

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

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
May 26, 2026

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

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

The Clerk called the roll.

Members present: Ms. Granlund, Ms. Houle, Ms. Medearis, Ms. Palmer, Ms. Pettway, Ms. Fodness-Bondhus, Superintendent Stenvik Pena Velez.

Members absent: None

Mission Statement and Core Values

The Mission Statement, "Creating worlds of opportunity for each and every learner, "All Belong, All Succeed," and Core Values: Community, Excellence, Collaboration, Integrity, Respect, Courage, Innovation, were reviewed.

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Palmer, seconded by Medearis, to approve the agenda as presented. All in favor. Motion passes.

Announcements

May 30, 1-8 District POWWOW, CHHS

June 10, Last Day of School, Graduation

June 16, 4:45 PM Subcommittee on Policy, Superintendent Conference Room.

June 16, 5 PM Subcommittee on Community Engagement and Legislative Action, Community Room

June 16, 6 PM School Board Meeting, Community Room.

Communication to the Board-None

Consent Agenda

Motion by Houle, seconded by Fodness Bondhus, to approve the action required to implement the items on the consent agenda. All in favor. Motion passes. Items approved included:

Minutes – May 12 and 19, **Policy First Reading** - 517- Student Recruiting,

533-Wellness, 605-Alternative Education Services, 611- homeschooling, 414-

Mandated Reporting of Child Neglect, 501- School Weapons, 503-School

Attendance, 516-Student Medication and Telehealth, 516.5 Overdose

Medication, 530-Immunization Requirements **Personnel Report:** Licensed – Conditional: Natasha Pasch: Special

Education Teacher, CA, new hire, step 11, lane 6 (MA), for 189 days for the 2026-2027 school year (the conditional offer of employment is subject to successful completion of a criminal background check). Mikaela Boone: Summer

Programming EL Teacher, CHHS/HL, new hire, effective Summer 2026. (the conditional offer of employment is subject successful completion of a criminal background check). Ava De Jonge: Summer Programming Teacher, CHHS/HL, new

hire, effective Summer 2026. (the conditional offer of employment is subject successful completion of a criminal background check). Support - Conditional Sadie Yarosh: Summer Programming EA, CHHS/HL, new hire, effective Summer 2026. (the conditional offer of employment is subject successful completion of a criminal background check). Victor Hernandez Ramales: Systems Helpdesk Support, CA, new hire, effective 6/1/2026. (the conditional offer of employment is subject successful completion of a criminal background check). Support Avery Sherk: Adventure Club/Mini Adventure Asst. Substitute, FC, rehire, effective 6/1/26. Coach/Advisor/Additional Assignment Sharianna Frauly-McCord: Asst. Boys Volleyball Coach, CHHS, rehire, effective 5/6/2026. (the conditional offer of employment is subject successful completion of a criminal background check). Theresa Swendra: Summer Adventure Club Supervisor, FC, current employee, effective summer 2026. Laura McWhite: Summer Adventure Club Assistant, FC, current employee, effective summer 2026. Linda Willhite: Summer Adventure Club Assistant, FC, current employee, effective summer 2026. Alexa Zapata: Summer Adventure Club Supervisor Sub/Adventure Club Assistant Sub, FC, current employee, effective summer 2026. Abigail Klick: Summer Adventure Club Assistant, FC, current employee, effective summer 2026. Nasra Farah: Summer Adventure Club Assistant, FC, current employee, effective summer 2026. Hannah Lara Cruz: Summer Adventure Club Assistant and Sub, FC, current employee, effective summer 2026. Amy Fraser: Summer Adventure Club Assistant, FC, current employee, effective summer 2026. Tony Davis: Summer Adventure Club Supervisor, FC, current employee, effective summer 2026. Adela Secic: Summer Adventure Club Assistant, FC, current employee, effective summer 2026. Zaina Alamy: Summer Adventure Club Supervisor, FC, current employee, effective summer 2026. Barb Charboneau: Summer Adventure Club Supervisor Sub/Adventure Club Assistant Sub, FC, current employee, effective summer 2026. Alex Tupper: Summer ENCORE Classroom Teacher, CHHS/HL, current employee, effective summer 2026. Lorien Steward: PreK 3 Teacher Summer Substitute, FC, current employee, effective summer 2026. Resignations/Terminations Adrien Ristola: Educ Asst, CHHS, effective 6/10/26, Reason: Resignation. Melissa Deloach: No longer doing summer EA assignment. Trisha Nguyen: Dean of Students, CA, effective 6/30/26, Reason: Resignation. Trisha Nguyen: No longer doing Summer Programming Secondary Principal. Jason Kuhlman: Principal, VV, effective 6/30/26, Reason: Resignation. Rachel Mann: Co-Head Speech Coach, CHHS, effective 5/15/26, Reason: Resignation. Nicholas Hollermann: Co-Head Speech Coach, CHHS, effective 5/15/26, Reason: Resignation. Wendy Tocachi: No longer doing summer clerical assignment. Addition to 5/12/26: Molly Crotty: Special Education Teacher, NP, rehire, 186 days for the 2026-2027 school year (the conditional offer of employment is subject to obtaining the appropriate license). Kelsey Bryngelson: Kindergarten Teacher, VV, rehire, 186 days for the 2026-2027 school year. Montroy Scott: Special Education Teacher, CHHS, rehire, 186 days for the 2026-2027 school year (the conditional offer of employment is subject to obtaining the appropriate license).

Reports from Members of the Board:

Fodness-Bondhus- Finished up school tours, attended the Expressions Art Show, World Culture Day at Highland, and Volunteer Appreciation Day at Highland.

Granlund-Attend the spring concert at the high school work session and chair meetings, and one night of the Expressions Art Show. Held numerous conversations with families and community members.

Houle – Attended the Work Session and a brief meeting with the Mayor of Fridley,

Medearis-Chaperone: 5th-grade trip to Medtronic, and 8th-grade AVID trip to the U of MN, Attended 8th-grade parent night at High school, two nights at Expressions art show, Work Session, and volunteer appreciation event at Highland.

Palmer- attended the Work Session and the Expressions Art Show at Silverwood.

Pettway attended the Memorial Day celebration at Huset Park.

Superintendent's Report:

I have been attending several end-of-year activities, the annual bean bag tournament, Highland's world culture event, and the Expressions art show at Silverwood. Looking forward to the upcoming events- powwow this weekend and graduation on June 10, and looking to the next school year.

Student School Board Report:

Christian – working on the Heights Herald, waiting on results from the State participation for the synchro team.

LTFM – Columbia Heights

The School Board received information on the School District's 10-year Long-term Facilities Maintenance Plan. We are required to submit an approved LTFM plan each year in order to receive this revenue from the state. The School Board will be asked to accept this plan as an action item on the June 16th, 2026, Regular School Board meeting.

LTFM –Intermediate School 916

The School Board was presented with the Long-Term Facilities Maintenance Plan for Northeast Metro 916. The School Board will be asked to approve this plan as an action item at the June 16, 2026, Regular School Board meeting. As members of 916, we are required to approve this plan for 916 to be eligible for LTFM revenue from MDE.

Policy First Reading:

The following policies were reviewed at the May 12, 2026, Policy Subcommittee Meeting: 506-Discipline, 508 Extended School Year for Certain Students with Individual Education Plans. They will seek approval at a future board meeting.

Spring Activity Update

Jake Henderson, the Activities Director, presented the Spring Activities and participation numbers update to the board. The 26-26 school year will continue under the current fee structure for non-host co-ops. More inquiries will be made to identify schools to co-op with and to learn how other districts manage fee-based non-host Co-ops.

Action Items

MSHSL Resolution

Member Palmer introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption: 2026-2027 RESOLUTION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE Membership Renewal Form
RESOLVED, that the Governing Board or Entity of Columbia Heights Public School District #13 located in the State of Minnesota delegates the control, supervision, and regulation of interscholastic activities and athletics (referred to in MN Statutes, Section 128C.01) to the Minnesota State High School League, and so hereby certifies to the State Commissioner of Education as provided for by Minnesota Statutes.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the school district listed is authorized by this, the Governing Board of said school district or school to renew its membership in the Minnesota State High School League; and to participate in the approved interscholastic activities and athletics sponsored by said League and its various subdivisions.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Governing Board or Entity hereby adopts the Constitution, Bylaws, Policies, Rules and Regulations of said League and all amendments thereto as the same as are published in the latest edition of the League's Official Handbook, on file at the office of the school district or school, or as appears on the League's website, as the minimum standards governing participation in said League-sponsored activities and athletics. Further, the administration and responsibility for determining student eligibility and for the supervision of such activities and athletics are assigned to the official representatives identified by this Governing Board or Entity.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Member Fodnuss-Bondhus
Motion to amend the Resolution to state a specific school in the Resolution. Seconded by Palmer. Upon discussion, the motion was withdrawn. Amendment was withdrawn
and upon vote being taken thereon, the following

voted in favor thereof: Fodness-Bondhus, Granlund, Houle, Medearis, Palmer, Pettway
and the following voted against the same: None.
whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Principal Contract

Motion by Pettway, seconded by Houle, to approve the Master Agreement between Independent School District #13 Columbia Heights and the District's Principals covering school years 2025-2027 as presented. All in favor, Motion carries.

IOWA Resolution

Member Palmer introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

BOARD OF EDUCATION DESIGNATION OF IDENTIFIED OFFICIAL WITH AUTHORITY FOR THE MDE
EXTERNAL USER ACCESS RECERTIFICATION SYSTEM RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) requires that school districts annually designate an Identified Official with Authority to comply with State Access Control Security Standard 1.0, which states that all user access rights to Minnesota state systems must be reviewed and recertified at least annually. The Identified Official with Authority will assign job duties and authorize external user's access to MDE secure systems for their local education agency (LEA).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Director recommends that the Board authorize Zena Stenvik to act as the Identified Official with Authority (IOWA) and Stephanie Alvarez to act as the IOWA to add and remove names only for the Columbia Heights Public School District 0013-01The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Member Granlund, and upon vote being taken thereon, the following:

voted in favor thereof: Fodness Bondhus, Granlund, Houle, Medearis, Palmer, Pettway
and the following voted against the same:
whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Board Topics

Granlund, the start of Eid al-Adha 2026 will occur on May 27th
Palmer Graduation on the 10th

Adjournment

Upon completing all agenda items, the meeting adjourned at 7:23 PM.

June 16, 2026

Date minutes approved

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