

**Columbia Heights Public Schools
Minutes of the
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Community Room
August 12, 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. Mueller, Ms. Palmer, Ms. Pettway

Members absent: None

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

Announcements

- Aug 19, 5:30 Work Session, Community Room
- Aug 26, 6:00 School Board Meeting, Community Room
- Sept. 1, District closed
- Sept. 2, First day of school
- Sept. 9, 6:00 School Board Meeting, Community Room

COMMUNICATION TO THE BOARD – None

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Palmer, seconded by Houle, to approve the action required to implement the items on the consent agenda. Motion Carried.

Minutes: June 24, 2025, June 30, 2025, July 8, 2025

Treasurer Report: May 2025 & June 2025

Personal Report August 12, 2025 **Licensed: Hilary Wagenfeld:** Change to Special Education Teacher, HL, effective 8/25/25. **Crystal Daugherty:** Change to 2nd Grade Teacher, HL, effective 8/25/25. **Abby**

Caballero: Change to 1st Grade Teacher, HL, effective 8/25/25. **Lori Lavin:** Special Service Coordinator, DW, effective 7/25/25 **Licensed – Conditional Kalante Logan:** Special Education Teacher, CA, new hire, step 3, lane 1 (BA), for 189 days for the 2025-2026 school year (the conditional offer of employment is subject to obtaining the appropriate license and successful completion of a criminal background check).

Taylor Meyer: Special Education Teacher, CA/NP, 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 obtaining the appropriate license and successful completion of a criminal background check). **Support – Conditional**

Amy Johnson: Education Assistant, HL, rehire, effective 9/1/25 (the conditional offer of employment is subject to successful completion of a criminal background check). **Patrick Shipway:** Personalized

Learning Facilitator, DW, new hire, 196 days for the 2025-2026 school year (the conditional offer of employment is subject to successful completion of a criminal background check). **Support Alicia Burgos De Pliego:** Change to Long Hour Cook, VV, effective 9/1/25. **Emily Gartner:** Change to Lead Teaching and Learning Coordinator, DW, effective 7/1/25. **Coach/Advisor/Additional Assignment**

Brad Boleman: Summer ENCORE Specialist Substitute Teacher, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Alicia Geske:** Summer ENCORE Specialist Substitute Teacher, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Sam Alexon:** Head Boys Swim Coach, CHHS, current employee, effective 2025-2026 school year. **Katie Maldeis:** Assistant Girls Soccer Coach, CA, current employee, effective 2025-2026

school year. **Mike Sorensen:** Assistant Football Coach, CHHS, rehire, effective 2025-2026 school year. **Colton Williams:** Assistant Football Coach, CHHS, rehire, effective 2025-2026 school year. **Nicole Renier:** Summer ENCORE Substitute Teacher, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Jessica Krause:** Summer EA Tennis, CHHS, current employee, effective summer 7/21/25-7/24/25. **Jenny Lofstad:** Summer EL EA, DC, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Lendy Cedeno:** Summer Casual Custodian, CHHS, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Montroy Scott:** Special Education ESY Substitute Teacher, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Tiffany Jiang:** Summer ENCORE Substitute Teacher, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Jennifer Cahill:** Summer ENCORE Substitute Teacher, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2025. **Resignations/Terminations Claudia Contreras Villa:** PreK 4 Assistant, VV, effective 6/11/25. Reason: Resignation. **Marjorie Vivanco:** ECFE/PreK 3 Assistant, Comm Ed, effective 6/11/25. Reason: Resignation. **Vince Henry:** Custodian, CHHS, effective 7/11/25. Reason: Termination. **Karen Holland-Wallace:** Teacher, VV, effective 6/12/25. Reason: Retirement. **Karen Peterson-Kremer:** Teacher, VV, effective 6/12/25. Reason: Retirement. **Allie Nelson:** Educ Asst, NP, effective 6/11/25. Reason: Resignation. **Fernanda Mendez:** Student Aide Technology, CHHS, effective 6/11/25. Reason: Temporary Assignment. **Revision to 5/14/25: Amanda Struver:** Withdrew contract for Special Education Teacher Position for 2025-2026. **Revision to 6/10/25: Hannah Scheibe:** English Teacher, CA, new hire, step 1, lane 6 (MA), 189 days for the 2025-2026 school year (the conditional offer of employment is subject to obtaining the appropriate license and successful completion of a criminal background check). **Licensed Hires from 7/15/25 Cancelled Board Meeting: Licensed Rachel Spawn Lee:** 4th Grade Teacher, NPSfl, rehire, step 5, lane 6 (MA) for 186 days for the 2025-2026 school year. **Peter MacFarlane:** Engineering Teacher, CA, rehire, step 3, lane 6 (MA) for 186 days for the 2025-2026 school year. **Licensed – Conditional Samiya Jibrill:** LEAP Teacher, NPSfl, new hire, step 1, lane 6 (MA), for 189 days for the 2025-2026 school year (the conditional offer of employment is subject to obtaining the appropriate license and successful completion of a criminal background check).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS

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 \$ 2,500 in monetary contributions detailed in the background.

DETAILED BACKGROUND:

Monetary

- Penny Lee donated \$700, Dave Miley donated \$250, Laurie Seifert and Ronald Malcom each donated \$200, Tricia Wilmot, Nancy Wenkel, Jacqueline Miley, Timothy Miley, Diane Scully, and Rodney Miley each donated \$100, Jody Jaakola, Carol Krahling, Cindy Ehlers, Pam Sigurdson, Janet Asleson, Michael Reynolds, B Winberg, Stephanie Sabol and Charles Martin each donated \$50, Elizabeth Thomas and Lori & Bruce Watland each donated \$30, Lorraine Olsbo and Karen Rudd each donated \$25, and Rene Miley donated \$20 to the Retired Staff Scholarship Fund for Dean Miley Memorial.
- Art & Karen Rudd donated \$145, James and Brenda Bebeau donated \$100, Al and Maren Ogdie donated \$50, Fred and Terri Edstrom and Pam Sigurdson each donated \$25, and Betty Thomas donated \$10 to the Retired Staff Scholarship Fund in memory of Ralf Karki
- An anonymous donor donated \$50 to the Columbia Heights School District in honor of Elroy Honl.

The total fiscal year 2024-2025 monetary contributions to date: \$192,381.13

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

Granlund – Aye, Houle- Aye, Medearis- 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-Attended the Joint City Council Meeting and the School Board retreat. I attended four teacher negotiations sessions, a conversation with community members, met with Superintendent Stenvik, and also participated in the Parliamentary training.

Houle- Reviewed 4 months of expense reports this year from an analytical perspective.

Medearis-Attended the school board retreat, participated in a 4-part Parliamentary training, represented the school board at the Community Ed trip to the Guthrie, and a lot of community members joined me.

Palmer-Attended the Joint meeting with the City Council, attended Negotiations as an alternative for Negotiations, Chaired the 916 School Board Meeting, and met with Member Smith and participated in the Chair meeting.

Pettway-Attended the Jamboree parade, the joint City Council Meeting and special called, and the School Board Retreat.

Smith- Met with Vice Chair Palmer and attended Negotiations.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Welcome back, everyone!

We had an incredible summer ENCORE program this year with over 600 students attending. And this week, fall sports teams started practicing: Tennis, volleyball, soccer, football, and cross country.

I am thrilled to be appointed to the Legislative Task Force on Compensatory Revenue. Our first meeting is on September 3rd. Last week, we had our first round of training on the new Teacher Development and Evaluation system. There is a lot to learn about the five dimensions and 25 indicators. The approach provides more frequent feedback and support to teachers. August is a busy month. This week, we have two full days of Admin team meetings. Next week, we welcome new staff to the district. The week after that, all staff will be back, so it is crunch time for us as we prepare to welcome all students and families back to school. As a reminder, the first day of school is September 2nd.

YOUTH OUTREACH OFFICER

Bryan Hennekens, Director of Finance and Operations, and Police Chief Matt Markham presented information on the Youth Outreach officer agreement with the Columbia Heights Police Department. Administration will seek approval of the agreement on August 26, 2025. Data was reported in comparison from the 2023-2024 school year and the 2024-2025 school year from Columbia Academy and Columbia Heights High School. Nature of the calls, the ages of the students encountered, and offences were presented to the Board.

Closed Session

Motion by Palmer, seconded by Houle, to move to Closed Session to discuss negotiations. All in Favor, Motion carried.

Motion by Palmer and seconded by Pettway to return to Open Session. All in Favor, Motion carried.

BOARD TOPICS

Granlund – The City of Columbia Heights Park and Recreation Department is putting on a Play, August 14th and 15th. All details are on the Park and Rec Website.

Stenvik – Scaling the Heights is Tuesday, August 19th at 11:30 AM at Murzyn Hall.

Convocation 2025, Wednesday, August 27, arrive at the Performing Arts Center at 9:45, and the all-staff picnic to follow on the front lawn.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Palmer, seconded by Houle, to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Approved 8/26/2025

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