

Columbia Heights Public Schools
Minutes of the
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
March 11, 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. Pettway, Ms. Smith, and Superintendent Stenvik

Members absent: Ms. Houle, Ms. Palmer

Approval of Agenda motion by Medearis, seconded by Smith, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Announcements

- March 18, 5:30 Work Session, Community Room
- March 25, 6:00, Regular Board Meeting, Community Room
- March 31- April 7: Spring Break, No School

COMMUNICATION TO THE BOARD –None

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Pettway, seconded by Medearis, to approve the action required to implement the items on the consent agenda. **Personal Report: March 11, 2025, BACKGROUND: Licensed – Conditional Connor Born:** School Psychologist, DW, new hire, step 2, lane 8 (MA+30), \$61,393 (24-25 salary schedule) for 189 days for the 2025-2026 school year (the conditional offer of employment is subject to successful completion of a criminal background check). **Support – Conditional Laura McWhite:** Adv Club Asst, Comm Ed, new hire, \$16.14/hr, effective 2/20/25 (the conditional offer of employment is subject to successful completion of a criminal background check). **Support Kate Kruse:** Change Student Services/Technology Administrative Assistant, DW, effective 2/24/25. **Coach/Advisor/Additional Assignment Ariel Orcutt:** Co-Head Track and Field Coach, CA, current employee, effective 2024-2025 school **Molly MacDonald:** Co-Head Track and Field Coach, CA, current employee, effective 2024-2025 school **Mike Sorensen:** Assistant Track and Field Coach, CHHS, rehire, effective 2024-2025 school **Stephanie Alvarez:** Assistant Track and Field Coach, CHHS, current employee, effective 2024-2025 school **Sierra Beilby:** Assistant Track and Field Coach, CHHS, current employee, effective 2024-2025 school **Keon Lewis:** Co-Head Track and Field Coach, CHHS, current employee, effective 2024-2025 school **Zach Johnson:** Co-Head Track and Field Coach, CHHS, current employee, effective 2024-2025 school **Scott Opatz:** Head Baseball Coach, CA, current employee, effective 2024-2025 school **Verdell Sheets:** Assistant Baseball Coach, CA, rehire, effective 2024-2025 school **Robert Lilledahl:** Summer Special Education Teacher, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Molly Crotty:** Summer Special Education Teacher, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Namgyal Dorjee:** Summer Special Education Teacher, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Shelly:** Summer Special Education Teacher, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Sam Alexon:** Assistant Synchro Coach, CHHS, current employee, effective 2024-2025 school **Kelsey Asjes:** Assistant Synchro Coach, CHHS, current employee, effective 2024-2025 school **Danielle Berg:** Summer ENCORE Principal, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Karen Peterson Kremer:** Summer ENCORE Teacher K-5, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Morgan Bialke:** Summer ENCORE Teacher K-5, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Alaina Larson:** Summer ENCORE Teacher K-5, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Ally Sewich:** Summer ENCORE Teacher K-5, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Karen Holland Wallace:** Summer ENCORE Teacher K-5, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Sydney Aubin:** Summer ENCORE Teacher K-5, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Peg Nelson:**

Summer ENCORE Teacher K-5, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Zoey Schaust:** Summer ENCORE Teacher K-5, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Emma Benson:** Summer ENCORE Teacher K-5, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Natalie Johnson:** Summer ENCORE Teacher K-5, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Jenna Scott:** Summer ENCORE Teacher K-5, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Angela Noll:** Summer ENCORE Teacher 6-8, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Brooke Perillo:** Summer ENCORE EL Teacher, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Stephanie Anderson:** Summer ENCORE EL Teacher, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Heidi Ostrander:** Summer ENCORE Specialist Teacher, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Jonny Chao:** Summer ENCORE Specialist Teacher, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Rachael Naessens:** Assistant Synchro Coach, CHHS, rehire, effective 2024-2025 school. **Emily Gartner:** Summer ENCORE Principal, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Jessica Bolles:** Summer ENCORE Teacher 6-8, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Breonna Robinson:** Summer ENCORE Teacher K-5, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Devon Minke:** Summer ENCORE Teacher K-5, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Keon Lewis:** Summer ENCORE Teacher K-5, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Ted Ngh:** Summer ENCORE Teacher K-5, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Vicki Denzer:** Summer ENCORE Specialist Teacher K-5, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Mike Welch:** Summer ENCORE Specialist Teacher K-5, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Ariane Kokes:** Summer ENCORE Specialist Teacher 6-8, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Marie Nelson:** Summer ENCORE EL Teacher 6-8, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Abby Olson:** Summer ENCORE EL Teacher 6-8, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Catie Brandl:** Summer ENCORE EL Teacher K-5, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Jeanette Marr:** Summer ENCORE EL Teacher K-5, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Lia Ray:** Summer ENCORE Teacher K-5, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Tanner Olson:** Summer ENCORE Teacher Grade 6, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Carson Sabinash:** Summer ENCORE Teacher Grade 6, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Megan Adamski:** Summer ENCORE Teacher K-5, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Danyell Christensen:** Summer ENCORE Teacher K-5, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Michelle Radermacher:** Summer ENCORE Teacher K-5, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Alison Humpal:** Summer Seminar Teacher, CHHS, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Madeline Matthews:** Summer Seminar Teacher, CHHS, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Cristian Pillajo:** Summer ENCORE EL Teacher 6-8, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Mya Skaare:** Summer ENCORE Specialist Teacher 6-8, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Lucas Toutge:** Summer ENCORE Teacher 6-8, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Carrie Trnjanin:** Summer ENCORE Teacher 6-8, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Michael Ims:** Summer ENCORE Specialist Teacher 6-8, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Blanca Correa:** Summer ENCORE Building Monitor, HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Tony Davis:** Summer ENCORE Building Monitor, CHHS, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Ivon Munguia Cuautle:** Summer ENCORE Clerical 6-8, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Wendy Saquinaula Tocachi:** Summer ENCORE Clerical K-5, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Leaves John Kulick:** Asst Principal, CHHS, requests FMLA from 2/20/25 for up to 9 weeks. **James Phillippi:** Manager of Buildings and Grounds, DW, requests FMLA from 2/4/25 to 2/14/25. **Chris Nelson:** Custodian, NP, requests FMLA from 1/28/25 for up to 6 weeks. **Betsy Juran-Nelson:** Teacher, CHHS, requests medical leave (intermittent) from approx. 9/17/24 for up to 60 workdays. **Allie Nelson:** Educ Asst, NP, requests an extension to parental leave through 6/11/25. **Heidi Ostrander:** Teacher, VV, requests FMLA from 4/8/25 for up to 8 weeks. **Resignations/Terminations Duane Berkas:** Principal, CA, effective 6/30/25. Reason: Retirement

Treasury Report – January 2025 **Policies second reading:** 204 Meeting Minutes, 428 Remote Work, **Minutes:** February 25, Motion Carried unanimously.

FROM MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Ms. Pettway attended the ECFE family carnival, CoHi Con Heights, hosted by Heights Next and the Subcommittee on Community Engagement.

Ms. Medearis attended the MSBA MASA Joint day at the State Capital with representatives from neighboring districts—conversations surrounding funding-related initiatives. Today, I submitted written testimony to the Senate to promote remote participation in public meetings to aid in accessibility and inclusivity in participating in public service. I also attended the Subcommittee on Policy.

Ms. Granlund attended the CoHi Con, Tour of North Park, and MSBA/MASA Day at the State Capital. I have connected with other School Board Chairs about Compensatory Aid, held conversations with staff, students, and Superintendent Stenvik, and attended the subcommittee on the Policy meeting.

Ms. Smith attended a business meeting at Fridley City Hall and discussed plans for the Career Fair at Columbia Academy, toured North Park, participated in the Cottage Grove Black History Step Show, and Spent time at the MSBA/MASA Day at the State Capital and the Subcommittee on Community Engagement meeting.

Superintendent Report

Since our last Board meeting, I have attended the senior recognition at the girls' and boys' basketball games. The District Professional Development Day was last Friday; I attended a session on Special Education. Asst Superintendent Nyembwe met with the English Learner Program coordinator and members of the teachers' union to hear an update on how the English Learner program is going this year. We have increased EL staff each year for the last few years; however, with the large volume of students, the request is for more staffing allocation. I appreciated the discussion and their advocacy.
Day at the Capitol

Student Representatives Report

Rude- competed in the Tri-Metro speech tournament, attended Synchro team practice, met with Assistant Superintendent Nyembwe to review policy 512, and participated in the Subcommittee on Policy meeting.

Activities Update

Jake Henderson, the Activities Director, presented an update on the Fall, Winter, and Spring Activities. Provided participation numbers and a photo slide show of all the teams.

Member Palmer presented to the meeting at 6:29.

2025-2026 School Calendar

Lindsey Bennett, Director of Human Resources, presented the 2025-2026 calendar and the 2026-2027 draft calendar. The calendars will be on for approval at the March 25th meeting.

Termination of Probationary Teacher Contracts Resolution- Resolution 1

Motion by Palmer, seconded by Pettway, to approve or accept the Termination of Probationary Teacher Contracts Resolution- Resolution 1. Roll call Vote in Favor: Granlund –Aye, Medearis-Aye, Palmer-Aye, Pettway-Aye Smith- Aye. The resolution was approved and adopted.

BOARD TOPICS –

Granlund The Middle School play Annie Jr performances are March 14-16.

Medearis: The Board received the letter from Superintendent Stenvik and the local 710 president about Compensatory Aid and the need for a timely resolution this spring. Our district stands to lose 3.7 million dollars. One idea is to consider passing a Resolution as a Board supporting that letter. I will work on the language and hope to bring it to the Board for us to consider at a later date. The AMSD and the MASA Region 9 will host another day at the State Capital later in the spring.

ADJOURNMENT

Having completed all the items on the regular agenda, Chair Granlund adjourned the meeting at 6:44 p.m.

Date minutes approved March 25, 2025

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