



**COLUMBIA HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Independent School District 13**  
**Columbia Heights, Minnesota**  
**MINUTES FROM THE WORK SESSION OF**  
**THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Community Room**  
**Tuesday, September 16, 2025**  
**5:30 PM**

Members present: Ms. Granlund, Ms. Houle, Ms. Medearis, Ms. Palmer, Ms. Pettway, Ms. Smith

**Insurance Renewal**

Bryan Hennekens, Director of Finance and Operations, and Steve McAlpine, North Risk Partners. Presented the Insurance Renewal rates for the year starting on October 1, 2025. This will be an action Item at the September 23, 2025, meeting

**2025 Payable 2026 Preliminary Levy**

Bryan Hennekens, Director of Finance and Operations, presented information on the 2025 payable 2026 preliminary Levy. This will be an action Item at the September 23, 2025, meeting.

**School Board Goals DRAFT CHPS BOE Goals 2025-2026**

**1. The Board values continuous learning and participation in leadership development that broadens perspectives and strengthens governance practices. The Board will participate in learning opportunities with other districts, including the MSBA Leadership Conference, and will invite student school board members to attend events where possible.**

(Vision 2030 Alignment: *All Succeed*, Academic Growth, 2H. Staff will actively participate in and apply learning from professional development that advances district goals and objectives; *All Belong*, Student Relationships, 1A. Students will be valued and included at every level, allowing them to grow self-advocacy and leadership skills.)

**2. The Board recognizes the strength of collective advocacy and the importance of civic engagement in supporting Columbia Heights Public Schools. The Board will develop a legislative action committee to collaborate with CHPS families, staff, community members, and partners to build a unified voice in legislative matters that benefit CHPS students and families.**

(Vision 2030 Alignment: *Creating Worlds of Opportunity Together*, Family Engagement & Communication, 3A. Families will be welcomed and included as educational partners; 3C. Families will have access to a variety of engagement opportunities that allow them to provide input on decisions that impact them or their students; Staff Engagement & Communication, 3D. Staff will have opportunities to provide input on decisions that impact their work; 3E. CHPS will provide timely, transparent and accessible communication with all employees to strengthen a culture of trust and meaningful relationships; Community Engagement & Communication, 3F. Business and community partners will have access to engage with CHPS in a variety of ways in support of students, families and staff; 3H. CHPS will provide and promote two-way communication with the community to promote involvement and engagement.)

**3. The Board is committed to deepening and expanding relationships and partnerships with the community that promote trust, transparency, and support for CHPS and our students. In collaboration with the superintendent, the Board will expand their participation in events and opportunities to build relationships in our schools, with local partners, and throughout our surrounding communities.**

(Superintendent Goal Alignment: To foster meaningful and reciprocal relationships with the community (students, staff, families, local organizations, Legislature, etc.) to build trust, enhance student learning opportunities, and promote a shared commitment to school success. Vision 2030 Alignment: *Creating Worlds of Opportunity Together*, Purpose Statement: Elevating inclusive and connected relationships by expanding meaningful engagement opportunities

with our families, staff and community that value and amplify all voices; Community Engagement & Communication, 3G. CHPS will continue to engage with and strengthen business partnerships to align with current and future workforce needs.)

Ms. Medearis elegantly put the Board goals in written form. The Board would like to have a Mid-year and end-of-year progress report on the goals. The Goals will be an action item at the September 23, 2025, meeting.

### **Community Engagement**

The Board appreciates the List of events in the Friday packet. A subcommittee will meet on the second Tuesday of the month to work on School Board Goal number two of legislative advocacy, as it aligns with Community Engagement.

### **Closed Session**

Motion by Houle, Seconded by Palmer, to move to Closed session. In accordance with Minn.Stat. 13D.03, the Board will adjourn to a closed session to discuss the Superintendent contract. All in Favor. Motion carries.

### **Return to Open Session**

Motion by Corenia, seconded by Pettway, to return to Open Session. All in Favor Motion Carries.

### **Adjourn**

Motion by Palmer, seconded by Pettway, to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 PM. All in Favor Motion Carries.

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Date minutes approved

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