



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

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

December 9, 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 (Remote), Ms. Palmer, Ms. Pettway (Remote), Ms. Mueller, Superintendent Stenvik

Members absent: None

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Medearis, seconded by Mueller, to approve the agenda as presented. Granlund Aye- Houle- Aye, Medearis- Aye, Mueller- Aye, Palmer- Aye, Pettway- Aye. Motion Carried.

Announcements

- No School December 22–January 2
- District Closed on December 24, 25, 31, and January 1.
- January 6, 6:00 Organizational Meeting, Community Room

COMMUNICATION TO THE BOARD –

A message from an elementary teacher was read.

Reading from a High School teacher who was not able to attend due to the weather

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Houle, seconded by Mueller, to approve the action required to implement the items on the consent agenda. **Minutes November 25, 2025 Personal Report:** BACKGROUND:

Support – Conditional Na’Nesha Perry: Educational Assistant, HL, effective 11/24/2025 (the conditional offer of employment is subject to successful completion of a criminal background check). Jessica Rush: Food Service Sub., DW, effective 12/2/25 (the conditional offer of employment is subject to successful completion of a criminal background check). Support: Laurie Nelson: Adv Club Asst, current employee, Comm Ed/HL, effective 1/6/26. Amy Fraser: Adv Club Asst, current employee, Comm Ed/HL, effective 1/5/26. Coach/Advisor/Additional Assignment Ernie McNeal: Co-Head Wrestling Coach, CHHS, rehire, effective school year 2025-2026. Billy Depies: Co-Head Wrestling Coach, CHHS, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. Jen Heveron: ENCORE Building Monitor, CA, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. Ben Glvoer: Asst. Boys Basketball Coach, CHHS, new hire, effective 12/1/25. Dylan Lentz: Asst. Wrestling Coach, CHHS, new hire, effective 12/1/25.

Resignations/Terminations Wenwu Gumisiriza: EL Teacher, NP, effective 11/21/25. Reason: Resignation. Kristen Sinicariello: Head Girls Soccer Coach, CHHS, effective 11/5/25. Reason: Resignation. Chris Nelson: Custodian, NP, effective 12/16/25. Reason: Resignation. Granlund Aye-Houle- Aye, Medearis- Aye, Mueller- Aye, Palmer- Aye, Pettway- Aye. Motion Carried.

Acknowledgment of Contributions

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 \$ 2,614.28 in monetary contributions detailed in the background: **Monetary** • Artsonia donated \$189.28 to North Park School for Innovation, and Anonymous parents donated \$2,275 to North Park School for Innovation for school Supplies. The Blackbaud Giving Fund donated \$150 to Valley View for school use. **In-Kind**- NE Goldbricks donated Turkey Dinners valued at \$1,500 to Columbia Heights High School for student/family use.

The total fiscal year 2025-2026 monetary contributions to date: \$23,988.56 total.

Member Palmer introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

Member Pettway 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, Mueller-Aye, Palmer-Aye, Pettway-Aye

Thereupon, the said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

BOARD REPORTS

Granlund attended the musical Newsies, Valley View Site council, the Chair Meeting, and the Subcommittee on Policy meeting, Met with Superintendent Stenvik, Legislators, and leadership at St. Anthony Public Schools, working together on a community engagement opportunity we are developing. Helped with Turkey BINGO and had many interactions with staff, students, and family members.

Houle attended the Policy Subcommittee.

Medearis attended a PTO meeting at CA and served as the MSBA legislative delegate at the assembly, providing perspectives from districts across the state's rural areas— topics included robust policy on dual enrollment. Attended the Newsies musical. Congratulations to the staff and students on their fantastic performances. Held many conversations with Parents about many aspects of our district, recognizing ICE agents in our community, and the safety and well-being of our students and families.

Mueller spent time reviewing the information related to the action item on the Valley View Project and Bids before this meeting.

Palmer attended the delegate assembly, was intrigued by the Land Trust legislation, the Chair Meeting, and the Community Engagement subcommittee.

Pettway attended the community giving event at Valley View, the district-wide BIPOC Meeting, and the next BIPOC Meeting, which will be at Columbia Academy, The Musical Newsies, the Subcommittee on Community Engagement, and watched an AMSD meeting recording.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Spent the day at the Legislative Task Force on Compensatory Revenue. My subgroup presented on what the research says about best practices for determining student poverty rates. We are pushing for the use of multiple metrics to capture more accurate data, rather than relying solely on Educational Benefits forms or solely on Direct Certification. Many states use multiple measures. Next, we are preparing for the preliminary report, which is due to the legislature in February. Joint community conversation about the Dignity Index Partnering with St. Anthony New Brighton school district and the cities Feb 5 in the evening. Talking with one another on a scale of dignity to contempt

DISTRICT'S ANNUAL BUDGET HEARING (TRUTH IN TAXATION HEARING)

Bryan Hennekens, Director of Finance and Operations, and Matthew Hammer, Senior Municipal Advisor, Ehlers, presented information regarding the District's Annual Budget Hearing (Truth in Taxation Hearing).

Community Education Early Childhood Program Fees 2026-2027

Kristen Stuenkel, Director of Communication and Communications, provided Information on the fees for Columbia Public Schools Community Education's Early Childhood Programs: Adventure Club, Mini Adventures, Early Childhood, Family Education, and PreK 3 program fees for 2026-2027. The approximately 5% increase is necessary to cover staffing costs for these Community Education programs. This will be an action at a meeting in January.

2025 Payable 2026 Levy

Motion by Pettway, seconded by Houle, to certify the 2025 payable 2026 school levy as presented. Roll call vote: Granlund-Aye, Houle-Aye, Medearis-Aye, Mueller-Aye, Palmer-Aye, Pettway-Aye. All in favor. Motion carried.

Valley View Construction Bids

Sealed bids for the Valley View Elementary Indoor Air Quality Project were opened on November 18th, 2025, at 2:00 pm. This was presented as an informational item at the November 25th regular school board meeting. As presented at the previous meeting, we are seeking approval to move forward with the recommendation from Kraus Anderson to award contracts to the attached list based on the best value and the low responsible bidders. This project is being funded through the district Bond Sales and existing Long Term Facilities Maintenance dollars.

Motion by Palmer, seconded by Medearis, to award the following bids for the Valley View Elementary Indoor Air Quality Project for WS 01-J – Construction Final Clean to SPAR, LLC, WS 02-A – Demolition to Ramsey Companies, WS 03-A – Concrete & Masonry to Ebert, Inc. DBA Ebert Construction, WS 05-B.1 – Combined Structural Steel to Red Cedar Steel Erectors, Inc, WS 06-A – Carpentry to Reiling Construction Co. Inc., WS 07-H – Roofing to Central Roofing Company, WS 09-A – Drywall to Commercial Drywall Inc., WS 09-B – Tile to Precision Floors, LLC, WS 09-C – Ceilings & Acoustical Treatments to Jannings Acoustics Inc., WS 09-D – Flooring – Resilient & Carpet to Super Set Flooring & Tile, WS 09-K – Wall Covering & Painting to Painting by Nakasone Inc., WS 11-F – Food Service Equipment to The Boelter Companies Inc. WS 11-K – Gymnasium Equipment to Sportscon, LLC –, WS 12-C – Manufactured Casework to Woodside Industries, Inc., WS 21-A – Fire Suppression to Summit Fire Protection Co., WS 23-A – Geothermal to Midwest Mechanical Solutions, WS 23-B – Combined Mechanical to Weidner Plumbing and Heating Co., WS26-A – Electrical to LTL LED, LLC DBA Wolf River Electric, WS 31-A – Earthwork & Paving to Kevitt Excavating, LLC.

Roll Called Vote. Granlund- Aye, Houle- Aye, Medearis- Aye, Mueller- Aye, Palmer- Aye, Pettway- Aye. All In Favor Motion Carried.

Resolution to Combine Precincts for Special Elections

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING COMBINED POLLING PLACES FOR MULTIPLE PRECINCTS AND DESIGNATING HOURS DURING WHICH THE POLLING PLACES WILL REMAIN OPEN

FOR VOTING FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT ELECTIONS NOT HELD ON THE DAY OF A STATEWIDE

ELECTION: **WHEREAS**, Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 205A.11, the precincts and polling places for school district elections are those precincts or parts of precincts located within the boundaries of the school district that have been established by the cities or towns located in whole or in part within the school district. The School Board hereby confirms those precincts and polling places so established by those municipalities. **WHEREAS**, Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 205A.11, the School Board may establish a combined polling place for several precincts for school district elections not held on the day of a statewide election. A county or municipality must designate each combined polling place for use as a polling place.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Columbia Heights Public Schools, Independent School District No. 13, State of Minnesota, as follows: The combined polling places designated in this resolution are the polling places unless a change is made in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 205A.11, subdivision 2; or pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 204B.175; or because a polling place has become unavailable. The following combined polling places are established to serve the precincts specified for all school district special and general elections not held on the same day as a statewide election in the calendar year following the adoption of this resolution: Combination Name:

ISD 13 PI HYLANDER CENTER DOOR 41 1400 49th Avenue NE NORTH GYM: Comprised of City Precincts: COLUMBIA HEIGHTS P-1, COLUMBIA HEIGHTS P-2, COLUMBIA HEIGHTS P-7, COLUMBIA HEIGHTS P.8, FRIDLEY W-1 P.4, FRIDLEY W-3 P-3, HILLTOP P-I,

ISD 13 P2 HYLANDER CENTER DOOR 41 1400 49th Avenue NE SOUTH GYM: COLUMBIA HEIGHTS P.3, COLUMBIA HEIGHTS P.4, COLUMBIA HEIGHTS P-5, COLUMBIA HEIGHTS P-6, FRIDLEY W-2 P-3

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 205A.09 (Voting Hours), the polling places will remain open for school district elections not held on the same day as a statewide election between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. The clerk is directed to file a copy of this resolution with the county auditors of each of the counties in which the school district is located, in whole or in part, within thirty (30) days after its adoption. As required by Minnesota Statutes, Section 204B.16, subdivision 1a, the clerk is hereby authorized and directed to give written notice to each affected household with at least one registered voter in the precinct if the location of a polling place has changed, stating the new polling place's location. The notice must be a non-forwardable notice mailed at least twenty-five (25) days before the date of the first election to which it will apply. A notice that is returned as undeliverable must be forwarded immediately to the appropriate county auditor. This paragraph does not apply to a polling place location that is changed on election day under Minnesota Statutes, section 204B.175.

The motion for adoption of the Resolution was made by Member Palmer, duly seconded by Member Medearis. The vote on adoption of the Resolution was as follows:

Aye: Granlund- Aye, Houle-Aye, Medearis-Aye, Mueller-Aye, Palmer-Aye, Pettway-Aye

Whereupon, said Resolution was declared duly adopted by Columbia Heights Public Schools, Independent School District No. 13 State of Minnesota, this 9th day of December, 2025.

Special Election Resolution

Member Palmer introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

A RESOLUTION DECLARING A VACANCY IN THE OFFICE OF SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER AND CALLING FOR A SPECIAL ELECTION TO FILL THE VACANCY: **WHEREAS**, School Board member Corenia Smith has filed a written resignation with the board, effective September 30, 2025; and **WHEREAS**, Lorien Mueller was appointed to fill the vacancy and to serve until a successor is elected and qualified. **WHEREAS** Minnesota Statutes, Section 205A.05 provides that a school board shall call a special election to fill a school board vacancy pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 123B.09, subdivision 5. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SCHOOL BOARD OF COLUMBIA HEIGHTS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT #13, as follows:**

- 1) It is necessary to hold a special election to elect one (1) individual to fill the vacancy in the term of School Board Member expiring the first Monday in January, 2029.
- 2) The District shall proceed to select a successor to fill the vacancy by Special Election to be held according to the following schedule: Special Election – April 14, 2026

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the School Board of Columbia Heights Independent School District #13 directs the clerk to make all necessary preparations for the election required by MN Statute, Rule, and Administrative Policy of the District.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Member Houle, and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Granlund-Aye, Houle-Aye, Medearis- Aye, Mueller- Aye, Palmer- Aye, Pettway-Aye.

Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted by the Columbia Heights Public Schools, Independent School District No. 13, State of Minnesota, this 9th day of December, 2025.

Building Capacity

Motion by Pettway, seconded by Granlund, to approve reopening the Transition Program to open enrollment, for the 2025-26 school year. Roll called Vote: Granlund-Aye, Houle-Aye, Medearis-Aye, Mueller- Aye, Palmer- Aye, Pettway-Aye. Motion carried.

Board Topics

Medearis Parent and Me class, Canvas inking still has registration openings.

Palmer shared information on the Land Rights endowment. Leadership conference: early-bird seminar, "Pathway to Advocacy," January 14th, 1-4:30. Since advocacy is part of our Board Goals, we strongly encourage Board members to attend.

Adjourn

Motion by Houle seconded by Medearis, Roll call Vote: Granlund-Aye, Houle- Aye, Medearis-Aye, Mueller-Aye, Palmer-Aye, Pettway-Aye, Motion carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 PM.

January 6, 2026

Date minutes approved

Laura Palmer, Clerk, Board of Education.

Independent School District 13