



COLUMBIA HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Independent School District 13
Columbia Heights, Minnesota
Community Room

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
October 14, 2025

Chair Granlund called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Clerk Pettway called the roll.

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

Members absent: Ms. Smith, Ms. Anwar

Approval of Agenda motion by **Medearis**, seconded by **Houle**, to approve the agenda as presented. All in Favor. Motion Carried.

Announcements

October 16 & 17, No School

October 17, District Closed

October 21, 5:30. School Board Work Session, Community Room

October 28, 6:00, Regular School Board Meeting, Community Room

October 31, No school

COMMUNICATION TO THE BOARD – A Columbia Heights High School student asked a question regarding the Rating values of movies presented in the classes.

CONSENT AGENDA

Medearis asked to remove the Personal Report from the consent agenda because her spouse is listed on the report.

Motion by Palmer, seconded by Pettway, to accept the Consent agenda: Accept Resignation of Board Member Corenia Smith and Minutes – September 23, 2025. All in Favor, Motion Carried.

Motion by Palmer, seconded by Pettway, to approve the Personnel Report. Accept Resignation of Board Member Corenia Smith and Minutes – September 23, 2025: Personal Report: Licensed – Conditional Kleara McIntyre: Special Education Teacher, VV, effective 10/1/2025 (the conditional offer of employment is subject to obtaining the appropriate license and successful completion of a criminal background check). Licensed Ruben Alvarado: Change to: Special Education Teacher, NP, effective 9/29/2025. Taylor Meyer: Change to: Special Education Teacher, CA, effective 9/29/2025. Support – Conditional Crystal Argueta: Lunch Duty Monitor, VV, effective 9/23/2025 (the conditional offer of employment is subject to successful completion of a criminal background check). Kyle Finn: Night Custodian, NP, effective 9/29/2025 (the conditional offer of employment is subject to successful completion of a criminal background check). Coach/Advisor/Additional Assignment Morgan Bialke: T&L Leadership Team, VV, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. Carla Anderson: T&L Leadership Team, VV, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. Matthew Kesely: T&L

Leadership Team, HL, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. Amber Young: T&L Leadership Team, HL, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. Lorien Stewart: T&L Leadership Team, FC, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. Troy Sagdalen: T&L Leadership Team, CA/CHHS, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. Nick Rohne: T&L Leadership Team, CA, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. Elisabeth Cleveland: MRC Internal Coach, NPSfl, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. Maureen Reilly: MRC Internal Coach, VV, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. Matt Townsend: Building Leadership Team, CHHS, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. Jen Bradley: Building Leadership Team, CHHS, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. Melanie Kennedy: Building Leadership Team, CHHS, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. Tina Schaefer: Building Leadership Team, CHHS, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. Michelle Dietz: Yearbook – Business Advisor, CHHS, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. Sarah Honeywell: Yearbook – Editorial Advisor, CHHS, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. Melanie Kennedy: National Honor Society, CHHS, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. Natasha Olubajo: Key Club Advisor, CHHS, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. Chris Polley: Yearbook Advisor, CHHS, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. Brett Herbers: Diversity Club, CHHS, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. Devon Minke: T&L Leadership Team, NPSfl, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. Ted Ngh: T&L Leadership Team, NPSfl, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. Caitlin Disalvi: Building Leadership Team, CHHS, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. Caitlin Disalvi: Pep Band, CHHS, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. Caitlin Disalvi: Jazz I, CHHS, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. Caitlin Disalvi: Co-Student Council Advisor, CHHS, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. Caitlin Disalvi: Drumline, CHHS, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. Autumn Trzaskowski: Co-Student Council Advisor, CHHS, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. Shannon Keenan: Yearbook, CA, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. Sarah Clayton: Co-Student Council Advisor, CA, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. Molly MacDonald: Co-Student Council Advisor, CA, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. Tracy Huerta: ENCORE Teacher, VV, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. Katelyn Smith: ENCORE Teacher, VV, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. Alaina Larson: ENCORE Teacher, VV, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. Tracy Huerta: ENCORE Teacher, VV, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. Danielle Ketchum: ENCORE Teacher, VV, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. Stephanie Anderson: ENCORE Teacher, VV, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. Eliza Fultz: ENCORE Teacher, VV, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. Tiffany Jiang: ENCORE Teacher, VV, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. Heidi Ostrander: ENCORE Teacher, VV, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. Logan Spears: ENCORE Teacher, VV, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. Peg Nelson: ENCORE Teacher, VV, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. Katie Johansen: ENCORE Teacher, VV, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. Marti Tschida: ENCORE Teacher, VV, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. Ally Sewich: ENCORE Teacher, VV, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. Amy Fraiser: Adventure Club/Mini Adventure Club Assistant Substitute, CE, effective 10/6/2025. Ben Hanson: ENCORE Teacher, VV, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. Jen Cahill: ENCORE Teacher, VV, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. Maureen Reilly: ENCORE Teacher, VV, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. Stan Mraz: Patrol Supervisor, NPSfl, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. Jen Hauswirth: Building Leadership Team, NPSfl, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. Keon

Lewis: Building Leadership Team, NPSfl, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. Stephanie Lindholm: Building Leadership Team, NPSfl, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. Ariane Kokes: Building Leadership Team, NPSfl, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. Kim Sobon: Building Leadership Team, NPSfl, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. Devon Minke: Building Leadership Team, NPSfl, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. Morgan Cunningham: Building Leadership Team, NPSfl, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. Sandra Westmoreland: Building Leadership Team, NPSfl, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. Lorien Stewart: ENCORE Teacher, HL, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. Carson Sabinash: ENCORE Teacher, HL, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. Danyell Christensen-Hodson: ENCORE Teacher, HL, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. Kathleen Kerber: ENCORE Teacher, HL, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. Natalie Jones: ENCORE Teacher, HL, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. Jennifer Linderholm: ENCORE Teacher, HL, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. Arely Morales: ENCORE EA, VV, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. LeVon Garrett: ENCORE EA, HL, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. Mohamed Mohamed Arafa: Asst. Soccer Coach, CHHS, new hire, effective 10/1/2025 (the conditional offer of employment is subject to successful completion of a criminal background check). Alex Ostrom: Asst. Girls Basketball Coach, CHHS, new hire, effective 11/10/2025 (the conditional offer of employment is subject to successful completion of a criminal background check). 4 in Favor, Medearis Abstained. Motion passes.

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 \$ 15,174.25 in monetary contributions detailed in the background.

DETAILED BACKGROUND:

Monetary

- Anonymous Parents from North Park donated \$2,275 to North Park for School supplies.
- Artsonia donated \$189.28 to North Park School for Innovation.
- Tasty Pizza Donated \$477 to the Activities Department for a Football Fundraiser.
- The CH Lions Club donated \$150 to the Activities Department for the Black Student Union for volunteering at the Highway clean-up and \$100 for volunteering at the Jamboree.
- The CH Lions Club donated \$200 to the Activities Department for the Dance Team for volunteering in the wagon at the Jamboree.
- The Columbia Heights Athletic Boosters donated \$500 to the Activities Department for Fireworks.
- The Columbia Heights Athletic Boosters donated \$6440 to the Activities Department: \$1650 Boys Basketball, \$1400 Girls Basketball, \$250 Heights Herald, \$400 Wrestling, \$400 Adapted Soccer, \$1540 Speech, \$800 Valley View.
- The Columbia Heights Athletic Boosters donated \$5000 to the Activities Department; \$800 Speech, \$500 Girls Basketball, \$800 Boys Basketball, \$800 HOSA- Future Health Professionals, \$800 Dance, \$800

Heights Herald, \$500 Football.

- Patricia Gardner donated \$220 to the Activities Department: Baseball Team in honor of Jerry Boldt.
- Class of 1975- Sheryl Brown donated \$100 to Columbia Heights High School for staff.
- Class of 1985 donated \$1,000 to Columbia Heights High School for School use.

In-Kind

- Neil Granlund donated 3D printing supplies valued at \$3,000 to the Columbia Heights High School for class use.
- Columbia Heights Lions donated Feminine Hygiene supplies valued at \$625 to Columbia Heights High School for student use.

The total fiscal year 2025-2026 monetary contributions to date: \$21,174.28.

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

Granlund –Aye, Houle-Aye, Medearis-Aye, Palmer-Aye, Pettway-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 attended negotiations meetings for the teachers' union, the chair meeting, the Subcommittee on Policy Meeting, Homecoming and college application night at the High school, a Safeguarding Our Heights Community event, the City Council meeting, and the first cross-country meet. Held conversations with Members of the Board, former Member Smith, Superintendent Stenvik, and students.

Houle-Sept. 24 attended as the liaison to the MSHSL Membership Meeting. MSHSL provides many vital services to our school district. I signed a petition letter about Title 9 with others on behalf of myself to MDE and MSHL, titled "Title 9 Funding," in an effort to comply with federal law for Title 9.

Medearis-I attended the CHHS Homecoming game, enjoyed the fireworks, and attended two Community Education classes since the last meeting. PTO at CA and HL and Policy subcommittee meeting

Palmer- attended the 916 Board Meeting, several conversations with Chair Granlund, former member Smith, and Superintendent Stenvik, the Subcommittee on community engagement, and negotiations meeting for the teachers' union.

Pettway- North Park color run, Homecoming game, facilitated the first district-wide BIPOC family advisory meeting, and many families attended. The next meeting will be at North Park. I watched the recording of the AMSD meeting and participated in the Valley View/Columbia Academy Fall Festival. Community Engagement meeting

Superintendent's Report

Last week AMSD sent a poll seeking information about district's Legislative Action Committee so that districts can share practices across the Metro area. I responded that our school board is looking into creating such a committee and that we would like to be kept in the loop. It might be helpful to invite some representatives from other districts to a work session.

I attended the state superintendent conference. One of the biggest take-aways was the presentation by the cofounder of the Dignity Index. I have shared some information with the Board on this topic, reflecting on how we respond to one another or to people using a scale of contempt to dignity. Our

neighboring school district, St. Anthony, and I have been discussing the idea of hosting a joint school board and city council presentation on the dignity index. Several other metro area districts are also looking at bringing them in, so this could be a large-scale push in our state to increase exchanges of dignity. By the first week in November, I will have checked in with all of the PTOs in the district. I am taking notes and will compile a report to the Board of what I am hearing and what steps we can take based on the PTO discussions. I have really been impressed with the groups of parents and staff. Impressed and grateful.

Student Representative Report

Rude- Attending PSEO EMT classes, Heights Herald field trip for the journalism convention, attended the Community engagement meeting, and the Tenor Base Festival.

Strategic Plan 2030

The Directors: Bondo Nyembwe, Assistant Superintendent; Bryan Hennekens, Director of Finance & Operations; Lindsey Bennett, Director of Human Resources; Sarah Godfrey, Director of Special Services; Tara Thukral, Director of Teaching and Learning, presented information on the Strategic Plan 2030. In the 2024–25 school year, Columbia Heights Public Schools launched a new Strategic Plan, known as Vision 2030. The School Board will receive an update highlighting progress made during the first year of implementation. Early results show peaks of progress and new opportunities on the horizon for continued improvement. Vision 2030 is built around three strategic priorities: 1. All Belong 2. All Succeed 3. Creating Worlds of Opportunity Together 29 performance indicators support these priorities and reflect the district’s commitment to fostering strong, supportive relationships among students, families, and staff. They also emphasize collaboration with community partners to advance academic success. Vision 2030 progress for the 2024–25 academic year will be published on the district website and made available to the public. Informational, not a Governance item.

Valley View Elementary Indoor Air Quality Project Call for Bid Authorization

Bryan Hennekens, Director of Finance and Operations, asked the School Board for authorization to publish a legal notice for bids for the Valley View Elementary Indoor Air Quality Project. This project is being funded through the sale of Bonds.

Motion by Medearis, seconded by Houle, to authorize the publishing of the legal notice of solicitation of bids for the Indoor Air Quality Project at Valley View Elementary. All in Favor. Motion Carries.

Adult Meal Price Increase 25-26

Bryan Hennekens, Director of Finance and Operations, asked the School Board for approval of the adult meal prices. This approval increases the adult meal price for lunch by \$.05 per adult meal and maintains the price for breakfast at \$2.50 per meal. Each year, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Foods reviews the required minimum meal prices for adults. The USDA does this because School Nutrition programs' funds may not subsidize meals served to adults or other non-program meals, such as second meals. The meal price must be set high enough so that the cost of the meal is fully paid by the customer. The current CHPS adult meal prices and the required USDA minimum meal prices for adults are listed below. The district's price must meet or exceed the minimum adult breakfast and lunch price. Current CHPS Adult Prices: Breakfast: \$2.50, Lunch: \$5.00. New Adult Prices, minimum set by the USDA: Breakfast: \$2.50, Lunch: \$5.05.

Motion by Houle, seconded by Palmer, to approve the adult meal price for lunch at \$5.05 per adult meal, and the price for breakfast at \$2.50 per meal. All in Favor. Motion carries.

Assurance of Compliance

Lindsey Bennett, Director of Human Resources, and Bondo Nyembwe, Assistant Superintendent, brought this annual item to the School Board to state that the district is in compliance with State and Federal Law Prohibiting Discrimination. Approval of the Assurance of Compliance with State and Federal Law Prohibiting Discrimination. All employees have reviewed the required Policies, and we have provided them with information.

Motion by Pettway, seconded by Granlund, to approve the Assurance of Compliance with State and Federal Law Prohibiting Discrimination. All in Favor. Motion carries.

North Park School for Innovation Full-Service Community School Grant Funding

Full-Service Community School Grant Application
for North Park School for Innovation.
COLUMBIA HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Independent School District No. 13
Columbia Heights, Minnesota

Member Pettway introduced the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

Resolution Supporting North Park School for Innovation in
Pursuing Full-Service Community School Grant Funding

Whereas, the aim of a full-service community school strategy is to transform a school into a place where educators,

local community members, families, and students work together to strengthen conditions for student learning and

healthy development;

Whereas, the Essentials for Community School Transformation Framework helps school communities actively

build strong relationships, partnerships, and webs of supports while centering children, youth, families and

communities through the integrated development and improvement of six “key practices.”

Whereas the six key practices are

1. Collaborative Leadership, Shared Power and Voice;
2. Powerful Student, Family, and Community Engagement;
3. Integrated Systems of Supports;
4. Enriched and Out-of-School-Time Learning Opportunities;
5. Rigorous, Community-Connected (Culturally Responsive) Classroom Instruction;
6. Culture of Belonging, Safety, and Care;

Whereas, the 2023 Minnesota Legislature further funded the Full-Service Community School Grant program, such that schools can apply for financial support for the next three school years;

Whereas, North Park School for Innovation administration and staff have worked to implement the key practices listed above without additional funding or dedicated staff;

Whereas, there is a strong desire among North Park School for Innovation staff and families, and Columbia Heights Public Schools Administration to designate North Park School for Innovation as a Full-Service Community School;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the School Board supports the Full-Service Community Schools grant. An application that, if awarded to North Park School for Innovation, would provide dedicated staff and resources to carry out the implementation of a Full-Service Community School over the next three school years.

Member Medearis duly seconded the motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution

And upon the vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Granlund-Aye, Houle-Aye, Medearis-Aye, Palmer-Aye, Pettway-Aye. The following voted against the same: None

Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Superintendent Contract

Motion by Palmer, seconded by Houle, to approve a Superintendent contract for 2026 through 2029 school years. All in Favor. Motion Carries.

School Board Vacancy

School Board Member Corenia Smith submitted her resignation from the School Board effective September 30, 2025. We are required to appoint a short-term replacement for the vacancy. There are two options for the appointment. Option 1: Appoint by Resolution

The Board can vote to appoint a person at the October 14 Board meeting. There is a required 30-day waiting period to allow for any citizen to contest the appointment.

Suggested motion: To adopt the resolution filling the school board vacancy by appointment until a successor is elected and qualified. If the Board selects Option 1, then the Board will be asked to approve the enclosed resolution immediately thereafter.

Option 2: Appoint by Application

The Board will solicit applicants for the vacancy. The Board will schedule interviews and select a short term Board member to fill the vacancy to serve until a successor is elected and qualified.

Suggested motion: To appoint a successor to fill the School Board vacancy by application until a successor is elected and qualified.

Motion by Palmer, Seconded by Houle to adopt the resolution filling the school board vacancy by appointment until a successor is elected and qualified. If the Board selects. All in favor. Motion carries.

COLUMBIA HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Independent School District No. 13
Columbia Heights, Minnesota

RESOLUTION FILLING SCHOOL BOARD VACANCY BY APPOINTMENT

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.09, subdivision 5b establishes that a school board must fill by board appointment at a regular or special meeting any vacancy on the school board other than a vacancy of an ill or absent member as set forth in subdivision 4. The appointment shall be evidenced by a resolution entered in the minutes and shall be effective thirty (30) days following adoption of the resolution.

WHEREAS, a vacancy exists in the office of a school board member with a term expiring on the first Monday in January 2029; and

WHEREAS, the vacancy occurred less than ninety (90) days prior to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November in the first or second year of the vacant term;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 13, Columbia Heights Public Schools, State of Minnesota, as follows: Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 123B.09, subdivision 5b, Lorien Mueller is hereby appointed to fill the vacancy and to serve until a successor is elected and qualified. The appointment shall be effective thirty (30) days after the adoption of this resolution unless a valid petition to reject the appointee is filed with the school district clerk pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 123B.09, subdivision 5b(b) within that thirty (30) day time period. The motion for adoption of the Resolution was made by Member Granlund, duly seconded by Member Houle,

The vote on adoption of the Resolution was as follows:

Aye: Granlund, Houle, Medearis, Palmer, Pettway

Whereupon, said Resolution was declared duly adopted by Independent School District No. 13, Columbia Heights Public Schools, State of Minnesota, this 14 day of October, 2025.

Board Topics

Granlund- work session in November—consider having a Board Potluck. Next weekend is the Truck or Treat games and candy. In January MSBA leadership conference and the Student School Board met in Farmington. Former Member Smith, Support items contact Stephanie.

Stenvik- Student School Board Representatives can be sworn in in January. Questions in the Friday packet added three adjustments. The discussion for consensus, in alignment with MSHSL, aims to be on track for graduation, support the second term, and provide leadership opportunities for students. Julie agrees to let the student reapply through a blind form of selection. One is graduating and will not be fulfilling a full two-term limit on the position, providing scaffolding for support. Michele likes the idea that Granlund would like a two-term limit.

Pettway- The Community Engagement Subcommittee is focusing in on Legislation action.

Palmer- Legislative action is one of our school Board's goals. Using a List of districts that are currently doing legislative initiatives to help guide our next steps as we create this new working group. Involving community stakeholders, teachers, student teachers, and community members. Attend the MSBA legislative delegate assembly to learn about legislative advocacy efforts by other districts that may align with our Board and stakeholders' interests.

Medearis-Community Education, apple cider doughnut cooking class. The Family Center, Early Childhood PTO, October 20-24: Winter clothing pass-along and winter gear in the Training Room. Donate or pick up.

Adjournment

Motion by Granlund, seconded by Pettway, to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 PM.

Date minutes approved 10/28/2025

Michelle Pettway, Clerk, Board of Education.

Independent School District 13