



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

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

March 10, 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. Palmer, Ms. Pettway, Ms. Mueller

Student Representatives present: Ms. Anwar

Members absent: Ms. Houle

Hylander Highlight, Senior Shane Whitley was selected to play in the All-State Band. This is the highest level of achievement for high school bands in Minnesota. Plays the flute. Put in the

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Pettway, seconded by Mueller, to approve the agenda as presented. All in favor.
Motion Carried.

Announcements

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

March 19 and 20, No School

March 24, 6:00, School Board Meeting, Community Room

COMMUNICATION TO THE BOARD – None

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Palmer, seconded by Pettway, to approve the action required to implement the items on the consent agenda. **Minutes** - February 17, 2026, **Treasury Report**- January 2026, **Policy Second Reading**: 522-Title IX, 103-Complaints, 420-Students and Employees with Sexually Transmitted Infections and Diseases and Certain Other Communicable Diseases and Infection Conditions, 422.1 Respect and Professionalism in the Workplace, 423- Employee Student Relationships, 715- Post-Issuance Compliance **Personal Report**: Support Sandra Urgiles **Loja**: Educational Assistant, ECSE, new hire, effective 2/17/26 (the conditional offer of employment is subject to successful completion of a criminal background check). **Mary Bohl**: Educational Assistant, HL, new hire, effective 2/17/26 (the conditional offer of employment is subject to successful completion of a criminal background check). **Coach/Advisor/Additional Assignment Zach Johnson**: Co-Head Coach Track, CHHS, current employee, effective 3/9/26.

Keon Lewis: Co-Head Coach Track, CHHS, current employee, effective 3/9/26. **Evan Kohl:** Asst Coach Track, CHHS, current employee, effective 3/9/26. **Mike Sorensen:** Asst Coach Track, CHHS, current employee, effective 3/9/26. **Stephanie Alvarez:** Asst Coach Track, CHHS, current employee, effective 3/9/26. **Patrick Shipway:** Asst Coach Track, CHHS, current employee, effective 3/9/26. **Jen Heveron:** ENCORE EA 1:1, CA, current employee, effective 1/5/26 until 3/27/25. **Kalante Logan:** Head Girls Flag Football Coach, CHHS, current employee, effective 3/15/26. **Camille Gross:** Head Synchro Coach, CHHS, current employee, effective 3/2/26. **Kelsey Asjes:** Asst Synchro Coach, CHHS, current employee, effective 3/2/26. **Samantha Alexon:** Asst Synchro Coach, CHHS, current employee, effective 3/2/26. **Rachael Naessens:** Asst Synchro Coach, CHHS, current employee, effective 3/2/26. **Melanie Kennedy:** Co-HOSA Advisor, CHHS, current employee, effective 2025-2026 school year. **Jennifer Switalla:** Co-HOSA Advisor, CHHS, current employee, effective 2025-2026 school year. **Kamryn Green:** Asst Girls Softball Coach, CHHS, current employee, effective 3/9/26. **Michelle Douglas:** Advisory Lead, CHHS, current employee, effective 2025-2026 school year. **Jessica Bolles:** One Act Play Director, CHHS, current employee, effective 2025-2026 school year. **Jessica Bolles:** Co-12th Grade Advisor, CHHS, current employee, effective 2025-2026 school year. **Tina Schaefer:** Co-12th Grade Advisor, CHHS, current employee, effective 2025-2026 school year. **Jessica Bolles:** Advisory Lead, CHHS, current employee, effective 2025-2026 school year. **Karen Heggernes:** Head Lacrosse Coach, CHHS, new hire, effective 3/30/26 (the conditional offer of employment is subject to successful completion of a criminal background check). **Resignations/Terminations** **Bondo Nyembwe:** Assistant Superintendent, DW, effective 6/30/26. Reason: Resignation. **Julie Vancura:** Softball Coach, CHHS, effective 6/5/25. Reason: Seasonal. **Swedee Tamba:** Basketball Coach, CA, effective 3/5/25. Reason: Seasonal. **Ava Helmer:** Softball Coach, CHHS, effective 6/5/25. Reason: Seasonal. **Willie Bluth:** Education Asst, CA, effective 6/10/26. Reason: Retirement. **Evelyn Speers:** Education Asst, NP, effective 3/3/26. Reason: Termination. **Revision to 2/17/26:** **Victor Alvarez:** Change to Groundskeeper, DW, effective 2/23/26.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS RESOLUTION

Member Palmer introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS RESOLUTION:

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 \$5,857.20 in monetary contributions detailed in the background.

Monetary

- Cindy Gentry donated \$50, Teresa Harrison and Lynne Garret each donated \$100, Winston Vaughan donated \$200, and Patricia Droney donated \$500 to Valley View for school use.
- Heather Steggall donated \$1,000 to Columbia Heights High School for school use.
- William Page donated \$100 to honor the students of Columbia Heights Public Schools.
- Michele Hanson donated \$200 to Columbia Heights Public Schools to support the students.
- The Columbia Heights Athletic Boosters donated \$3,240 to the Activities Department: \$240 to

support the Dance Team, and \$3,000 for the 2026 Scholarship fund.

- JostensPIX donated \$367.20 to North Park School for innovation for school use.

Value in Kind

- Lowe's Coon Rapids donated Tote storage bins valued at \$1,165 to Highland Elementary for school use.

The total fiscal year 2025-2026 monetary contributions to date: \$61,989.26. The motion for the adoption of the preceding resolution was duly seconded by Member Medearis, and upon a vote being

taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof:

Granlund – Aye, Medearis – Aye, Mueller – Aye, Palmer – Aye, Pettway – Aye.

The following voted against the same: None.

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

BOARD REPORTS

Granlund attended a Senate hearing as a testifier with Superintendent Stenvik, talking on the impact of the metro surge on our student body and community, and the State of the Union address at the Capitol as a guest of a state elected official, discussing the impact of the Metro surge on our students and community with legislators from across the country. Numerous conversations with leaders in the metro area. Participated in a panel discussion on ICE out of the Community briefing. MCA Bias review on the grade 10 state standards. Attended the Columbia Academy fundraiser on Saturday, the Chair Meeting, and the subcommittee on Policy Meeting.

Medearis attended the Columbia Academy PTO meeting. Congratulations to the Columbia Academy staff for planning a well-executed, well-attended Mutual Aid event. Watched the AMSD meeting. Attended the MABA MASA joint day at the capital. Helped provide meals to teachers on conference nights at Columbia Academy and the Family Center. Attended the subcommittee on Policy meeting.

Mueller attended the Subcommittee on Community Engagement before this and held many conversations with community members

Palmer has many conversations with constituents and community members. Attended the 916 Board Meeting and a Special Called meeting, Day at the capital. Subcommittee on Policy meeting.

Pettway viewed the AMSD meeting. Attended the Day at the Capitol, the chair meeting, and the legislative action committee/community engagement meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT.

Attending the day at the Capitol yesterday was really productive. Thank you to those who were able to participate. I continue to be very concerned about the potential significant reduction in our Compensatory Revenue and frustrated by the possible increase in the Special Education cross subsidy.

Today, Assistant Superintendent Nyembwe and I met with the Mexican Consulate. She shared several educational resources that they offer. I continue to collaborate with community members, one of whom has secured a matching donation by the Wilson Foundation in the amount of \$500 thousand dollars to support the Columbia Heights mutual aid

Lastly, a reminder that the School Board candidate forum is next Monday evening at 5:30 pm in this room or it can be viewed online. We have 2 candidates for the school board vacancy coming open in April. The special election is on April 14.

STUDENT SCHOOL BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

Anwar – Attended the community education meeting, Speech Tri Metro Conference, Columbia Heights was awarded the Tri Metro Champions, Attended the Day at the Capitol, and the Subcommittee on Community Engagement. I traveled with members of the speech team to Harvard for a national Speech tournament.

Winter Activities Update

Activities Director Jake Henderson presented an update on the winter activities. Focus on Community Building and the well-being of our students and staff.

Activities Co-ops

The activities Director presented information on activities co-ops, including a proposal to modify how families pay for non-host co-ops. The board will be asked to take formal action at a future meeting. We host many team co-ops, but we do not host two sports: hockey and gymnastics. Future Opportunities for Girls' Hockey:

Overnight and Out-of-State Field Trips

Superintendent Stenvik and Tara Thukral, Director of Teaching and Learning, Sarah Matusovic, Teaching and Learning Coordinator, Jake Henderson, Activities Director, and Kristen Sinicariello, CHHS teacher, presented information on overnight/out-of-town field trips. Including instructional experiences, on-site and off-site experiences. Pre-k- 12 grade opportunities, Athletics and Activities opportunities, Native American Field Trips, Boundary water trip.

Summer Programming

Tara Thukral, Dir. of Teaching and Learning, Sarah Godfrey, Dir. of Special Education, and Kristen Stuenkel, Dir. of Comm. Ed and Communications, presented information on summer programming. Park meet-ups, school-age summer adventure club at the family center, driver education, 4H, and summer activities, Bloomington Heights School Garden. Columbia Heights recreation, Adult Enrichments, and Senior Programs. Summer Encore.

Policy First Reading

The Following policies were reviewed at the February 17th 2026, Policy Subcommittee meeting: 101-Legal Status of the School District, 301- School District Administration, 302-Superintendent, 303- Superintendent Selection, 304- Superintendent Contract, Duties, and Evaluation, 305- Policy Implementation, 402-Disability Non-Discrimination, 421-Gifts to Employees, 427- Workload Limits, Certain Special Education Teachers. These policies will appear on a future agenda for approval.

Achievement & Integration Budget

Bondo Nyembwe, Assistant Superintendent, presented information on the Achievement and Integration budget at the February 17th meeting.

Motion by Palmer, seconded by Pettway, to approve the Achievement & Integration Budget of \$1,156,712.44 for 2026-2027
All in favor, Motion passes.

Election Judge Resolution

BOARD OF EDUCATION RESOLUTION APPOINTING ELECTION JUDGES FOR THE SCHOOL DISTRICT ELECTION TO BE HELD APRIL 14, 2026

WHEREAS, Columbia Heights Independent School District No. 13 will be conducting a Special Election on April 14, 2026; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 204B.21, election judges for precincts in a school district election must be appointed by the board of that school district; and

WHEREAS, persons selected to serve meet all requirements of MN statute and county administrative policy, and have been trained and certified pursuant to law.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SCHOOL BOARD OF COLUMBIA HEIGHTS INDEPENDENT

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 13, STATE OF MINNESOTA, as follows:

- 1) The individuals listed on Attachment A are hereby appointed to serve as election judges for the School District Special Election to be held on April 14, 2026.
- 2) In the event circumstances require judges to be appointed in addition to the persons named in this resolution, the Clerk of Election is authorized to appoint as necessary, provided that the persons appointed meet all requirements of MN statute and administrative policy.

The motion by Medearis for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Mueller, and upon the vote being taken thereon, the following voted:

Granlund- Aye Medearis-Aye Mueller-Aye Palmer-Aye Pettway-Aye
whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Attachment A

Election Judges Appointed to Serve

2026 School District General Election of April 14, 2026

ISD 13 P-1 Hylander Center, 1400 49th Ave NE, Columbia Heights, MN 55421

Randall Lohmer, Head Judge

John Larsen, Assistant Head Judge

Jeffrey Berger, Election Judge

Kathleen Garman, Election Judge

Herb Hoppenstedt, Election Judge

Jalwa Khan, Election Judge

Julie Obedoza, Election Judge

Julienne Wyckoff, Election Judge

ISD 13 P-2 Hylander Center, 1400 49th Ave NE, Columbia Heights, MN 55421

Dan Steiskal, Head Judge

Susan Betzold, Assistant Head Judge

Colleen Kennedy, Election Judge

Sandra Moinicken, Election Judge
Cathleen Peterson, Election Judge
Larry Rolf, Election Judge
Terry Wold, Election Judge
Sara Vnuck, Election Judge

Board Topics

Granlund encourages the community to attend the CoHiCON event, put on by HeightsNext volunteers, at Murzyn Hall, March 14, 2026, 10-Midnight. All raised funds go back to the community.

Medearis – Craft fair to support Columbia Heights Mutual aid will be held March 19th at Murzyn Hall.

Palmer- appreciates how our Board handles the acknowledgment of contributions by reading them out loud.

The Federation of Teachers Local #710 candidate forum is on March 16th at 5:30 in the Community Room. We have two candidates

Pettway-The Columbia Academy Performance of Frozen Jr. will be on March 13, 14, & 15 at Columbia Heights High School. Encourage the community to attend the CoHiCON at Murzyn Hall Fun event.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Pettway, seconded by Medearis, to adjourn at 7:56 PM.

March 24, 2026

Date minutes approved

Laura Palmer, Clerk, Board of Education.

Independent School District 13