

**MINUTES FROM THE WORK SESSION OF
THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Community Room
Tuesday, March 17, 2026
5:32 PM**

Members present: Ms. Granlund, Ms. Houle, Ms. Medearis, Ms. Mueller, Ms. Pettway, Ms. Stenvik, Lindsey Bennet, and Director Hennekens.

Laura Palmer arrived at 5:35

Draft 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 District Calendars

Lindsey Bennett, director of Human Resources, presented the draft calendars for both school years, starting in August, due to building construction. The calendar committee held robust meetings to discuss the schedule, taking into account the shift to quarters at Columbia Academy. The proposed calendars will be on the consent agenda at a future meeting for approval.

Health Insurance Bids

Lindsey Bennett, Director of Human Resources: Columbia Heights Public Schools is required to go through a bid process every 2 years for health insurance under the Health Insurance Transparency and Accountability Act (HITA). The last HITA bid process was completed in 2024. This year, the district received 10 initial proposals and four best and final proposals, which were opened during 2 separate bid openings. The District's Health Insurance Committee met on March 6th to review the best and final proposals that were received. The Committee is in agreement to make the recommended change to Medica through the Minnesota Healthcare Consortium (MHC, or the co-op). This recommendation will be presented at the March 24th School Board Meeting, and the change would go into effect on July 1, 2026.

CHHS 2026 Classroom Renovation Bid Results

Bryan Hennekens, Director of Finance and Operations, presented on the CHHS 2026 Classroom Renovation Bid Results. Seven bids were provided by the deadline. RAK Construction provided the lowest Bid. Board approval will be sought at a future meeting.

Federal Single Audit

Bryan Hennekens, Director of Finance and Operations present information on the Federal single Audit. We have three programs that fall under the federal funds audit parameter of \$750,000: Food Service, Special Education, and Title. Our significant finding was the suspension and debarring process, which ensures the company is not suspended or debarred before purchasing an item over 25,000. The district purchased an oven for food service in 2024 without an official verification check. Moving forward, Kate Wesbur, the Deputy Director of Finance and Operations, is responsible for overseeing the suspension and debarring process for any purchases over \$25,000.

Other

Superintendent Stenvik will be testifying in the State Senate for the Compensatory Aid Hold Harmless on March 18, 2026. On March 24th, she will miss the Board meeting for a panel presentation in Washington, DC. WCCO is hosting an Amnesty International interview this week. Our families have asked us to continue to share their stories.

The Gratitude event for the community is scheduled for April 17, 2026. A few families have come forward to speak to the community and thank it.

A community organization has a matching GoFundMe for rent and grocery assistance that runs through the end of March 2026.

Adjourned at 6:46 PM

Date minutes approved

Laura Palmer, Clerk, Board of Education.
Independent School District 13