

Columbia Heights Public Schools

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

Members absent: none

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

Announcements

- March 31-April 7 Spring Break. No school.
- April 8, 4:45 Subcommittee on Policy, Superintendent Conference Room.
- April 8, 6:00 School Board Meeting, Community Room
- April 15, 5:30 School Board Work Session, Community Room

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 25, 2025, **Support – Conditional**

Fernanda Mendez Chambrá: Student Technology Aide, CHHS, new hire, \$20.00/hr, effective 3/17/25 (the conditional offer of employment is subject to successful completion of a criminal background check). **Support**

Crystal Fitzgerald: Change to EA, .49 FTE, NPSfl, effective 3/14/25.

Coach/Advisor/Additional Assignment Halima Abdi: Summer EA, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Jessica Krause:** Summer EA, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Cheryl Bolitho:** Summer EA, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Fanny Pallchizaca:** Summer EA, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Molly Crotty:** ENCORE Teacher, NP, current employee, effective 2024-2025 school year. **Arely Morales:** Summer EA, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Sean Pabon:** Summer EA, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Hannah Lara Cruz:** Summer EA, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Ali Farah:** Summer Special Education Teacher, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Perla Hernandez Rodriguez:** Assistant Lacrosse Coach, CHHS, new hire, effective 2024-2025 school year (the conditional offer of employment is subject to the successful completion of a criminal background check). **Laura Berens:** ECSE ESY B-3 Teacher, ECSE, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Kamryn Green:** Head Softball Coach, CA, rehire, effective 2024-2025 school year. **Dan Shuck:** Head Baseball Coach, CHHS, current employee, effective 2024-2025 school year. **Ava Helmer:** Assistant Softball Coach, CHHS, rehire, effective 2024-2025 school year. **Jen Heveron:** Assistant Softball Coach, CA, current employee, effective 2024-2025 school year. **Mikayla Woebke:** Summer Special Education Teacher, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Diana Morales Molina:** Summer EA, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Holly Besinger:** Summer EA, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Denise Olson:** Summer EA, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **LeVon Garrett:** Summer EA, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Alexandra Evens:** Summer EA, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Tessa Williams:** Summer Special Education Teacher, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Camille Gross:** Head Synchronized Swimming Coach, CHHS, rehire, effective 2024-2025 school year. **LeVon Garrett:** ENCORE EA, HL, current employee, effective 2024-2025 school year. **Blanca Riera:** ENCORE EA, HL, current employee, effective 2024-2025 school year. **Leaves Julie Kytör:** EA, NPSfl, requests medical leave from approx. 2/27/25 for up to 4 weeks. **Doran Schoeppach:** Teacher, NPSfl, requests medical leave from approx. 3/7/25 for up to 12 weeks. **Marc Jerue:** Teacher, CHHS, requests military

leave from 3/7/25-3/7/25. **Angela Noll:** Teacher, VV, requests FMLA from 3/19/25 for up to 12 weeks. **Kim Landry:** Teacher, VV, requests medical leave (intermittent) from approx. 4/7/25 for up to 6 weeks. Resignations/Terminations **James Rumble:** Custodian, CA, effective 6/6/25. Reason: Retirement. **Barb Charboneau:** LDM, NPSfl, effective 6/11/25. Reason: Retirement **Calendar 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 draft. Policies First reading** 413-Harassment, 512-School Sponsored Student Publications and Activities, **Minutes:** March 11 and 18. Motion carried unanimously.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS

Member Houle introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

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, the School Board of Columbia Heights Public Schools, Independent School District No. 13, resolves to accept with appreciation the \$7675 monetary contributions detailed in the background.

DETAILED BACKGROUND:

Monetary

- Diana S. Desroches donated \$ 25 to the CHHS Retired Staff Scholarship
- Bradley Miley and Philip Lundin both donated \$100 to the CHHS Retired Staff Scholarship
- Louann P Restad and Scott Hanson both donated \$50 to the CHHS Retired Staff Scholarship
- Dean Custer donated \$1,000 to the CHHS Retired Staff Scholarship
- Cynthia S. Jirsa donated \$50 to the CHHS Scholarship Fund
- Mike Scholl donated \$1,000 to the CHHS Scholarship Fund
- Dean and Joyce Bliss donated \$2,000 to the CHHS Scholarship Fund
- Fridley Lions Club donated \$3,000 to the CHHS Scholarship Fund
- Collin Anderson and PDS Health both donated \$150 to the Valley View Fun Run.

The total fiscal year 2024-2025 monetary contributions to date: \$70,858

The motion for the adoption of the preceding resolution was duly seconded by Member Pettway, and upon the vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof:

Granlund -Aye, Houle-Aye , Medearis-Aye , Palmer-Aye , Pettway-Aye , Smith-

The following voted against the same: None

Thereupon, the said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

REPORTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Ms. Pettway, I attended Annie Jr., the musical, the Work Session, the BIPOC family advisory meeting at NP, and the AMSD and MSBA day at the capital.

Ms. Medearis watched the mock trial of the middle school students at the U of M in front of a federal judge, attended Annie Jr. Participated in Local 710 walk in to school event, attended Highland Book Bash event, participated in the Career fair at Columbia Academy, attended AMSD day at the capital and the Columbia Heights City Council Meeting Returned to the capital with our partner schools to advocate for compensatory aid with South St. Paul schools.

Ms. Granlund attended the Work Session, chair meeting, Career Fair, and all three performances of Annie Jr. She held many conversations with community members, Board members, and Superintendent Stenvik.

Ms. Smith attended the Work Session and studied the Science of Reading.

Ms. Houle participated in the Work Session and the Columbia Academy career fair, representing my employer.

Ms. Palmer attended the COSSBA convention in Atlanta and collaborated with School board members nationwide, attending the chair meeting before this meeting.

Superintendent Report

This week, Local #710 union President Daniel Honigs and I testified before the House Education Finance Committee in favor of a bill to remedy the Compensatory Aid calculation issue. I appreciate the collaboration on this important topic.

Last week, I also attended the spring Board meeting and conference for the MN Association of School Administrators. The keynote speaker, John Garrett, encouraged leaders to recognize and celebrate the passions and interests that staff members have beyond the work day. His book is called What's Your And?

Today, Assistant Superintendent Nyembwe and I met with the local clergy group. This is typically an annual meeting and a chance for us to maintain connections with the local faith-based organizations. Many support the schools through donations, reading to students, providing after-school opportunities, and volunteering with The Every Meal organization. Over the last couple of weeks, I have checked in on our new boys' volleyball team. We are hosting an inaugural season event on April 16, and the public is welcome to join us in celebrating.

Student Representatives Report

Anwar Attended and participated in the South St. Paul Speech Tournament, Roseville Speech tournament, and the CHHS Speech Showcase. Participated in the U of M Teck and Field Scrimmage. I attended a Annie Jr performance.

NORTHEAST METRO 916 INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Scott Thomas, and David Haveman presented information on the Northeast Metro 916 Intermediate School. Columbia Heights has 71 students attending Metro Heights and in the summer of 2024 171 students.

POLICY FIRST READING

410 Family and Medical Leave
511-School Fundraising
713 Student Activity Accounting
720 Vending Machines
808 Water Safety

COMPENSATORY AID RESOLUTION

COLUMBIA HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Independent School District 13
Columbia Heights, Minnesota

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Member **Palmer** introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

Resolution Relating to the Urgent Need for the Legislature to Address Compensatory Aid Certification and Calculations

WHEREAS, compensatory revenue is used to meet the educational needs of low-income students through additional state allocation to advance academic achievement;

WHEREAS, compensatory aid facilitates stability of funding and programming, and such stability for students improves educational outcomes;

WHEREAS, prior to 2023-2024, compensatory aid amounts were based on information obtained through completion of free and reduced school lunch forms;

WHEREAS, Columbia Heights Public Schools ISD #13 received approximately 9 million in compensatory funding from the State of Minnesota in fiscal year 2024-2025 to support the needs of the district's student population;

WHEREAS, the shift from calculating compensatory aid on free and reduced school lunch forms to direct certification will miss just over 900 of eligible students and reduce compensatory funding to Columbia Heights Public Schools ISD #13 by \$3.7 million dollars for the 2025-2026 school year, or approximately \$1,000 per pupil;

WHEREAS, this compensatory funding is vital to serving students and advancing the mission of Columbia Heights Public Schools;

WHEREAS, a loss of \$3.7 million in compensatory aid equates to approximately 5% of the annual budget of Columbia Heights Public Schools, and over half of the district fund balance, and equates to the personnel costs of 85% of the teachers in a single district elementary school;

WHEREAS, the anticipated loss in compensatory aid would result in budget instability and the need for significant cuts in programs and staff positions, or both, which would have irreversible and compounding detrimental impact on students and families;

AND WHEREAS, decisions about programming and positions that impact the School District budget in 2025-2026 must be approved by the Board prior to end of legislative session;

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Independent School District No. 13, that the MN State Legislature should immediately and expediently pass, and the governor sign, a bill that creates a hold harmless mechanism and/or a permanent solution to address a potential loss in compensatory revenue to schools.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Member **Pettway**, and upon vote being taken thereon, the Following

Voted in favor thereof: Granlund-Aye Houle-Aye Medearis-Aye Palmer-Aye Pettway-Aye Smith-Aye

And the following voted against the same: None

Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted

BOARD TOPICS –

Palmer- Report from the COSSBA National Conference keynote speaker, Brandon Farbstein, worked for legislative changes on curriculum standards to teach how to treat each other with respect. “Diversity isn’t a choice, but inclusion is.”

ADJOURNMENT

Having completed all the items on the regular agenda, Chair Granlund adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Date minutes approved

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