



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

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

March 24, 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. Houle, Ms. Medearis, Ms. Palmer, Ms. Pettway, Ms. Mueller

Student Representatives present: Ms. Anwar, Ms. Hanson

Members absent:

Hylander Highlight

Ms. Honeywell, Mr. Glidden, and Ms. Dietz talked on behalf of the students. The Minnesota Scholastic Art Board honored them with special recognition for their artwork. Elizabeth Lee, Gold Key for her portfolio, Silver Key for 3 am meal, and Silver Key for Holiday Bundle. Olivia Candella, Gold Key for In Focus, Silver Key for a Familiar Place. Kely Tenesaca, Gold Key for Coral Glance and Silver Key for Blazing Glimpse. Yumna Ali, Gold Key for Fruit of Heaven, Alexander Viras, Honorable mention for Man With Rabbit. Daniel James, Honorable mention for Infestation. Muhammad Irtaza, Silver Key for Girl in Old Truck. Malania Rolack, Silver Key for Two-Faced and Honorable Mention for Night Time Fantasy. Alice Sabatk, Honorable Mention for Memoir: Where Have You Been?. Jasilyn Negron, Honorable Mention for Splish.

Motion by Palmer, seconded by Mueller, to approve the agenda. All in favor. Motion passes.

Announcements

March 30–April 6, No School Spring Break

April 3, District Closed

April 14, Special Election

April 21, 5:30, Work Session, Community Room

April 28, 5:00–5:50, Subcommittee on Policy, Superintendent's Conference Room

April 28, 5:00–5:50, Subcommittee on Community Engagement/ Legislative action, Community Room

April 28, 6:00, School Board Meeting, Community Room

Communication to the Board -None

Consent Agenda

Motion by Mueller, seconded by Medearis, to approve the items on the Consent agenda.

2026-2027 Calendar and 2027-2028 draft Calendar, Overnight and Out of State Field Trips, Minutes March 10, 2026, and March 17, 2026. Policy Second Reading:

709- Student Transportation Safety, 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, 306- Administrator Code of Ethics, 402- Disability Non-Discrimination, 421- Gifts to Employees, 427- Workload Limits, Certain Special Education Teachers, 515-Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records. **Personal Report: Licensed – Conditional Adam Wahl:** Special Education Teacher, Location TBD, new hire, step 1, lane 2 (BA+15), for 189 days for the 2026-2027 school year (the conditional offer of employment is subject to obtaining the appropriate license and successful completion of a criminal background check). **Support Enma Celleri:** Change to Education Asst (PCA), ECSE, 6.5 hours per day, effective 8/25/25. **Support – Conditional Cristal Menera Romero:** Education Asst, NP, new hire, effective 3/11/26 (the conditional offer of employment is subject to successful completion of a criminal background check). **Coach/Advisor/Additional Assignment Melissa Trent:** Outdoor Club, CHHS/CE, current employee, effective 2025-2026 school year. **Margo Lewis:** Asst Track Coach, CHHS, new hire, effective 3/9/2026 (the conditional offer of employment is subject to successful completion of a criminal background check). **Leo Pham:** Asst Play Director, CHHS, new hire, effective 3/16/2026 (the conditional offer of employment is subject to successful completion of a criminal background check). **Olivia Fredrickson:** Asst Softball Coach, CHHS, new hire, effective 3/10/2026 (the conditional offer of employment is subject to successful completion of a criminal background check). **Lucas Toutge:** Advisory Lead, CHHS, current employee, effective 2025-2026 school year. **Nick Zeimet:** Asst Softball Coach, CHHS, new hire, effective 3/17/26 (the conditional offer of employment is subject to successful completion of a criminal background check). **Duc Nguyen:** Asst Boys Volleyball Coach, CHHS, rehire, effective 3/17/26 (the conditional offer of employment is subject to successful completion of a criminal background check).

Resignations/Terminations Marissa Foy: Synchro Coach, CHHS, effective 6/5/25. Reason: Seasonal. **Miriam Rivas Mendez:** Mini Adv Asst, Comm Ed, effective 5/29/26. Reason: Resignation. **Anna Johnston:** Teacher, VV, effective 6/11/26. Reason: Resignation. **The following list of non-affiliated employees will receive a salary increase for 2025-2026 of 3%. There will be no additional increase for staff who were hired after 7/1/25 or signed a new agreement to start after 7/1/25, because their agreements already reflect the 2025-26 salary.**

Activities Director, Activities Facilitator, Special Services Coordinator, Teaching and Learning Coordinator, Community Education Coordinator, Deputy Director of Finance and Operations, Deputy, Director or Technology and Security, District Technology Support Specialist, IT Support Specialist, Systems Helpdesk Support Specialists, Human Resources Manager, Adult Enrichment Manager/Communications Coordinator, Equity Coordinator, Food Service Manager, Buildings and Grounds Manager, District Accountant, Payroll Accountant, MARSS Manager, Dean of Students, Food Service Facilitator, Benefits Specialist, Special Education, Finance Specialist, Native American Mentor, Community School Coordinator, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and School Board, Assistant Superintendent, Early Childhood Coordinator, Cultural Liaison, Agriculture Specialist, Director of Finance and Operations, Director of Human Resources, Director of Teaching and Learning, Director of Community Education and Communications, Director of Special Services, Community Education Compensation Schedule

All in Favor, Motion passes.

Member Houle 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 \$9,350 in monetary contributions detailed in the background.

Monetary

- Rasmussen-Northeast Bank Foundation donated \$1,000 to the CHHS Scholarship Fund.
- Collin Anderson donated \$150 for the Valley View Fun Run.
- Pat Johnson donated \$2,000, and Ann Larson donated \$3,000 to the Retired Staff Scholarship 2026 Fund
- Valley View PTO donated \$200.00 to the Valley View Fun Run.
- Greg Gardner (Fridley Lions Club) donated \$3,000 to the 2026 Scholarship Fund.

Value in Kind

The total fiscal year 2025-2026 monetary contributions to date: \$71,339.26. The motion for the adoption of the preceding resolution was duly seconded by Member Pettway, and upon a vote being

taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof:

Granlund-Aye, Houle-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 the Mayor’s Shared Vision meeting, Amnesty International meeting, sharing experiences of our District with Metro Surg, School Board Candidate Forum, the Work Session, WCCO interview, and Chair Meeting

Houle attended the Work Session.

Medearis- attended fundraiser at Zero Gravity, 125 for the Highland PTO, attended the Frozen Jr Musical, and the Work Session.

Mueller- attended the Work Session, honored to be asked back as an appointee, and to serve with all the diligent and hardworking services of elected Board Members representing our community.

Palmer- attended the Work Session

Pettway- attended Frozen Jr., Work Session, and the Chair Meeting.

STUDENT SCHOOL BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

Pena Velez- Back into school, finding balance with my time at the Heights Herald, proud of the work that the team put into the latest edition.

Hanson completed the Print edition for the Heights Herald, Online school, and volunteered at MSBA Day on the Hill, and learned a lot about the laws and met many nice peopl

Policy First Reading

203.5 School Board Meeting Agenda, 205- Open Meetings and Closed Meetings, 206-Public Participation in Meetings, 208- Development, Adoption and Implementation of Policies, 209- Code of Ethics, 210 Conflict of Interest, 211-Criminal or Civil Action Against. These policies will appear on a future agenda for approval.

Health Insurance Bids

The Board received information on the Health Insurance Bids at the March 17th Work Session. The School Board was presented with information on the HITA (Health Insurance Transparency and Accountability Act) bid process at the March 17, 2026, School Board Work Session. This is a state requirement every two years for health insurance. The last HITA bid was in 2024. Motion by Palmer, seconded by Pettway, to approve the bid from Minnesota Healthcare Consortium (Medica) effective July 1, 2026. All in Favor. Motion passes.

Termination of Probationary Teacher Contracts (Resolution 1)

Motion by Pettway, seconded by Palmer, to adopt the following resolution to terminate and non-renew the employment contracts of probationary teachers listed therein.

RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE TERMINATION AND NONRENEWAL OF THE TEACHING CONTRACTS OF PROBATIONARY TEACHERS

WHEREAS, the following persons are probationary teachers in Independent School District No. 13:

(See list below)

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 13, that pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 122A.40, Subdivision 5, the teaching contracts of those persons listed on page two of this resolution, probationary teachers in Independent School District No. 13, are hereby terminated and not renewed at the close of the current 2025-2026 school year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that written notice be sent to said teachers regarding termination and non-renewal of their contract as provided by law, and that said notice shall be in substantially the following form:

NOTICE OF TERMINATION AND NON-RENEWAL

Dear _____:

You are hereby notified that at a regular meeting of the School Board of Independent School District No. 13 held on March 24, 2026, a resolution was adopted to terminate your contract effective at the end of the current school year and to not renew your contract for the 2026-2027 school year. Said action of the Board is taken pursuant to M.S. 122A.40, Subd. 5.

PROBATIONARY TEACHERS: Abderrahmane Soum, Henry Kline, Tracy Olsen, Taylor Meyer, Kalante Logan, Rachel Mace, Ezra Herscovici, Montroy Scott, Rachel Pape, Rachel Spawn-Lee, Cathy Springhorn, Natalie Jones, Molly Crotty, Samiya Jabrill, Kelsey Bryngelson, Kleara McIntyre, Christian Arel, Peter MacFarlane, Cheimaa Yamache, Ella Sullivan, Rachel Spawn-Lee

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.

2026 High School Classroom Renovation Project

Sealed bids for the 2026 High School Classroom Renovation Project were opened on March 17th, 2026, at 2:00 pm. This item was presented as an informational item at the March 17th school board meeting in detail. As presented at the previous meeting, we are seeking approval to move forward with Wold Architects and Engineers recommendation of the below lowest responsible bidder. RAK Construction Bid: \$194,561. This project is being funded through the district's Long-Term Facilities Maintenance dollars. Motion by Houle, seconded by Mueller, all in favor. Motion carries.

FY 2025 Federal Single Audit

The school board was presented with the School District's FY2025 Federal Single Audit at the March 17, 2026, school board meeting. Motion by Houle, seconded by Palmer, to accept the FY2025 Federal Single Audit Report. All in favor. Motion Carries.

District 2026 Erate Purchase

The School Board previously received information on the purchase of technology equipment for the School District. Given that the total purchase price exceeds \$175,000, the The School Board is being asked for approval. The district received multiple quotes for this E-rate purchase and administration is seeking approval to move forward with CDWG for this purchase. This project is being funded through the federal E-Rate program and the district's Capital Project Levy Dollars. Motion by Houle, seconded by Pettway, to approve the contracted purchase from CDW Government LLC, totaling \$287,898.22. All in favor. Motion carries.

Board Topics

Granlund- gratitude to Lorien for coming back and joining us for this time that you filled in.
Medearis- Special Election April 14, in person at the Highlander Center, early voting is available at the Anoka County government center. Mail-in absentee ballots are also available. All election details are posted on the District's website.

Adjournment

Motion by Medearis, seconded by Pettway, to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 PM. All in favor. Motion passes.

April 28, 2026

Date minutes approved

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