



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

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
February 17, 2026

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

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Clerk Palmer called the roll.

Members present: Ms. Granlund, Ms. Medearis, Ms. Houle, Ms. Pettway, Ms. Mueller (Remote), Mr. Pena Velez, Superintendent Stenvik

Members absent: Ms. Palmer,

Motion by Medearis, seconded by Houle, to approve the agenda as presented. All in favor, roll call vote. Motion carried

Announcements

March 10, 4:45, Subcommittee on Policy, Superintendent's Conference Room

March 10, 5:00, Subcommittee on Community Engagement, Community Room

March 10, 6:00, Regular School Board Meeting, Community Room

March 17, 5:30, School Board Work Session, Community Room

Communication to the Board

MR- Teacher at Valley View Elementary for 20 years, and the last 2 months have been the most challenging of my career. Valley View staff thanks the superintendent and Board for the support and efforts to keep our students safe. Thank you, board members, for participating in the negotiation process.

JO-Parent of a current student. Impressed by the way that this community has come together and how the schools and community are being so active in supporting students and families.

Consent Agenda

Motion by Pettway, seconded by Houle, to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. All in favor. Roll call vote, Motion carries

Personal Report-February 17, 2026 **Licensed Daniela Cervantes:** Change to EL Teacher, NPSfl, effective 1/26/26. **Betsy Juran-Nelson:** Change to: Special Education Teacher, CHHS, 1.0 FTE for 40 days from 1/27/26-3/27/26. **Support Teresa Hernandez:** Change to Kitchen Manager, HL, 7.5 hours per day, effective 2/18/26. **Patrick O'Brien:** Change to Asst. Kitchen Manager, CA, 7.00 hours per day, effective 2/18/26. **Crystal Risvold:** Change to Medium Hour Cook, CA, 5.5 hours per day, effective 2/18/26. **Edwin Matthes:** Change to Medium Hour Cook, CA, 5.5 hours per day, effective 2/18/26. **Christine Rodriguez-Xalate:** Change to Medium Hour Cook, CA, 5.5 hours per day, effective 2/18/26. **Norma Inamagua Pena:** Change

to Medium Hour Cook, CA, 4 hours per day, effective 2/18/26. **Lynn Lindberg:** Change to Long Hour Cook, HL, 6.5 hours per day, effective 2/18/26. **Scott McMahon:** Change to Medium Hour Cook, HL, 4 hours per day, effective 2/18/26. **Vilma Salas Faican:** Change to Asst. Kitchen Manager, CHHS, 7 hours per day, effective 2/18/26. **Jose Lima:** Change to Medium Hour Cook, CHHS, 5.5 hours per day, effective 2/18/26. **Lendy Cedeno:** Change to Medium Hour Cook, CHHS, 4 hours per day, effective 2/18/26. **Rose Szurek:** Change to Medium Hour Cook, CHHS, 5.5 hours per day, effective 2/18/26. **Darian Bellanger:** Change to Medium Hour Cook, CHHS, 4 hours per day, effective 2/18/26. **Shawn Bourassa:** Change Medium Hour Cook, CHHS, 4 hours per day, effective 2/18/26. **Mark Cramer:** Change Kitchen Manager, NP, 7.5 hours per day, effective 2/18/26. **Freweini Tesema:** Change Medium Hour Cook, NP, 4 hours per day, effective 2/18/26. **Tania Segarra Lima:** Change to Long Hour Cook, NP, 6.5 hours per day, effective 2/18/26. **Sam Jurisk:** Change to Kitchen Manager, VV, 7.5 hours per day, effective 2/18/26. **Latifa Moulahid:** Change to Medium Hour Cook, VV, 4 hours per day, effective 2/18/26. **Blanca Inamagua:** Change to Medium Hour Cook, VV, 4 hours per day, effective 2/18/26. **Alicia Inamagua:** Change to Long Hour Cook, VV, 6.5 hours per day, effective 2/18/26. **Victor Alvarez:** Change to Groundskeeper, DW, effective 2/17/26. **Coach/Advisor/Additional Assignment Tanya Moore:** BSU, CHHS, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. **Aaron Goff:** Head Boys Basketball Coach, CA, rehire, effective school year 2025-2026. **Dan Ronchak:** Multi-Course Assignment, CHHS, current employee, effective 1/27/26. **Brian DuRose:** Head Softball Coach, CHHS, new hire, effective 3/5/26. **Jason Dreves:** ENCORE Teacher, HL, current employee, effective 2/18/26. **Callee Aydt:** ENCORE Teacher, HL, current employee, effective 2/18/26. **Matt Birr:** ENCORE Teacher, VV, current employee, effective 2/18/26. **Callie Adams:** ENCORE Teacher Substitute, NP, current employee, effective 2/17/26. **Tim Davis:** ENCORE Teacher Substitute, NP, current employee, effective 2/17/26. **Alexandria Tupper:** ENCORE Teacher, VV, current employee, effective 2/18/26. **Angela Lopez Reyes:** Assistant Boys Volleyball Coach, CHHS, rehire, effective school year 2025-2026. **Emily Shields:** High School Play Director, CHHS, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. **Ariel Orcutt:** Co-Head Track Coach, CA, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. **Alex Mack:** Co-Head Track Coach, CA, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. **Molly MacDonald:** Co-Head Track Coach, CA, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. **Tony Davis:** Assistant Boys Tennis Coach, CHHS, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. **Lucas Toutge:** Head Boys Tennis Coach, CHHS, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. **Verdell Sheets:** Assistant Baseball Coach, CA, rehire, effective school year 2025-2026. **Scott Optaz:** Head Baseball Coach, CA, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. **Dan Shuck:** Head Baseball Coach, CHHS, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. **Sean Pabon:** Assistant Baseball Coach, CHHS, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. **Elizabeth Brubakken:** Head Boys Volleyball Coach, CHHS, rehire, effective school year 2025-2026. **Pashia Scott:** Assistant Boys Volleyball Coach, CHHS, rehire, effective school year 2025-2026. **Perla Hernandez:** Assistant Lacrosse Coach, CHHS, rehire, effective school year 2025-2026. **Marc Jerue:** Building Leadership Team, CHHS, current employee, effective school year 2025-2026. **Sean Pabon:** ENCORE EA, VV, current employee, effective 2/4/26. **Leave Daniel Honigs:** Teacher, CHHS, requests Leave of Absence from 2/6/26-6/11/26.

Resignations/Termination: **Becky Boe:** Teacher, NP, effective 6/11/26. Reason: Resignation. **Miranda McDonald:** Custodian, HL, effective 1/30/26. Reason: Resignation. **Luke Sands:** Teacher, CHHS, effective 6/11/26. Reason: Resignation. **Daniel Honigs:** Teacher, CHHS, effective 6/11/26. Reason: Resignation., **Seniority List-** Custodial, Clerical, Food Service, Education Assistant, Home School Liaison, Building Monitor, and Lunch Duty Monitor. **Treasury Report-** December 2025, **Minutes-**January 20, 2026, January 26, 2026, and February 20, 2026 **Policy First Reading: Substantive & Second Reading** 407 - Employee Right to Know—Exposure to Hazardous Substances 412 - Expense Reimbursements, 418- Drug Free Workplace, 802- Disposition of Obsolete Equipment, 806-Crisis Management

Acknowledgement of Donations

Member Houle introduced the motion: 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 \$ 4,350 in monetary contributions detailed in the background. Monetary:

- Glad H Olinger donated \$50, Joseph Speltz and Carol Keers each donated \$100, Janice Ann McCoy donated \$150, Diane Roffler donated \$200, Mary O Leary donated \$250, Church of St. Stephen the Martyr donated \$500, Sue Sattler donated \$1,000 to Valley View for school use.
- Michelene Verlautz donated \$1,000 to Valley View for the school food shelf.
- Barbra Gavin donated \$1,000 to the 2026 Anne E. Farnham Memorial Scholarship Fund.
- Cheyrl Riggs donated \$1,000 to the 2026 Class of 76 Scholarship Fund.

The total fiscal year 2025-2026 monetary contributions to date: \$56,132.06.

The motion for the adoption of the preceding resolution was duly seconded by Member Medearis, and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Granlund –Aye, Houle – Aye, Medearis – Aye, Mueller – Aye, Pettway – Aye, Thereupon, the said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Reports from Members of the Board

Granlund – attended the special-called meeting, the Columbia Heights community meeting with over 200 people, which lasted 2 ½ hours. Spoken with many media outlets, traveled to Washington, D.C., with 50 community members, to testify on what they are experiencing in Minnesota. Spoke with Senators across the political spectrum. Championing the cause. Held several conversations with members of the community

Houle attended the city of Columbia Heights community event, which was eye-opening, especially the testimonies. Attended the Feb 10 work session and the legislative advocacy session last week and this week. Reviewed the August to December audit reports. Everything that I saw has been very consistent, nothing unusual noted

Medearis- As the Board liaison to the city, I attended the City of Columbia Heights listening session on the impact of ICE on the community, which was impactful, powerful, and

heartbreaking: thankful for the police department and the city council for the opportunity to share and hear. Working with individual buildings, attended individual PTO, and coordinated and attended a combined PTO leaders meeting in an effort to collaborate among our schools. Helped at conferences, provided meals, and helped at the bake sale at Highland. Attended the work session and the newly formed Subcommittee legislative action committee. Actively talking to the public about the Special Election on April 14 for the open seat on the School Board, voting to take place in the Hylander Center AMDS Board Meeting

Mueller attended the Subcommittee on Community Engagement and strategized for the day at the Capitol. Attended the work session and the subcommittee on community engagement.

Pettway visited North Park to provide support. Attended the AMSD Board Meeting, completed the second section of the leadership training. Attended two legislative action meetings in preparation for the March 9th Day at the Capitol. Seeking voices from the community so that, as a school board member, we can better represent your needs in our legislative platform. The Columbia Heights Public Schools website will have legislative resources for people participate. Attended two Chair meetings and the Work session

Superintendent Report

I have had several conversations with community members and staff. It has been a very challenging couple of months, and I want to recognize all of the efforts by staff, parents, and community members. Earlier in this meeting Chair Granlund read off our core values, our staff, parents and community members have truly demonstrated each of the values in all they have done to support our students.

Last week I participated in the Legislative Task Force for Compensatory Revenue. There was some disagreement among task force members on what metrics should be used to generate funding. A preliminary report will be submitted to the state Legislature later this month with the final report due in October. Columbia Heights funding will be cut by \$3.6 Million dollars unless the Legislature enacts a hold harmless mechanism.

Student School Board Report

Pena Velez- still working on my mental health and have been paying attention to the news of the city. The self-censorship of the school paper has removed the censorship and allowed more reporting on the events. He attended the newspaper layout session. Give gratitude to the students and leadership of Columbia Heights.

Native American Concurrence

Yolanda Dorr-Slowey, Native American Mentor, presented information to the Board in the Native American Concurrence. This is an annual presentation

Each year, Committee the Columbia Heights Public Schools American Indian/Native American Parent Advisory Committee receives data from the district on whether or not the district has met the needs of American Indian students using the goals from the program plan submitted and approved by MDE. The committee votes on how the district is achieving and accountable to the goals. The committee voted for concurrence in accordance with Minnesota Statute 124D.78 on February 4, 2026. The School Board does not approve the decision made by the American Indian Parent Advisory Committee; however, the compliance document requires a signature

from the Board Chair. The compliance document is enclosed. We voted and approved the concurrence

Achievement and Integration Budget

The Columbia Heights Public Schools receive Achievement and Integration Revenue from the Minnesota Department of Education. Next year's (2026-27) total Achievement and Integration aid allocation is \$1,194,860.84. This revenue must be aligned with the goals and strategies outlined in the approved Achievement and Integration Plan. The budget is submitted annually to the Minnesota Department of Education by March 15. The Columbia Heights Public Schools Achievement and Integration plan has three goals and eleven strategies. 80% of the funds should support direct student services, and 20% should support professional development opportunities. Every year in December, we are required to provide a midyear financial report for the Achievement and Integration funds the district received.

Policy First Reading

The following Policies were reviewed at the January 20, 2026, Policy Subcommittee Meeting. These policies will be made available for staff and community input on the district webpage and brought before the Board for second-reading approval at a future Board meeting. **Yearly Review**-522 Title IX **Three year cycled review**: 103- Complaints, 420- Students and Employees with Sexually Transmitted Infections and Diseases and Certain Other Communicable Diseases and Infections Conditions, 422.1- Respect and Professionalism in the Workplace – Recommended new title, Previously Respect in the Workplace- change to aspirational purpose, 423- Employee Student Relationships **New Policy**: 715-Post-Issuance Compliance

Columbia Academy Schedule

During contract negotiations with Local #710, a tentative agreement was reached on the CA Schedule. This tentative agreement, pending Board approval, includes a 10-minute later school start time for Columbia Academy for the 2026-27 school year. The Board will be asked to approve the 2025-2027 Local #710 contract on February 17, which includes the Memorandum of Understanding for the CA Schedule. The agreement on the new schedule includes a change to Columbia Academy's start time, which currently has the longest school day of any of our schools. The MOU will reduce teacher prep time in exchange for starting school 10 minutes later. This proposal will not increase any costs to the district. Elementary school day: 7:55 am - 2:20 pm; CHHS school day: 8:20 am - 3:05 pm; Current CA school day: 8:20 am - 3:15 pm; Proposed school day: 8:30 am - 3:15 pm.

Motion by Houle, seconded by Pettway, to approve the Columbia Academy school day starting at 8:30 and ending at 3:25 pm beginning at the start of the 2026-27 school year. All in Favor Roll call vote. Motion carries.

Teacher Master Agreement

Motion by Pettway, seconded by Houle, to approve the Master Agreement between Independent School District 13, Columbia Heights, and Federation of Teachers Local #710, covering school years 2025-2026 and 2026-2027, as recommended

Granlund-Aye, Houle-Aye, Medearis-Abstained, Mueller-Aye, Pettway-Aye. Motion Carried.

Teacher & ECFE Teacher Seniority Lists

According to the Teachers' Master Agreement, the seniority lists must be updated each year. A copy of the lists that School Board members received in their packets has been circulated, and teachers have had thirty (30) days to review and offer to the Human Resources Department any corrections necessary. Motion by Mueller, seconded by Houle, to approve the 2025-2026 Teachers' Seniority List and the 2025-2026 ECFE Teachers' Seniority List. Granlund -Aye, Houle- Aye, Medearis- Abstains Mueller-Aye. Motion Passes

September 2025 Lane Change Requests

The following individuals have requested a lane change effective September 1, 2025. Their requests have been verified and approved by the Human Resources Department.

ADAMSKI, MEGAN BA+15 to BA+30, BETTIN, GENEVIEVE BA to BA+15, BIALKE, MORGAN MA+30 to MA+45, BLUTH, CHLOE MA+15 to MA+30, CHAO, JONATHAN BA+15 to BA+45, CLAYTON, SARAH MA to MA+15, DRISTE, LAUREN Ba to BA+15, HEDEEN, DARCY MA+15 to MA+30, HERJE, NICOLE MA to MA+15, HONEYWELL, SARAH MA+15 to MA+30, HORSTMAN, BRANDY MA+45 to MA+60, HUERTA, TRACY MA+45 to MA+60, HUMPAL, ALISON MA+15 to MA+30, HUNN, CARA MA to MA+15, JERUE, MARC MA+30 to MA+60, JIANG, TIFFANY MA+30 to MA+45, JOHNSON, NATALIE MA+30 to MA+45, KEENAN, SHANNON BA+15 to BA+45, KESELEY, MATTHEW BA+30 to MA, KUEHN, MADELINE BA+45 to MA, LARSON, ALAINA BA+15 to MA, LEWIS, KEONDRE BA to BA+15, MACDONALD, MOLLY MA+15 to MA+30, MACK, ALEXANDRA BA+30 to MA, MARR, JEANETTE MA+30 to MA+45, MATTHEWS, MADELINE BA+15 to MA, MCCLOSKEY, JEN MA+30 to MA+60, MERCADO, SARA MA to MA+15, MINKE, DEVON BA to BA+30, MOHLER, MARZENA BA+60 to MA, NELSON, JESSICA BA+15 to MA, NGEH, THEODORE MA+15 to MA+45, OLSEN, TANNER BA to BA+30, OLSON, ABIGAIL MA+30 to MA+45, OPATZ, SCOTT MA to MA+15, ORCUTT, ARIEL MA+30 to MA+45, PERILLO, BROOKE MA+45 to MA+60, PILLAJO, CRISTIAN MA to MA+60, POTOPA, LAURA MA+30 to MA+60, REILLY, MAUREEN MA+45 to MA+60, ROBINSON, BREONNA BA to BA+15, RONCHAK, DANIEL MA+45 to MA+60, ROSEMEYER, AMANDA BA+30 to MA, SCHAEFER, TINA MA to MA+15, SCHAUST, ZOEY MA to MA+15, SCOTT, JENNA MA+30 to MA+45, SECRAW, SERENA BA to BA+15, SMITH, KATELYN BA to BA+15, SPEARS, LOGAN MA to MA+15, STOTZ, KELSEY BA+30 MA, STROM, ARIANE MA+30 to MA+45, TAM, DIANE MA to MA+15, TENGWALL, MOLLY BA to BA+15, TOTMAN, ERIKA MA+15 to MA+30, TOWNSEND, MATT MA+45 to MA+60, TSCHIDA, MARTI BA to BA+15, WELLS, LEANN MA+30 to MA+45, WOOTEN, LINDSAY BA+15 to MA, YOUNG, AMBER MA+45 to MA+60. Motion by Pettway, seconded by Medearis, to approve the Salary Adjustment 2025-2026 – Additional Training effective September 1, 2025. All in favor Roll-call vote. Motion carried

Mid- Year 2025-2026 Lane Change Requests

The following individuals have requested a lane change effective January 27, 2026. Their requests have been verified and approved by the Human Resources Department.

BENSON, EMMA BA+30 to MA, CHAO, JONATHAN BA+45 to MA DRISTE, LAUREN BA+15 to BA+30, GRAF, COLLEEN MA+30 to MA+60, KEENAN, SHANNON BA+45 to MA, LUCAS, ELAINA BA+15 to BA+45, PAYNE, JOSH MA to MA+15, PILLAJO, CRISTIAN MA+60 to PhD, SAN MARTIN, MARCELA BA to MA SCOTT, MONTROY BA to BA+15 SECRAW, SERENA BA+15 to BA+30, SMITH, KATELYN BA+15 to BA+30, TSCHIDA, MARTI BA+15 to BA+30

Motion by Medearis, seconded by Houle, to approve the Salary Adjustment 2025-2026 – Additional Training effective January 27, 2026. All in favor. Roll-call vote. Motion carries.

Northeast Bank Corporate Authorizing Resolution

Medearis moved to waive the reading of the Northeast Bank Corporate Authorizing Resolution. With no objection.

Motion by Pettway, seconded by Houle, to approve the attached Resolution, the Northeast Bank Corporate Authorizing Resolution. All in favor. Roll-call vote. Resolution passed and adopted.

US Bank Resolution

Medearis moved to waive the reading of the US Bank Resolution. With no objection.

Motion by Houle, seconded by Mueller, to approve the US Bank Corporate Authorizing Resolution. All in favor. Roll-call vote. Resolution passed and adopted.

Authorization of Bid Publication- Columbia Heights High School 2026 Classroom Renovation

Bryan Hennekens, Director of Finance and Operations, presented the Columbia Heights High School 2026 classroom renovation project at the February 10th Work Session.

Motion by Mueller, seconded by Pettway, to authorize the publication of legal notice of solicitation of bids for the Columbia Heights High School 2026 Classroom Renovation project. All in Favor, roll-call vote. Motion carries

Proclamation

Motion by Houle, seconded by Pettway, to approve the Proclamation in honor of King Wilson, a long-time contributor to the Columbia Heights athletic department.

King Wilson Appreciation Day February 18, 2026

WHEREAS Columbia Heights Public Schools' mission is to create worlds of opportunity for each and every learner, where all belong, and all succeed, including opportunities for athletic participation, and; **WHEREAS** King Wilson graduated from Columbia Heights High School in 1975 and began his tenure of support to Columbia Heights Public Schools varsity athletic competitions in 1972, and; **WHEREAS** King Wilson supported Columbia Heights Public Schools athletes in many ways, including serving as a leader of the Columbia Heights Athletic Boosters, managing athletics teams, and scorekeeping and recordkeeping for varsity athletic teams, and; **WHEREAS** King Wilson is a dedicated and beloved member of the Columbia Heights Public Schools community who has mentored and supported hundreds of student athletes over five decades, and; **WHEREAS** King Wilson has been the voice of Columbia Heights Public Schools boys basketball and football competitions for 54 years. **NOW, THEREFORE**, the School Board of Columbia Heights Public Schools, Independent School District Number 13, hereby proclaims Wednesday, February 18, 2026, as **King Wilson**

Appreciation Day and urges all staff, students, and community members to join the School Board in recognizing his longstanding and valuable contributions. All in favor, roll-call vote. Motion carries.

Board Topics

Stenvik- We want to share our gratitude for the support we have received during the immigration situation in our community. Many people from around the world, our state, and our nation have reached out to help. A well-known story involves one of our students, Liam, who wore a blue bunny hat and was taken. To show our appreciation, we will figure out how to connect with everyone who has supported us. Guy Gilchrist, who was Jim Henson's cartoonist, created a Baby Muppet image featuring the Blue Bunny. He has given signed copies of this image to Valley View staff, teachers, and Chair Granlund, along with a signed original for Liam. The sales from this image will go to Liam's GoFundMe page. Guy also made a peaceful Kermit image, and its proceeds will support another student, Elizabeth, and her GoFundMe page. The story of what has happened here is touching people all over the world.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Pettway, seconded by Houle, to adjourn at 8:03 PM.

March 10, 2026

Date minutes approved

Laura Palmer, Clerk, Board of Education.

Independent School District 13