



COLUMBIA HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Independent School District 13

Columbia Heights, Minnesota

Community Room

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

November 25, 2025

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

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Swearing in of Newly Appointed School Board Member Lorien Mueller.

Clerk Pettway called the roll.

Members present: Ms. Medearis, Ms. Houle, Ms. Palmer, Ms. Pettway, Ms. Mueller

Members absent: None

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

Announcements

November 26, 27 & 28, No School

November 27 & 28, District Closed

December 9, 6:00 p.m. School Board Meeting, Community Room

December 22-January 2, No School

December 24, 25, 31, and January 1 District Closed

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. Motion Carried. **Minutes** November 18, 2025, **Policy Second Reading**: 401- Equal Employment, 403 - Discipline, Suspension, and Dismissal of School District Employees, 404- Employee Background Checks, 406- Public and Private Personal Data, 408- Subpoena of a School District Employee, 422- Policies Incorporated by Reference, 722 Public Data Requests **Personal Report: Support Alicia Inamagua**: Change to: Long Hour Cook, VV, effective 11/3/25. **Coach/Advisor/Additional Assignment Margarita Donayre**: ECFE Sub, FC, current employee, effective 10/23/25. **Patrick Schulz**: ENCORE Teacher Sub, VV, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. **Mya Skaare**: ENCORE Teacher, CA, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. **Troy Scott**: Assistant Boys Basketball Coach, CHHS, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. **Kalante Logan**: Assistant Boys Basketball Coach, CHHS, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. **Colton Williams**: Assistant Boys Basketball Coach, CHHS, rehire, effective school year 2025-2026. **Dedrick Jenkins**: Head Boys Basketball Coach, CHHS, rehire, effective school year 2025-2026. **Levon Garrett**: ENCORE EA, HL, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. **Troy Vaughn**: Assistant Girls Basketball Coach, CHHS, new hire, effective school year 2025-2026. **Kalante Logan**: Fall Strength Coach, CHHS, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. **Troy Scott**: Fall Strength Coach, CHHS, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. **Daniel Diaz**: Mock Trial, CHHS, rehire, effective school year 2025-2026. **Brooke Perillo**: Building Leadership Team, VV, current employee,

employee, effective school year 2025-2026. **Beth Lindquist:** Building Leadership Team, VV, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. **Ally Sewich:** Building Leadership Team, VV, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. **Alaina Larson:** Building Leadership Team, VV, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. **Emma Benson:** Building Leadership Team, VV, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. **Mauren Reilly:** Building Leadership Team, VV, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. **Betsy Juran Nelson:** Building Leadership Team, CHHS, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. **Sean Pabon:** ENCORE EA, VV, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. **Adela Secic:** ECFE/PreK 3 Assistant Substitute, FC, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. **Erin Edwardson Stern:** Building Leadership Team, CHHS, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. **Erin Edwardson Stern:** 11th Grade Advisor, CHHS, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. **Adela Secic:** Lunch Duty Monitor, VV, current employee, effective 11/13/2025. **Stephanie Velez Varela:** Food Service Substitute, DW, effective 11/17/2025. **Resignations/Terminations Crystal Fitzgerald:** Education Asst, NP, effective 11/7/25. Reason: Resignation. **Ayub Abdulkadir:** Tech Student Worker, CHHS, effective 7/25/25. Reason: Seasonal **Manny Alvarez:** Wrestling Coach, CHHS, effective 3/5/25. Reason: Seasonal **Ignacio Alvarez Matamoros:** Summer Soccer Coach, CHHS, effective 7/31/25. Reason: Seasonal **Alicean Caskey:** Summer Encore Teacher, CHHS, effective 7/24/25. Reason: Seasonal **Yoselin Diaz Santos:** Summer Encore Youth Worker, HL, effective 8/22/25. Reason: Seasonal **Laura Gerds-Saathoff:** Summer OT, DW, effective 7/24/25. Reason: Seasonal **Safiya Hajihussein:** Summer Adventure Club Asst, FC, effective 7/24/25. Reason: Seasonal **Quentin Hardict:** Summer Basketball Coach, CHHS, effective 7/31/25. Reason: Seasonal **Arnel Johnson:** Asst. Girls Basketball Coach, CHHS, effective 3/20/25. Reason: Seasonal **Robsen Kinati:** Tech Student Worker, CHHS, effective 7/25/25. Reason: Seasonal **Tanya Kral:** Asst. Girls Basketball Coach, CHHS, Effective 3/20/25. Reason: Seasonal **Tammy Kuglin:** Summer Encore Teacher, CHHS, Effective 7/24/25. Reason: Seasonal **Mason Leon:** Summer Youth Worker, FC, Effective 8/21/25. Reason: Seasonal **Jana Moussa:** Tech Student Worker, CHHS, effective 7/25/25. Reason: Seasonal **Alexis Giles:** Asst. Soccer Coach, CHHS, effective 6/30/25. Reason: Resignation **Kevin Sansaca:** Asst. Soccer Coach, CHHS, effective 7/31/25. Reason: Resignation **Juan Mendoza:** Asst. Soccer Coach, CHHS, effective 6/30/25. Reason: Resignation **CB Baga:** Mock Trial Coach, CHHS, effective 3/7/25. Reason: Seasonal **Resignations/Terminations Ruben Alvarado:** SpEd Teacher, NP, effective 11/7/25. Reason: Termination.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS RESOLUTION:

Member Pettway introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

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 \$ 15,374.25 in monetary contributions detailed in the background.

Monetary

- Beatrice Carter donated \$10, Melanie Kennedy, Mary Williams, Sarah Bond, Shari Alexon, and Cindy Solz each donated \$25, Jessica Johnson and Jennifer Kline each donated \$100 to the Boys Swim Team for Sam Alexon’s swim-a-thon.

- Sarah MacCoy donated \$16.50, Grandma Whittlinger donated \$30, Kelly Kahle and Susan Kahle each donated \$50 to the Boys Swim Team for Josiah Kahle's swim-a-thon
- Sarah MacCoy donated \$17.50, Gpa Whittlinger donated \$40, Susan Kahle donated \$50, Amanda Jacobson donated \$80 to the Boys Swim Team for Joshua Kahle's swim-a-thon
- Catherine Carter donated \$25, Chris Carter donated \$40, Kari Carter and Cari Park each donated \$50, Michael Borrett and the Carters each donated \$100 to the Boys Swim team for Sunshine Carter's swim-a-thon
- Samantha Alexon donated \$15 to the Boys Swim Team for the swim-a-thon
- Beatrice Carter donated \$6, Ihdes donated \$12.50, Hannah Losos donated \$15, Elizabeth Bruchu donated \$20, Abby Dae Souza, Hannah Nicholson, and Paul Asjes, each donated \$25, Kelsey Kraus donated \$30, Kyle Holmes and Anna Chalmers each donated \$100 and Wicitra Mahotama donated \$200 to the Girls Swim Team for Kelsey Asjes's swim-a-thon.
- Scott Rivenburg and Nick Zeimet each donated \$10, Ariane Kokes donated \$25, and Joyce Gokey donated \$50 to the Girls' Swim Team for Annika Nelson's swim-a-thon.
- Molly Olson donated \$25, Cynthia Hendricks, Carol Schellack, Ruth Lemire, Beth Florence each donated \$50, Julie Schellack donated \$75 to the Girls Swim Team for Emilia Martinez-Schellack's swim-a-thon.
- Annette O'Brien, Janet Gifford, Nathan Roberts each donated \$25, Susan Schwenke donated \$50, Rachel & Leo James donated \$61 to the Girls Swim Team for Junia James's swim-a-thon.
- Michael Sjudahl and Evelyn Villar each donated \$25 to the Girls Swim Team for Maria Samayoa's swim-a-thon.
- Camille Gross donated \$50 to the swim-a-thon.
- Deb Loahr donated \$50 to the Girls Tennis Team on behalf of Daphne Kleinschmit
- Lyn M Peterson donated \$20, Celeste Rouse, Christian Even each donated \$25, Lane Anderson donated \$30, Stephanie Bultje donated \$35, Lane A donated \$40, Stacy Nekora donated \$50.67, Susan & Scott Knouse donated \$75, V& B and James Cain, Nikki Wakal each donated \$100 to the Girls Tennis Team on behalf of Ella Anderson Nekora
- Virginia Mulvaney donated \$50, Casey Thrash and Catherine Carruthers each donated \$100 to the Girls Tennis Team on behalf of Elliot Carruthers.
- Grace George, Pablo Hoyos, Sara Diedrich each donated \$20 Patty Erickson donated \$30, Bobbie Harper, Madalyn Jonas, Chuck Jonas, Uncle Dave, Aunt Connie, and Cindy, each donated \$50 Mark Jonas donated \$100 to the Girls Tennis team on behalf of Jenna Jonas.
- Naima Osman donated \$20 to the Girls Tennis Team on behalf of Mary Ahmed.
- Dolkar Tenzin donated \$100 to the Girls Tennis Team on behalf of Mya Vutthikrai.
- MG donated \$100 to the Girls Tennis Team on behalf of Olivia Candella.
- R Tschida donated \$10, CH Theater Dept. donated \$15, Brylee Torkelson donated \$20, Leo Pham \$20, Dawson/Bengry Family donated \$40, Nola Bengry and Eric Jenson each donated \$50 to the Girls Tennis Team on behalf of Sophie Jenson.
- Farheen Bagha donated \$50 and Ahmed Siddiqui donated \$100 to the Girls Tennis Team on behalf of Yumna Ali
- Anonymous Parents donated \$200 to the Band at North Park.

In-Kind

- Camp Digital donated food valued at \$1,500 to Columbia Heights High School for student use.
- Columbia Heights Lions donated food valued at \$700 to Columbia Heights High School for student use.

- Diane Scully donated a Camera, an extra lens, and a camera bag valued at \$900 to Honeywell's photography classes at Columbia Heights High School.
- Donor's Choose donated bins valued at \$163 to Valley View for classroom use.

The total fiscal year 2025-2026 monetary contributions to date: \$21,374.28 total. 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:

Houle- Aye, Medearis-Aye. Mueller-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

Houle- Attended the Board's Thanksgiving dinner, Work Session, and the Closed Session.

Medearis- Attended the Work Session, conferences, and the PTO meeting at Columbia Academy, Highland Turkey BINGO, the Wax Museum, conferences, and helped with the bake sale.

Mueller- Thank the Board for having trust in me to fill the seat and confidence in me. I attended the Work Session and Closed Session.

Palmer- Attended the Work session, chair meeting, and closed session.

Pettway- attend the Student School Board Representative Conference with Asea and Atinan. Parent-teacher conferences at Columbia Academy. A Meeting with the Homes school liaisons, Work Session, and the Wax Museum at North Park.

Superintendent's Report

I joined two meetings on AI Artificial Intelligence, the first included a national speaker, metro area superintendents, the U of MN, and AMSD, the other was the first district AI committee. AI is evolving quickly, so I appreciate staff and community members coming together to help shape our approach.

Events at the schools: I attended the Native American Heritage Family event, stopped by turkey bingo at Highland, the Wax Museum at Valley View, peeked in on basketball practices, and attended theater rehearsal- Newsies next week. Assistant Superintendent Nyembwe and I met with each principal in November. It's always great to get out into the classrooms to connect with students and staff.

Full-Service Community School Grant at Valley View Update

Jason Kuhlman, Principal of Valley View, and Kevin Centeno, Community School Coordinator, presented an update on the Full-Service Community School Grant at Valley View.

The Board received an update on the Valley View Elementary School Full-Service Community School Grant. The program has received robust participation from students and families.

Vision 2030- Elementary

Jason Kuhlman, Principal Valley View, Jeff Cacek, Principal North Park, Michele Janke, Principal Highland, and Bondo Nyembwe, Assistant Superintendent, presented information on the Strategic Plan 2030 from Highland, North Park, and Valley View Elementary.

Vision 2030- Secondary

Leslee Sherk, Principal of Columbia Academy; Todd Wynne, Principal of Columbia Heights High School; and Bondo Nyembwe, Assistant Superintendent, presented information on the Strategic Plan 2030 for Columbia Academy and Columbia Heights High School.

Valley View Construction Bid Results

The School Board was presented with information on the Valley View Elementary Indoor Air Quality Project bid results. Sealed bids for the Valley View Elementary Indoor Air Quality project were opened on November 18, 2025. Bid tabulations and a letter of recommendation from Kraus-Anderson will be presented as an action item at the December 9th, 2025, regular School Board meeting. This project will be funded with bonded dollars approved through the district's Long-Term Facilities Plan, previously approved by the school board and MDE.

Student School Board Representative Appointment

The Board received eight applications for Student School Board Representatives. After reviewing and discussing the applications at the 11/18/25 School Board Work Session

Motion by Medearis, seconded by Houle, to approve the Student School Board Representative appointments of Kadence Hanson and Christian Pena Velez for the duration of January 2026 through December 2026 and Atinan Anwar to continue through June 2026.

Board Topics

November 26, 2025, is the Community Giving at Valley View; all are welcome.

No Friday Packet this week.

December 11th, Representative Sandra Feist is participating in an exchange program event at North Park from 3-4 PM. Let Stephanie know if you wish to attend.

The Columbia Heights Musical Newsies performances will be on December 4, 5, and 6th

Adjourn

Having concluded all agenda items, the meeting is adjourned at 9:02 PM.

Date minutes approved 12/9/2025

Michelle Pettway, Clerk, Board of Education.

Independent School District 13