

Columbia Heights Public Schools

Minutes of the REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING February 25, 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. Medearis, Ms. Palmer, Ms. Houle, Ms. Pettway, Ms. Smith, and Superintendent Stenvik

Members absent: None

HYLANDER HIGHLIGHT

Minnesota Music Educator Association All-State Band Concert performer Daniel Abebaw trombone player.

Minnesota Scholastic Art Awards 2025: 34 Columbia Heights Students were honored at three Levels, Gold Key, Silver Key, and Honorable Mention.

Gold Key: Daniel Abebaw, Yumna Ali, Dominic Baker and Tamiah Jackson

Silver Key: Dominic Baker, Daniel Abebaw, Danchau Le, Emmy Barre, and Elizabeth Lee.

Motion by Medearis, seconded by Houle, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried Unanimously

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- March 7, No School
- March 11 4:45 Subcommittee on Policy, Superintendent's Conference Room
- March 11 5:00 Subcommittee on Community Engagement, Community Room
- March 11 6:00 School Board Meeting, Community Room

TO THE BOARD – None

CONSENT AGENDA

Member Medearis requested removing the Seniority List: Teachers/ECFE Teachers from the consent agenda.

Personnel Report- February 2025 BACKGROUND: **Support – Conditional** Shannon

Culbert: AP Proctor, DW/CHHS, rehire, effective 2024-2025 school year (the conditional offer of employment is subject to successful completion of a criminal background check). **Support**

Kristen Dins: Change to Mini Adv Supv, Comm Ed, 7.75 hrs/day, effective 2/19/25. Valeria

Panora: Change to Mini Adv Asst, Comm Ed, 3.75 hrs/day, effective 2/19/25. Maria Gorde:

Change to Mini Adv Asst 3.75 hrs/day and Mini Adv Supv 3.25 hrs/day, effective 2/19/25. Barb

Erickson: Change Human Resources/Finance Administrative Assistant, DW, effective 2/24/25.

Coach/Advisor/Additional Assignment Tony Davis: Assistant Boys Tennis Coach, CHHS,

current employee, effective 2024-2025 school Matt Birr: Head Football Coach, CHHS, current

employee, effective 2025-2026 school Mark Renner: ENCORE Teacher Sub, VV, current employee, effective 2024-2025 school year. Brooke Perillo: ENCORE Teacher, VV, current employee, effective 2024-2025 school year. Eli Forsline: ENCORE EA, VV, current employee, effective 2024-2025 school year. **Leaves** Mark Cramer: Cook Manager, NP, requests FMLA from 1/8/25-1/17/25. Mark Cramer: Cook Manager, NP, requests FMLA from 2/4/25 for up to 4 weeks. Melissa DeLoach: Educ Asst, CA, requests medical leave from 1/22/25 for up to 6 weeks. Sara Mercado: Teacher, CA, requests parental leave from approx. 4/30/25 for up to 8 weeks. Ariel Orcutt: Teacher, CA, requests FMLA from approx. 5/7/25 for up to 12 weeks. Bertha Ortega: PreK4 Asst, NP, requests FMLA from 2/14/25 for up to 3 weeks.

Resignations/Terminations Latifa Moulahid: Adv Club Asst, Comm Ed, effective 2/26/25. Reason: Resignation.

Seniority Lists: Custodial, Clerical, Food Service, Education Assistant, Home School Liaison, Building Monitor and Lunch Duty Monitor School.

Lane Changes

Policy First Reading: Legislative changes: 102-Equal Educational Opportunity, 104-School District Mission Statement, 207-Public Hearings Statutory changes: 519- Interviews of Students by Outside Agencies. Technical Updates: 503- Student Attendance

Board Minutes: February 11 meeting and February 18 Work Session

Motion by Palmer, seconded by Smith, to approve the action required to implement the items on the amended consent agenda. All in Favor. The motion carried.

Motion by Houle, seconded by Palmer, to approve the Seniority List-Teacher and ECFE Teacher. 5 in favor, 0 were opposed, and 1 abstained. The motion carries.

REPORTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Ms. Medearis attended several events, including family game night, the student wax museum, the PTO meeting, and BINGO night at Highland Elementary. The high school Key Club and National Honor Society assisted in calling BINGO. She also chaperoned the 4th-grade concert at Northrup, attended the Columbia Academy PTO meeting, and a work session. Additionally, she participated in the Cook with Kids Pop Tart Community Education class and attended a Columbia Heights City Council meeting where Mayor Marquez Simula presented a proclamation for National Public School Breakfast Week to the School District.

Ms. Granlund participated in the work session and chair meeting, attended the MSBA chair training, and met with Julie to learn about treasury duties. She also attended the Columbia Heights Band concert and the State of Minnesota review of the MCA test workgroup. In addition, she had numerous phone conversations with board members.

Pettway: Attended the BIPOC family advisory meeting via Zoom, African American Parent Involvement Day, Conferences and Book Fair at North Park, the Work Session, and the High School Band Concert. Columbia Heights City Council Meeting passing the board Representative duties to Member Medearis.

Houle: Attended the Work Session and examined the November and December Finance reports.

Ms. Palmer: Attend the Work Session and the Chair Meeting before this.

Ms. Smith: Attended the Work Session

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Last week Northeast Bank presented us with a donation to cover the cost of the finance curriculum used at Columbia Heights High School- a huge thank you for their support.

Today, Assistant Superintendent Nyembwe and I met with the Mayor and City Clerk from Hilltop. We exchanged updates and will be scheduling school tours in the near future.

NATIVE AMERICAN CONCURRENCE

Yolanda Dorr-Slowey, Native American Mentor, and Parent Chair Elena Woelfle presented information on the Native American Concurrence. Each year, the Columbia Heights Public Schools American Indian/Native American Parent Advisory Committee receives data from the district on whether or not the district has met the needs of American Indian students using the goals from the program plan submitted and approved by MDE. The committee votes on how the district is achieving and accountable to the goals. The committee voted for concurrence in accordance with Minnesota Statute 124D.78 on February 5, 2025.

The School Board does not approve the decision made by the American Indian Parent Advisory Committee; however, the compliance document requires a signature from the Board Chair.

POLICY FIRST READING

204-School Board Meeting Minutes

428- Remote Work

The Second Reading will be in the consent agenda at the March 11th meeting.

ACHIEVEMENT INTEGRATION BUDGET

Bondo Nyembwe, Assistant Superintendent, presented information at the February 11th board meeting on the Achievement and Integration budget for the 2025-26 school year, including the purpose of the funds.

Motion by Smith, seconded by Pettway, to approve the Achievement and Integration budget for 2025-2026. All in favor. The motion carries.

VALLEY VIEW FACILITY PROJECT

On February 18, 2025, the School Board was provided with detailed information on a potential upcoming Indoor Air Quality Mechanical Project at Valley View Elementary.

Motion by Palmer, seconded by Houle, for authorization of the administration to engage with Wold Architects and Engineers and Kraus-Anderson to begin detailed planning and designs for the indoor air quality project at Valley View Elementary. All in Favor. Motion carried.

BOARD TOPIC

Granlund: Saturday March 1st Board game night through Heights NEXT, Murzyn Hall.

Medearis: Happy Public School Breakfast Week, March 3-7. On February 26, 2025 the Early Childhood Parent Advisory Council will host a carnival in the Family Center.

ADJOURNMENT

Having completed all of the items on the regular agenda, Chair Granlund adjourned the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

Date minutes approved

Michelle Pettway, Clerk, Board of Education.

Independent School District 13