

**Columbia Heights Public Schools
Minutes of the
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Community Room, Family Center
January 28, 2025**

Chair Granlund 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. Palmer, Ms. Pettway, Ms. Smith, Ms. Rude, Ms. Anwar, and Superintendent Stenvik

Members absent: None

AGENDA APPROVAL/ADJUSTMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Feb 11, 4:45 Sub Committee on Policy, Superintendent Conference Room

Feb 11 5:00 Sub Committee on Community Engagement, Community Room

Feb 11, 6:00 Regular School Board Meeting, Community Room

Feb 17, No School, District Closed

Feb 18, 5:30 p.m. School Board Work Session, Community Room

Feb 25, 6:00 Regular School Board Meeting, Community Room

COMMUNICATION TO THE BOARD

Three Teachers addressed the board on the topics of fear among immigrant families, funding from legislators, and thanking legislators.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion Palmer seconded by Pettway to approve the items in the consent agenda:

Personnel Report; Licensed-Samantha Alexon: Speech Language Pathologist, DW, step 1, lane 6 (MA), \$28,423.11 for 98 of 189 days for the 2024-2025 school year, effective 1/16/25. **Support – Conditional:** **CB Baga:** Mock Trial Coach, CHHS, new hire, effective 2024-2025 school year (the conditional offer of employment is subject to successful completion of a criminal background check). **Liam McDonald:** Custodian, VV/HL, new hire, step 3, for 121 of 261 days, effective 1/13/25 (the conditional offer of employment is subject to successful completion of a criminal background check). **Support-Tony Davis:** Adv Club Asst Sub, Comm Ed, current employee, effective 1/13/25. **Tony Davis:** Educ Asst Sub, NP, current employee, \$25/hour, effective 1/13/25-3/28/25. **Coach/Advisor/Additional Assignment:** **Callee Aydt:** Building Leadership, HL, current employee, effective 2024-2025 school year. **Erika Totman:** Building Leadership, HL, current employee, effective 2024-2025 school year. **Amber Young:** Building Leadership, HL, current employee, effective 2024-2025 school year. **Faustina Allen:** Building Leadership, HL, current employee, effective 2024-2025 school year. **Abby Cabellero:** Building

Leadership, HL, current employee, effective 2024-2025 school year. **Carolyn Teichner:** Building Leadership, HL, current employee, effective 2024-2025 school year. **Betsy Hatt:** Building Leadership, HL, current employee, effective 2024-2025 school year. **Lynn Maxwell:** Patrols, HL, current employee, effective 2024-2025 school year. **Michelle Lunders:** Yearbook, HL, current employee, effective 2024-2025 school year. **Laura Martinson:** Building Leadership, HL, current employee, effective 2024-2025 school year. **Joey Heveron:** Assistant Coach Boys Basketball, CHHS, current employee, effective 2024-2025 school year. **Keturah Spriggs:** Attendance Healthline Nurse, DW, current employee, effective 2024-2025 school year. **Leaves:** **Priscilla Berndt:** Teacher, CHHS, requests FMLA from 4/18/25 for up to 12 weeks. **Marc Jerue:** CHHS teacher requests military leave from 1/27/25 to 1/31/25. **Rodrigo Quinteros:** Custodian, CHHS, requests medical leave from 2/26/25 for up to 8 weeks. **Tanya Moore:** Media Clerk, CHHS, requests FMLA from 1/14/25 for up to 6 weeks. Resignations/Terminations **Tony Davis:** Adv Club Asst, Comm Ed, effective 1/10/25. Reason: Resignation. **Matt Kourouma:** Assistant Basketball Coach, CHHS, effective 1/14/25. Reason: Resignation.

Pay Equity Report

Minutes: January 7 Organizational Meeting, January 14 Meeting

Policy First Reading:

Legislative Changes:

601- District Curriculum Instructional Goals

613- Graduation Requirements

616- System Account

Technical Updates:

606- Textbooks and Instructional Materials

Substantive Updates- Statutory language:

701-Establishment and Adoption of School District Budget

721-Uniform Grant Guidance Policy Regarding Federal Revenue Sources

All in Favor, Motion passes.

Reports from Members of the Board

Granlund talked to all board members, Superintendent Stenvik, staff, and principals. I attended the Senate Education Board Meeting, the All-District band concert, and conversations with many community Members. I participated in the chair meeting and the Special Called Work Session.

Houle attended the Special Called Work Session.

Medearis attended the Special Called Work Session. Held discussions with families and community members.

Palmer attended the 916 organizational meeting, MSBA leadership conferences, chair meeting, and the Special Called Work Session.

Pettway Attended the MSBA leadership conference, The BIPOC leadership meeting, the all-district band concert, Height's next annual meeting, and the Special Called Work Session.

Smith Attended the first two phases of MSBA board training, the Leadership Conference. a meeting with my mentor, and the Special Called Work Session.

Motion by Granlund seconded by Palmer. Amend the agenda to add the Student Board Member Report to the meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

Reports from Student School Board Representatives

Anwar Attended the 8th-grade night at the High school and the Special Called Work Session.

Rude attended the art field trip to MIA and the physics field trip to the U of MN, the prelims for One Act play, the Speech Tournament, and the Special Called Work Session.

Superintendent's Report and Correspondence:

Director Thukral and I met with Representative Virnig and a few other districts to discuss Literacy Incentive Aid. Director Hennekens and I also gave Anoka County Commissioner Meisner and City Councilmember Buesgens a tour of our sustainability programs, including the biodigester. Based on that tour, we are in conversations with the Anoka County Park system, and I look forward to seeing what comes of this partnership. Yesterday, all administrators and clerical staff were trained on new protocols, given that schools are no longer considered protected areas by Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Our family resource webpage has also been updated. Today was a district in-service. I participated in the outstanding Native American education training, the Science of Reading training, and the ACCESS testing training for our multilingual learners.

Legislative Update

Senator Mary Kunesch, chair of the Education Committee, discussed the new Attendance Pilot and gathering data around the state for staffing the School Libraries. Improving Outcomes for American Indian Education in Minnesota. The unemployment rate for hourly employees impacts school districts.

Representative Sandra Feist- discussed her work with the Department of Education on how to adjust the Compensatory aid and student data privacy bills. Working on insurance coverage for well-child visits for children.

Representative Erin is part of the MN Safe Route to Schools initiative and active transportation bills transit system. The safety of our roads and spaces around the transit line and the road system is done together.

Summer Programming 2025

Kristen Stuenkel, Dir. of Comm. Education and Communications, Tara Thukral, Director of Teaching and Learning Bondo Nyembwe, Assistant Superintendent Jake Henderson, Athletic Director Megan Endresen, and Special Education Coordinator presented information to the School Board on Columbia Heights Public Schools' summer programming in 2025. This includes summer opportunities for students in Community Education, Athletics and Activities, Special Services, Educational Services, and Teaching and Learning.

Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Fees

Motion by Medearis, seconded by Houle, to approve the Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Fee and CHPS district-determined qualification for VPK funding as presented. All in favor. Motion Carries

Community Education

Motion by Houle, seconded by Palmer, to approve the fee increase for Adventure Club, Mini Adventures, Early Childhood Family Education, and PreK 3 as presented 5% All in favor. Motion Carries

BOARD TOPICS-

Medearis—Highland game night is next week. Last week was Paraprofessional Week, thanks to all the paraprofessionals in our district.

Granlund- if you live in Columbia Heights, you should have received a postcard regarding an informational session about Central Avenue Road plans

Smith- Asked How the cash flow and federal funds will impact the district.

Adjournment: After completing all items on the agenda, Chair Granlund called the meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Date minutes approved: February 11, 2025

Michelle Pettway, Clerk, Board of Education.

Independent School District 13