

Columbia Heights Public Schools

Minutes of the REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING May 13, 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. Palmer, Ms. Granlund, Ms. Pettway, Ms. Smith, and Superintendent Stenvik

Members absent: Ms. Houle, Ms. Medearis

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

Announcements

May 20 5:30 School Board Work Session, Community Room

May 26 No School, District Closed

May 27 6:00 Regular School Board Meeting, Community Room

COMMUNICATION TO THE BOARD –Staff member Lucas -Staffing Resolution

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Palmer, seconded by Pettway, to approve the action required to implement the items on the consent agenda. **Personal Report: Licensed – Conditional Alicean Caskey:** Summer ENCORE Teacher, CHHS/HL, rehire, effective summer 2025 (the conditional offer of employment is subject to successful completion of a criminal background check). **Matthew Miller:** Assistant Principal, CA, rehire (the conditional offer of employment is subject to successful completion of a criminal background check). **Abderrahmane Soum:** Engineering Teacher, CA, rehire, step 9, lane 7 (MA+15), 186 days for the 2025-2026 school year (the conditional offer of employment is subject to obtaining the appropriate license). **Amanda Struver:** Special Education Teacher, CA, new hire, step 3, lane 9 (MA+45), for 189 days for the 2025-2026 school year (the conditional offer of employment is subject to obtaining the appropriate license and successful completion of a criminal background check). **Margaret Pieters:** Math Teacher, CA, new hire, step 1, lane 3 (BA+30), for 189 days for the 2025-2026 school year (the conditional offer of employment is subject to obtaining the appropriate license and successful completion of a criminal background check). **Support – Conditional Lisa Burke:** AP Test Proctor, CHHS/DO, new hire, effective May 2025 (the conditional offer of employment is subject to successful completion of a criminal background check). **Amy Fraser:** Lunch Duty Monitor, NP, new hire, effective 4/28/25 (the conditional offer of employment is subject to successful completion of a criminal background check). **Support Zaina Alamy:** Adv Club Supv Sub, Comm Ed, effective 4/17/25 **Safiya Hajihusseini:** Adv Club – Education Pathways, Comm Ed, effective summer 2025 **Julie Vancura:** Asst. Softball Coach, CHHS, new hire, effective 4/11/25. **Cat Fitzgerald:** Change to Educ Asst, .81 FTE, NP, effective 4/29/25. **Coach/Advisor/Additional Assignment Jen Heveron:** Summer Flag Football Coach, CHHS, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Elaine Graham:** Youth Cheer Camp Summer Coach, CHHS, rehire, effective summer 2025. **Mark Agudo:** Soccer Youth Summer Coach, CHHS, rehire, effective summer 2025. **Kevin Sanisaca:** Soccer Youth Summer Coach, CHHS, rehire, effective summer 2025. **Terry Hill:** Youth Football Summer Coach, CHHS, rehire, effective summer 2025. **Matt Birr:** Youth Football Summer Coach, CHHS, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Jason Stockwell:** Youth Football Summer Coach, CHHS, rehire, effective summer 2025. **Kristen Sinicariello:** Soccer Youth Summer Coach, CHHS, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Hector Leon:** Soccer Youth Summer Coach, CHHS, rehire, effective summer 2025. **Victor Alvarez:** Soccer Youth Summer Coach, CHHS, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Colton Williams:** Youth Football Summer Coach, CHHS, rehire,

effective summer 2025. **Mike Sorenson:** Youth Football Summer Coach, CHHS, rehire, effective summer 2025. **Zach Awsumb:** Youth Volleyball Summer Coach, CHHS, rehire, effective summer 2025. **Zach Awsumb:** Intramural Volleyball Youth Summer Coach, CHHS, rehire, effective summer 2025. **Troy Scott:** Youth Basketball Summer Coach, CHHS, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Kalante Logan:** Youth Basketball Summer Coach, CHHS, rehire, effective summer 2025. **Jazmine Glaser-Kelly:** Youth Basketball Summer Coach, CHHS, rehire, effective summer 2025. **Dedrick Jenkins:** Youth Basketball Summer Coach, CHHS, rehire, effective summer 2025. **Matt Birr:** Strength and Conditioning Summer Coach, CHHS, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Victor Alvarez:** Strength and Conditioning Summer Coach, CHHS, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Mike Howe:** Strength and Conditioning Summer Coach, CHHS, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Michael Ims:** Strength and Conditioning Summer Coach, CHHS, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Tony Davis:** Youth Tennis Camp Summer Coach, CHHS, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Rachel Naessens:** Youth Synchro Camp Summer Coach, CHHS, rehire, effective summer 2025. **Sam Alexon:** Swim Youth Summer Coach, CHHS, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Kelsey Asjes:** Swim Youth Summer Coach, CHHS, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Nick Hollerman:** Youth Triple Threat Camp Summer Coach, CHHS, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Haley Jensen:** Youth Triple Threat Camp Summer Coach, CHHS, rehire, effective summer 2025. **Dan Ronchak:** Youth Theater Tech Camp Summer Coach, CHHS, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Liz Brubakken:** Intramural Volleyball Youth Summer Coach, CHHS, rehire, effective summer 2025. **Liz Brubakken:** Volleyball Youth Summer Coach, CHHS, rehire, effective summer 2025. **Lucas Toutge:** Youth Tennis Camp Summer Coach, CHHS, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Billy Depies:** Wrestling Youth Summer Coach, CHHS, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Ernie McNeal:** Wrestling Youth Summer Coach, CHHS, rehire, effective summer 2025. **Erin Edwardson Stern:** Ramp-Up (Fall, Winter, Spring), CHHS, current employee, effective 2024-2025 school year. **Resignations/Terminations** **Nasra Farah:** Tutor, DW, effective 8/15/24. Reason: Seasonal. **Joseline Manjarrez:** Tutor, DW, effective 8/15/24. Reason: Seasonal. **Drake Kembitskey:** Tutor, DW, effective 8/15/24. Reason: Seasonal. **Jackie Perez:** Tutor, DW, effective 8/15/24. Reason: Seasonal. **Jaqui Rios De Santiago:** Student Worker, DW, effective 8/15/24. Reason: Seasonal. **Martha Ortiz:** Adv Club Asst Sub, Comm Ed, effective 10/31/24. Reason: Resignation. **Ashley Klingenberg:** Adv Club Supv Sub, Comm Ed, effective 9/20/24. Reason: Resignation. **Josie Johnson:** Summer Educ Asst, CHHS, effective 7/11/24. Reason: Seasonal. **Jacqueline Lee:** AP Proctor, T&L, effective 6/5/24. Reason: Seasonal. **Ellie Bute:** AP Proctor, T&L, effective 6/5/24. Reason: Seasonal. **Kirsten Ptak:** AP Proctor, T&L, effective 6/5/24. Reason: Seasonal. **Alison Humpal:** Dance Team Coach, CHHS, effective 3/5/25. Reason: Resignation. **Emmanuele Gutierrez:** Educ Asst and Lunch Duty Monitor, VV, effective 5/9/25. Reason: End of Employment. **Mikayla Woebke:** Special Education Teacher, VV, effective 6/12/25. Reason: Resignation. **Tyler Neppi:** Custodian, CHHS, effective 5/9/25. Reason: Resignation. **Tessa Williams:** Special Education Teacher, VV, effective 6/12/25. Reason: Resignation. **Lia Ray:** PreK 4 Teacher, HL, effective 6/12/25. Reason: Resignation. **Dan Greene:** Dean, CA, effective 6/20/25. Reason: Non-renewal, **Treasury Report March 2025, Minutes April 22, 2025.**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS

Member Palmer 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 \$101,513.19 monetary contributions detailed in the background.

DETAILED BACKGROUND:

Monetary

- Box Top/ General Mills donated \$79.20 to North Park School for Innovation.
- Jennifer Pyper-Muno donated \$20 to support the Heights Herald.
- Gary Countryman donated \$20 to support the Heights Herald

- Lauren Gravelle donated \$10 to support the Synchro Team.
- Allie McCurnin and Kari Christianson each donated \$15 to support the Synchro Team.
- Noah Leuer, Ashley Grell, Jacob Henderson, Cassandra DuRose and Rachael Neessens each donated \$20 to support the Synchro Team.
- Kate Kruse donated \$47 to support the Synchro Team.
- Austin Sego Donated \$50 to support the Synchro Team
- Lorien Mueller and Karla Robertson each donated \$100 to support the Synchro Team.
- Neil Granlund and Santo Zarate each donated \$20 to support the Columbia Academy Musical.
- Keith Risvold donated \$40 to support the Columbia Academy Musical.
- Stacy Nekora donated \$50 to support the Columbia Academy Musical.
- Carolyn Givens, Roberta Michalek, and Anna O'Brien each donated \$100 to support the Columbia Academy Musical.
- Jim Scalise donated \$50,000 to the CHHS Scholarship Fund 2025.
- Patricia Johnson donated \$2,000 to the CHHS Retired Staff Scholarship.
- Anonymous donation of \$50 was made to Columbia Heights Public Schools in memory of Elroy Honl.
- Tara Thukral donated \$6,000 to the Valley View Sunshine Scholarship in memory of Ranjana Thukral
- Jane Halek, Pamela Zimba and Elaine Yost each donated \$300 to the CHHS Scholarship Fund 2025
- Corliss Johnson donated \$50 to the Retired Staff Scholarship Fund 2025.
- Dawn Hoium donated \$75 to the Retired Staff Scholarship Fund 2025.
- Columbia Heights Lions Club donated \$200 to support the Valley View Fun Run.
- The Blackbaud Giving Fund donated \$50 to Valley View.
- Boston Scientific Donated 2,500 to the Robotics teams 7281 and 6708.
- The Columbia Heights Athletic Boosters donated \$1,000 to support the Softball trip, \$2750 for Boys Tennis, Baseball, Girls Basketball, and Robotics, and \$5,00 for two scholarships.

The total fiscal year 2024-2025 monetary contributions to date: \$179,977.19

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

Granlund –Aye, Palmer-Aye, Pettway-Aye, Smith-Aye. The following voted against the same:

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

REPORTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Ms. Pettway attended the parent-child strawberry shortcake class, the Valley View Carnival, the AMSD meeting, a seminar focused on community engagement, the scholarship awards ceremony, and the Columbia Academy Open House.

Ms. Granlund attended the Valley View carnival, the Teacher of the Year celebration, the Award Convention in Minneapolis, and spoke with a Minneapolis school board member and the Chair Meeting. Met with parents to plan the 8th grade party at Columbia Academy, Held conversations with Director Thukral, and Superintendent Stenvik.

Ms. Smith attended the Teacher of the Year celebration.

Ms. Palmer attended the 916 Board meeting and the chair meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

I participated in a meeting about the Medtronic site on 53rd Ave. The meeting was attended by city officials from Columbia Heights and Fridley, representatives from the Mississippi watershed, MNDOT, and Metro Transit. The plans for that site include 65 3-bedroom townhomes, nearly 300 apartments, walking trails at Sullivan Lake, and a play space. About 2/3rds of the units are targeted toward families. They are in the very early planning phase, so I don't have the date for breaking ground.

I participated in the District Finance Committee meeting yesterday.

I have engaged in numerous emails, phone calls, and communications with legislators, staff, families, and other superintendents regarding the Compensatory Aid issue.

I have been out visiting each of the schools, connecting with staff and students.

The annual scholarship night was wonderful. We appreciate all of the local scholarships. I really enjoy hearing the stories of former staff members who are giving back to our school community. The donations and scholarships really make an impact in the lives of our students

Curriculum Update

Tara Thukral, Director of Teaching and Learning, Emily Gartner, Teaching and Learning Coordinator, and Sarah Matusovic, Teaching and Learning Coordinator, presented the Board with an update on the curriculum. The focus of this presentation was on the process used to review the 6-8 ELA and Math curricula and the recommendations to the School Board for the adoption of the middle school curriculum, enVision (Math) and Amplify ELA (Literacy). We will seek approval for these resources on May 27, 2025. Additionally, the Board was presented with information regarding the Personal Finance requirement for Columbia Heights High School (CHHS). We will be seeking approval for a Personal Finance class at CHHS on May 27, 2025.

Overnight and Out-of-State Field Trips

Tara Thukral, Director of Teaching and Learning, Sarah Matusovic, Teaching and Learning Coordinator, and Emily Gartner, Teaching and Learning Coordinator, provided information on instructional and extended field trips. The Board was presented with information on multiple overnight opportunities. These trips offer students the opportunity to deepen their learning, connect with others, and explore potential post-secondary options. They will return on May 27, 2025, to seek approval for the overnight experiences for students.

ABE Lease

Kristen Stuenkel, Director of Community Education, presented the School Board with the lease renewal option for the Metro North ABE location at 4111 Central Ave, Columbia Heights. This lease is set to renew as of July 1, 2025. The Fridley School District and Columbia Heights Public Schools have been reviewing lease options in the community and recommend extending this lease for an additional two years. The board will be asked to approve the lease at the May 27, 2025, School Board meeting.

Policy First Reading

101.1 Name of the School
612.1 Development of Parental Involvement Policies for Title 1 Programs
626- School Admission for Foreign Exchange Students
705- Investments
706- Acceptance of Gifts
903- Visitors to School District Buildings and Sites.

BOARD TOPICS –

Pettway- this Friday is the NP annual BBQ 5-7 PM, Family Center Garden party 4-6 PM

ADJOURNMENT

Having completed all the items on the regular agenda, Chair Granlund adjourned the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

May 27, 2025

Date minutes approved

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