

Columbia Heights Public Schools

Minutes of the REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING June 24, 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. Houle, Ms. Pettway, Ms. Smith, and Superintendent Stenvik

Members absent: Ms. Medearis

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Palmer, seconded by Houle, to approve the agenda. All in Favor. Motion Passed.

Announcements

June 30, 6:00 School Board and City Council Joint Meeting, Community Room

July 4 District Closed

July 15, 5:00-6:00 School Board Retreat, Community Room

July 15, 6:30 School Board Meeting, Community Room

August 12, 6:00 School Board Meeting, Community Room

Communication to the Board –None

Consent Agenda

Motion was made by Palmer and seconded by Houle to approve the consent agenda.

Personal Report: Licensed – Conditional Alexandria Tupper: 1st Grade Teacher, VV, new hire, step 4, lane 6 (MA), for 189 days for the 2025-2026 school year (the conditional offer of employment is subject to successful completion of a criminal background check). Natalie Jones: 3rd Grade Teacher, HL, new hire, step 15, lane 1 (BA), for 189 days for the 2025-2026 school year (the conditional offer of employment is subject to successful completion of a criminal background check). William Cook: 2nd Grade Teacher, HL, new hire, step 4, lane 5 (BA+60), for 189 days for the 2025-2026 school year (the conditional offer of employment is subject to successful completion of a criminal background check). Elaina Lucas: EL Teacher, CHHS, rehire, step 2, lane 2 (BA+15) for 186 days for the 2025-2026 school year (the conditional offer of employment is subject to obtaining the appropriate license). Christian Arel: CTE Elective Teacher, CHHS, rehire, step 3, lane 10 (MA+60) for 186 days for the 2025-2026 school year (the conditional offer of employment is subject to obtaining the appropriate license). Licensed Tracey Olsen: EL Teacher, CHHS, rehire, step 5, lane 6 (MA), for 186 days for the 2025-2026 school year. Coach/Advisor/Additional Assignment Jackie Mosqueda Jones: Early Childhood Developmental Screener, FC, current employee, effective 8/6/25 and 8/13/25. Ignacio Alvarez: Summer Soccer Coach, CHHS, new hire, effective summer 2025 (the conditional offer of employment is subject to successful completion of a criminal background check).

Quentin Hardrict: Summer Basketball Coach, CHHS, rehire, effective summer 2025. (The conditional offer of employment is subject to successful completion of a criminal background check.)
Resignations/Terminations Olivia Tracy: 1st Grade Teacher, VV, effective 6/12/25—reason: Resignation.

Treasury Report; April 2025

MSBA Membership 2025-2026

Meeting Minutes: June 10, 2025, and June 17, 2025

Policy Second Reading: 414- Mandated Reporting of Child Neglect, 415- Mandated Reporting of Maltreatment of Vulnerable Adults, 520-Student Surveys, 541- Tele-Related Services, 807-Health and Safety, 902-Facility Usage. All in Favor, Motion passes.

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 \$810.59 in monetary contributions detailed in the background. DETAILED BACKGROUND:

Monetary

- The Columbia Heights Athletic Boosters donated \$200 to support the Valley View Fun Run.
- Anonymous Parents donated \$471.00. To North Park for Yearbook purchases.
- Anonymous Parent donated \$12 to North Park for the Yearbook purchase.
- Chipotle donated \$127.59 to the Columbia Heights Early Childhood program.

Value in Kind

- The Columbia Heights Police Department and the City of Columbia Heights donated 18 bikes to Columbia Heights Students. The estimated Value of \$1,800.

The total fiscal year 2024-2025 monetary contributions to date: \$189,396.13

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, Houle-Aye, Palmer-Aye, Pettway-Aye, Smith-Aye.

The following voted against the same: None

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

Reports from Members of the Board.

Granlund-MN woke up to tragic news with the death of Minnesota state representative Melissa Hortman and her Husband Mark, words of reflection and condolences to their Family. The School Board is a position of elected representatives, and this event has touched our community.

Granlund attended Graduation, a Work session, and the Art and Info Fair at Huset Park. I also held phone calls with the Auditor and assisted in preparation for the Jamboree parade. I attended the Chair Meeting and made several phone calls with Superintendent Stenvik, members of the Board, and community members.

Houle-As Treasure reviewed the financial report form from last year with the Auditor. The conversation focused primarily on the deficiencies in the findings, with the hope of reviewing the findings to remove the assumptions.

Palmer complimented the staff on a wonderful graduation ceremony off campus for the first time.

Pettway- Spent time at North Park, saying goodbye to the school where she spent the last 6 years, attended Graduation, BIPOC family group planning, and the Art and Info Event at Huset Park.

Smith- Attended the Graduation and The Work session. Held Conversations with community members.

Superintendent's Report

Chair Granlund, thank you for your words of reflection. I would also like to acknowledge the work that each of our Board members does on behalf of the school district. As elected officials, you take time out of your busy schedules to govern the district, and we really appreciate all you do.

We had a strong end to the school year. Many of our summer programs, like Adventure Club and high school credit recovery, are up and running. Our main Summer ENCORE program begins July 7 and will run for three weeks at Highland Elementary and the high school.

2024-2025 Highlights

A video slideshow was presented highlighting events within the district throughout the 2024-2025 school year.

Federal Title Grants

Tara Thukral, Director of Teaching and Learning, and Emily Gartner, Teaching and Learning Coordinator, presented information on the Federal Title Grants Preliminary Funding for the 2025-2026 school year at the June 10, 2025, Board meeting.

Motion by Houle, seconded by Pettway, to approve the Federal Title Grants preliminary funding for the 2025-2026 school year. All in Favor Motion Passed.

READ Act Training

Lindsey Bennett, Director of Human Resources, and Tara Thukral, Director of Teaching and Learning, presented information on the READ ACT Training Memorandum of Understanding.

Motion by Palmer, seconded by Houle, to approve the READ Act MOU for the 2025-2026. All in Favor, Motion passed.

Teacher Development and Evaluation (TDE)

Lindsey Bennett, Director of Human Resources, and Tara Thukral, Director of Teaching and Learning, presented information at the May 20th School Board Work Session on the Teacher Development and Evaluation (TDE) model Memorandum of Understanding. Motion by Pettway, seconded by Houle, to approve the Teacher Development and Evaluation (TDE) Memorandum of Understanding. All in Favor motion passed.

Teacher Apprenticeship Program

Lindsey Bennet, the Director of Human Resources, presented the Board with information on a partnership with the University of Minnesota Next Generation Teacher Apprenticeship (NXT GEN Teach) program on June 10, 2025.

Motion by Palmer, seconded by Pettway, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Columbia Heights Federation of Teachers (Local #710) and Education Assistants (SEIU Local 284) regarding the University of Minnesota NXT GEN Teacher Apprenticeship. All in Favor, Motion Passed.

Preliminary Budget FY26

Bryan Hennekens, Director of Finance and Operations, presented information to the Board at the June 17, 2025, meeting on the Preliminary Budget FY26.

Motion by Houle, seconded by Palmer, to approve the Preliminary Budget FY26. All in Favor, Motion Passed.

Workers' Compensation Insurance Renewal

Bryan Hennekens, Director of Finance and Operations, presented information to the Board at the June 10, 2025, meeting on renewing Workers' Compensation Insurance.

Motion by Palmer, seconded by Houle, to approve the Workers' Compensation Insurance Renewal with United Heartland. All in Favor. Motion Passed.

Building Capacity

Zena Stenvik, Superintendent, is asking the Board to approve the closure of Highland Elementary grades 3 and 4 so that open enrollment can continue through August 2025 or until enrollment decreases.

Motion by Palmer, seconded by Pettway, to approve the closure of Highland Elementary grades 3 and 4 to open enrollment through August 2025 or until the enrollment numbers decrease. All in Favor, Motion Passed.

Board Topics

Granlund- An invitation was made to the Board to attend Local #710 Negotiations Meetings. Discussion at the Work Session on June 17th and consulting with the Legal team Members, Chair Granlund, Smith, and alternate Vice Chair Palmer, plan to attend the meetings. The next Local #710 Negotiations meeting will be held on July 3, 2025. The Jamboree parade is on Friday, June 28th.

Meeting adjourned at 7:24 PM.

Date Minutes approved: August 12, 2025,

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