



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

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

October 28, 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. Medearis, Ms. Houle, Ms. Palmer, Ms. Pettway

Members absent: Ms. Granlund, Ms. Rude, Ms. Anwar.

Hylander Highlight: The Minnesota High School Press All-State 2025

Heights Herald and HNN, Minnesota State Journalism received the following awards in 2025

All State Gold - Hylander News Network (HNN)

All State Gold - TeenVoice Podcast, The Heights Herald

All State Bronze - HeightsHerald.org

Newspaper Editorial Cartoon — 2nd place — The Heights Herald

Photojournalism Illustration — 1st place — The Heights Herald

Sports Editor Christian Peña Velez was present to accept the Hylander Highlight.

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

Announcements

- October 31, No School
- November 10, No school
- Nov. 11, 4:45 Subcommittee on Policy, Superintendent Conference Room
- Nov 11, 5:00 Subcommittee on Community Engagement, Community Room
- Nov. 11, 6:00 Regular School Board Meeting, Community Room
- Nov 18, 5:30 School Board Work Session, Community Room

COMMUNICATION TO THE BOARD – Ms. Sinicariello, a teacher at Columbia Heights High School, presented a Teacher Union Update.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Pettway, seconded by Medearis, to approve the action required to implement the items on the consent agenda. Treasury Report August 2025, Minutes October 14 & 21, and Personal Report: **BACKGROUND: Support Crystal Argueta:** Change to: Education Assistant, VV, effective 10/13/2025. **Sam Thrush:** Change to Education Assistant, CHHS, 7.0 hrs/day, effective

10/10/25. **Coach/Advisor/Additional Assignment** **Cristian Pillajo:** ENCORE Teacher, CA, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. **Namgyal Dorjee:** ENCORE Teacher, NP, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. **Rebecca Stark:** ENCORE Teacher, CA, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. **Sarah Clyaton:** ENCORE Teacher, CA, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. **Ted Ngeh:** ENCORE Teacher, NP, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. **Alison Coleman:** ENCORE Teacher, NP, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. **Ariane Kokes:** ENCORE Teacher, NP, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. **Stan Mraz:** ENCORE Teacher, NP, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. **Mike Welch:** ENCORE Teacher, NP, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. **Vicki Denzer:** ENCORE Teacher, NP, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. **Kim Sobon:** ENCORE Teacher, NP, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. **Todd Boyd:** Drumming Advisor, CA, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. **Todd Boyd:** Jazz Advisor, CA, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. **Ted Ngeh:** Building Leadership Team, NP, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. **Aaron Fryman:** Building Teacher Substitute, HL, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026 (25 days total). **Alexis Handley:** Assistant Speech Coach, CHHS, rehire, effective school year 2025-2026. **Aaron Goff:** Head Girls Basketball Coach, CA, rehire, effective school year 2025-2026. **Estrella Ortiz:** Co-Head Dance Coach, CHHS, rehire, effective school year 2025-2026. **Miriam Cabrera:** Co-Head Dance Coach, CHHS, rehire, effective school year 2025-2026. **Aimee Candella:** Science Bowl Advisor, CHHS, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. **Aimee Candella:** Envirothon, CHHS, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. **Cara Gardner:** Assistant Girls Basketball Coach, CA, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. **Daniel Honigs:** Math Team, CHHS, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. **Erin Edwardson Stern:** Knowledge Bowl Advisor, CHHS, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. **Jessica Nelson:** Chess/Games Advisor, CHHS, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. **Nick Hollerman:** Co-Head Speech Coach, CHHS, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. **Rachel Mann:** Co-Head Speech Coach, CHHS, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. **Nick Hollerman:** Musical Director/Vocal Coach, CHHS, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. **Rachel Mann:** Assistant Musical Director, CHHS, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. **Jazmin Glazer Kelly:** Head Girls Basketball Coach, CHHS, rehire, effective school year 2025-2026. **Dan Ronchak:** Sounds and Lighting, CHHS/CA, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. **Jennie Bradd:** Costumer, CHHS/CA, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. **Patrick Vital Schwartz:** Set Designer, CHHS/CA, rehire, effective school year 2025-2026. **Molly Tengwall:** Vocal Coach/Pianist, CA, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. **Haley Jensen:** Choreographer/Musical Director, CHHS/CA, rehire, effective school year 2025-2026.

Resignations/Terminations **Alicia Burgos de Pliego:** Long Hour Cook, VV, effective 10/9/25. Reason: Resignation. **Revision to 8/26/25:** **Kevin Sanisaca:** Assistant Boys Soccer Coach, CHHS, Rehire, effective school year 2025-2026 – never coached for 2025-2026. **Juan Mendoza:** Assistant Boys Soccer Coach, CHHS, Rehire, effective school year 2025-2026 – never coached

for 2025-2026. **Alex Giles:** Assistant Boys Soccer Coach, CHHS, Rehire, effective school year 2025-2026 – never coached for 2025-2026. All in Favor. Motion Carried.

Reports from Members of the Board

Houle attended the Work session and the Alumni of Distinction Foundation dinner.

Medearis- attended the School Board Work Session, Spooktacular at Kordiak Park, Alumni of Distinction Foundation dinner, City Council Meeting, and Truck or Treat: thank you to the ECFE program for providing games. Volunteered at the CA Book fair, planning a Bake sale at CA to support the PTO. I have been elected as an alternate to the delegate assembly,

Palmer Work attended the Work Session and Chair Meeting

Pettway attended the Work session, Truck or Treat, and the Alumni of Distinction Foundation dinner.

Superintendent's Report

For the last two days, the district's administrators have been in training on the new teacher development and evaluation tool. This month, we dug into the dimensions of Purpose and Assessment for Student Learning. This tool has administrators taking a strengths-based stance as they observe and give feedback. Shifting to a new model can be really challenging, so I appreciate the team's thoughtfulness as we roll it out this year.

Community Survey

Bryan Hennekens, Director of Finance and Operations, and Don Lifo, Morris Leatherman, presented the Board with information on the 2025 Community Survey results. The Morris Leatherman Company conducted 350 interviews with registered voters in our district. The interviews were conducted between October 2nd and 11th. The survey included 38 questions and the average interview was 11 minutes in length.

Strategic Plan 2030- Early Childhood Program

Kristen Stuenkel, Director of Communication and Communications, Sarah Godfrey Director of Special Education, Karissa Ouren, Early Childhood Coordinator. Presented the Board with information on the Strategic Plan 2030- Early Childhood Program. A report on data from the 2024-2025 school year and goals for the 2025-2026 school year.

Policy First Reading

The Policy Subcommittee reviewed: 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.

These Policies will appear on a future agenda for Board approval.

Fall Season Activities and Athletic Update

Jake Henderson, Activities Director, presented a Fall Activities and Athletics update.

The level of height pride represented during Homecoming was unlike any I have been a part of. The students attend events and participate in the Heights tour. The homecoming football game drew approximately 500 students, and many families attended.

Opportunities for our leaders to grow. Together in partnership event, Positive Coaching Alliance. Learn and grow as leaders. Amjad Mohamed, 2nd-team all-state in soccer. Our own stadium was highlighted as one of the top ten stadiums of Minnesota, The musical Newsies, in December. CA sports have ended. Sections are next week. Kicking off into the Winter.

MSHSL Foundation Grant Form A

Jake Henderson, Activities Director, asked the Board to approve the Minnesota State High School League Foundation Grant Form A Resolution.

FORM A APPLICATION TO MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE FOUNDATION

Member Pettway introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, the Minnesota State High School League Foundation was formed to provide support for Minnesota's high school youth to participate in athletics and fine arts;

WHEREAS, the Governing Board of Columbia Heights Public Schools recognizes the value of student participation in extracurricular activities; and

WHEREAS, the MSHSL Foundation is offering grants and funding to assist schools in recognizing, promoting and funding extracurricular participation by high school students in athletic and fine arts programs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Governing Board of Columbia Heights Public Schools supports the school's application to the Minnesota State High School League Foundation for a FORM A grant to offset student activity fees.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Member Medearis and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Pettway, Palmer, Houle, Medearis and the following voted against the same: None.

whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

MSHSL Foundation Grant Form B

Jake Henderson, Activities Director, asked the Board to approve the Minnesota State High School League Foundation Grant Form B Resolution.

RESOLUTION OF SCHOOL BOARD/GOVERNING BOARD SUPPORTING FORM B APPLICATION TO MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE FOUNDATION

Member Houle introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, the Minnesota State High School League Foundation was formed to provide support for Minnesota's high school youth to participate in athletics and fine arts;

WHEREAS, the Governing Board of Columbia Heights Public Schools recognizes the value of student participation in extracurricular activities; and

WHEREAS, the MSHSL Foundation is offering grants and funding to assist schools to provide seminars/training opportunities or support for specific school functions for students/faculty members/officials, and others who are involved in athletic and fine arts programs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Governing Board of Columbia Heights Public Schools supports the school's application to the Minnesota State High School League Foundation for a FORM B grant. Member Medearis duly seconded the motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution, and upon vote being taken thereon, the following

voted in favor thereof: Houle, Pettway, Palmer, Medearis

and the following voted against the same:

Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Building Capacity

Superintendent Stenvik, the Board will be asked to approve the reopening of kindergarten and Grade 3 at Highland Elementary to open enrollment for the 2025-26 school year, or until the enrollment numbers increase to a level that reaches building capacity.

Motion by Pettway, seconded by Houle, to approve the reopening of Kindergarten and Grade 3 at Highland Elementary to open enrollment for the 2025-2026 school year. All in favor, motion passes.

Board Topics

Pettway, looking forward to the Student Representative Conference tomorrow.

Motion by Pettway, seconded by Houle, to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM.

Date minutes approved November 25, 2025, Michelle Pettway, Clerk, Board of Education.

Independent School District 13