effective 12/7/23 (position is contingent upon successfully passing the Parapro/ParaEducator exam before the end of the probationary period). Cheimma Yamache: Education Assistant, HL, new hire, step 3, \$22.70/hr for 114 of 183 days for the 2023-2024 school year (the conditional offer of employment is subject to successful completion of a criminal background check). Faisal Abikar: Building Monitor, CHHS, new hire, \$22.00/hr for 114 of 184 days for the 2023-2024 school year (the conditional offer of employment is subject to successful completion of a criminal background check). Joey Heveron: Building Monitor, CA, new hire, \$22.00/hr for 104 of 184 days for the 2023-2024 school year (the conditional offer of employment is subject to successful completion of a criminal background check). Ashley Vidal Heras: Home School Liaison, CHHS, rehire, \$25.92/hr for 114 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

Crystal Risvold: Change to Medium Hour Cook, CA, 6 hrs/day, effective 12/5/23. Blanca Fernandez: Change to Medium Hour Cook, VV, 4.5 hrs/day, effective 12/5/23. Christine Rodriguez-Xalate: Change to Medium Hour Cook, CA, 6 hrs/day, effective 12/5/23. Edwin Matthes: Change to Medium Hour Cook, CA, 6 hrs/day, effective 12/5/23. Stephanie Velez Varela: Mini Adv Asst Sub/Mini Adv Supv Sub, Comm Ed, current employee, effective 12/7/23. 4 Stephanie Mickelson: Mini Adv Asst Sub, Comm Ed, current employee, effective 12/20/23. Coach/Advisor/Additional Assignment Isabel Rardin: Assistant Boys Swim Coach, CHHS, rehire for the 2023-2024 school year (the conditional offer of employment is subject to successful completion of a criminal background check). Jennie Bradd: Costumer, CHHS/CA, current employee, effective 2023-2024 school year. Karissa Ouren: ECSE Building Leadership, ECSE, current employee, effective 2023-2024 school year. Tiffany Jiang: Co-Patrol Supervisor, VV, current employee, effective 2023-2024 school year. Logan Spears: Co-Patrol Supervisor, VV, current employee, effective 2023-2024 school year. Todd Boyd: Drumming Advisor, CA, current employee, effective 2023-2024 school year. Todd Boyd: Jazz Advisor, CA, current employee, effective 2023-2024 school year. Nicholas Hollermann: Swing Choir, CHHS, current employee, effective 2023-2024 school year. Leave Requests Hilary Rice Wagenfeld: Teacher, CA, requests FMLA from 11/22/23-12/8/23. Marc Jerue: CHHS teacher requests military leave from 12/11/23-12/22/23. Meghan Sjogren: Teacher, ECSE, requests FMLA from 12/21/23-1/11/24. Meghan Sjogren: Teacher, ECSE, requests medical leave from 1/12/24 for up to 4 weeks. Resignations/Terminations Scott Beine: Custodian, CHHS, effective 11/9/23. Reason: Termination. Leo Olszanski: Custodian, CHHS, effective 12/22/23. Reason: Termination. Basil Muhammed: Asst Wrestling Coach, CHHS, effective 12/19/23. Reason: Termination. Elizabeth Rivera Morales: Home School Liaison, CHHS, effective 12/1/23. Reason: Resignation. Kevin Moore: Adv Club Asst, Comm Ed, effective 12/15/23. Reason: Resignation. Kari Sawyer: Early Childhood Coordinator, FC, effective 1/12/24. Reason: Resignation. Tsega Gebrehiyot: Medium Hour Cook, CHHS, effective 1/5/24. Reason: Resignation. Willie Bluth: Assistant Cook Manager, CA, effective 1/12/24. Reason: Resignation. Monaea Upton: Lunch Duty Monitor, VV, effective 1/3/24. Reason: Termination. Monaea Upton: Mini Adventures Assistant, Comm Ed, effective 1/3/24. Reason: Termination.

November 2023 Treasurer Report

The motion was Carried unanimously.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS

Member Houle introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption: ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS RESOLUTION: 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. On that behalf, the board may act as trustee of any trust created for the benefit of the district and 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 estimated amount of \$2,837 DETAILED BACKGROUND: Value in Kind • A donation of books was made to Columbia Academy Media Center from Joan Szurek for student needs. Value of \$87.58. • A donation of winter boots was made to Columbia Heights Public Schools from St. Timothy's Lutheran Church for student needs. Estimated value of \$2,550. • A donation of snow pants and scarves. Hats, gloves, and mittens were made to Valley View for student needs. Value of \$200. Total fiscal year 2023-2024 monetary contributions to date: \$38,163.62 Member Pettway duly seconded the motion for the adoption of the preceding resolution, and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor:

Roll Call Vote.

Granlund-Aye

Houle-Aye

Medearis-Aye

Mueller-Aye

Palmer-Aye

Pettway- Aye

The following voted against the same: None

Resolution and Motion carried.

REPORTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Ms. Palmer attended the Chair Meeting, Special Called Meeting, and Organizational Meeting. **Ms. Granlund** attended the Special Called Meeting and Organizational meeting and conversed with Member Mueller, Member Palmer, Member Medearis, Superintendent Stenvik, parents, students, and staff. A conversation with City Council

Member Spriggs about city changes that could impact our school: attended the AMSD Board of Directors meeting. **Ms. Medearis** attended the Organizational Meeting and had a conversation with Member Granlund. **Ms. Pettway** attended the MSBA Information session on the organization meeting, movie night, and Columbia Heights Santa is Coming Holiday party; seeing all the city vehicles lit up and driving the streets of Columbia Heights was fun. She attended the Special Called Meeting and Organizational Meeting before this one. **Ms. Houle** participated in a meeting with Zena, the Special Called Meeting, and the Organizational Meeting and reviewed finances. **Ms. Mueller** attended the Chair Meeting, Special Called Meeting, and Organizational Meeting. I conversed with Member Granlund and Member Palmer, Superintendent Stenvik, parents, and staff. Superintendent Stenvik attended the visitation for Jayden Kline, discussed with the Mayor of Columbia Heights the Be Smart Campaign gun safety, the district's 11th meeting of negotiation, legislative attending, Community Engagement, and Strategic planning with CESO at events Feb 7th, the final product expected June 2024, Lead and learn with the principals seeing the progress of learning programs. Attended the AMSD board meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Stenvik attended the visitation for Jayden Kline, discussed with the Mayor of Columbia Heights and the Columbia Heights Police Chief the Be Smart Campaign gun safety, the Admin team attended the district's 11th meeting of negotiation, reached out to legislative representatives inviting them to attend a Board Meeting, Community Engagement, and Strategic planning with CESO this is a long and extensive process with the final product expected June 2024, participated in Lead and learn with Exec. Director Nyembwe and the principals are seeing progress in the Head Heart Hands Hylanders initiative learning programs. Attended the AMSD board meeting. Communication from Minnesota School Board Association acknowledgment of Member Medearis for completing all four School Board Workshop Series phases. Held conversations with Member Granlund, Member Houle, and Chair Mueller.

FY2023 Audit

Motion by Houle, seconded by Palmer, to approve the Audited Comprehensive Financial Report for FY2023 as presented by MMKR and Director Hennekens at the December 12, 2023 meeting. The Audit is on the Columbia Heights Public Schools web page: Departments-Finance-Reports.

All in Favor, Motion carried unanimously.

BOARD TOPICS

Ms. Granlund acknowledged the Robotics team for finishing their season at the end of January. The drop-off traffic on 49th is still a struggle by Columbia Academy and Valley View.

Ms. Medearis proposed a revisit to the Primary Resolution and help with the position transition with responsibilities and activities in new roles.

Ms. Pettway requested the Strategic Plan schedule.

Ms. Mueller reminded the Board of next week's Work Session learning activity: The Science of Reading.

ADJOURNMENT

Having completed all of the items on the regular agenda, at 7:52 p.m., Chair Mueller adjourned the meeting.

Date minutes approved

Michelle Pettway, Clerk, Board of Education.
Independent School District 13