



COLUMBIA HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Independent School District 13

Columbia Heights, Minnesota

Community Room

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

September 22, 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. Fodness Bondhus, Ms. Granlund, Ms. Houle, Ms. Medearis, Ms. Palmer, Ms. Pettway, Student Representatives: Mr. Pena Velez, Ms. Hanson

Members absent: None

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Medearis, seconded by Pettway, to approve the agenda as presented. All in Favor. Motion Carried.

Announcements

October 8, Flex Learning Day

October 9, No School

October 13, 4:45 Subcommittee on Policy, Superintendent's Conference Room

October 13, 5:00 Subcommittee on Community Engagement and Legislative Action, Community Room

October 13, 6:00 Regular School Board Meeting, Community Room

October 15, No school

October 16, No school, district closed

COMMUNICATION TO THE BOARD – 4 parents shared aspects that they like about the district and concerns that they have with class scheduling, response time, and respect.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Palmer, seconded by Fodness Bundhus, to approve the action required to implement the items on the consent agenda: **Adult Meal Prices 2026-2027**, **Employee Handbook 2026-2027**, **School Board Minutes: September 8 and 15, 2026**, **Personal Report: September 22, 2026: Licensed - Conditional: Nicole Buster:** Teacher, NP, step 17, MA+15, new hire, effective 9/14/26. (the conditional offer of employment is subject to successful completion of a criminal background check). **Licensed Hilary Rice:** Change to Special Education Teacher, 1.0 FTE, HL, effective 9/8/26. **Support – Conditional Tsega Gebrehiyot:** Medium Hour Cook, HL, rehire, effective 9/2/26. (the conditional offer of employment is subject to successful completion of a criminal background check). **Alexandra Tocachi:** Medium Hour Cook, HL, new hire, effective 9/14/26. (the conditional offer of employment is subject to successful completion of a criminal background check). **Vincent Lauer:** Night Custodian, VV, new hire, effective 9/9/26. (the conditional offer of employment is subject to successful completion of a criminal background check). **Ashley Andrade:** Lunch Duty Monitor, VV, new hire, effective 10/1/26. (the conditional offer of employment is subject to successful completion of a criminal background check). **Support Enma Celleri:** Change to Education Assistant, 6.0 hrs/day, ECSE, effective 8/31/26. **Coach/Advisor/Additional Assignment Angela Noll:** ENCORE Site Facilitator, NP, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Michelle Radermacher:** ENCORE Site Facilitator, HL, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Brad Boleman:** Co-Activities Coordinator, CA, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Crystal Vital Schwartz:** Social Media Activities Stipend, DW, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Natasha Olubajo:** Key Club Advisor,

CHHS, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Ariel Orcutt:** Head Robotics Coach, CHHS/CA, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Daniel Diaz:** Assistant Robotics Coach, CHHS/CA, rehire, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Jessica Nelson:** Chess/Games Advisor, CHHS, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Maddie Kuehn:** Math Team Advisor, CHHS, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Dan Ronchak:** Sound and Lighting, CHHS/CA, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Jennie Bradd:** Costumer, CHHS/CA, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Patrick Vital Schwartz:** Set Designer, CHHS/CA, rehire, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Nick Hollerman:** Director and Vocal Coach, CHHS, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Haley Jensen:** Choreographer and Co-Director (CA Musical), CHHS/CA, rehire, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Matt Townsend:** Building Leadership Team, CHHS, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Tina Schaefer:** Building Leadership Team, CHHS, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Betsy Juran Nelson:** Building Leadership Team, CHHS, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Marc Jerue:** Building Leadership Team, CHHS, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Sarah Honeywell:** Yearbook Business Advisor, CHHS, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Brett Herbers:** GSA Advisor, CHHS, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Michelle Douglas:** Yearbook Editorial Advisor, CHHS, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Marc Jerue:** Advisory Lead, CHHS, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Maddie Kuehn:** Link Crew Advisor, CHHS, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Elaine Wilson:** Cheerleading, CHHS, rehire, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Todd Boyd:** Jazz Band, CA, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Todd Boyd:** Marimba Band, CA, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Molly MacDonald:** Co-Student Council Advisor, CA, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Sarah Clayton:** Co-Student Council Advisor, CA, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Mya Skaare:** Co-Yearbook Advisor, CA, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Becca Stark:** Co-Yearbook Advisor, CA, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Molly MacDonald:** Building Leadership Team, CA, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Sara Mercado:** Building Leadership Team, CA, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Cara Hunn:** Building Leadership Team, CA, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Chloe Bluth:** Building Leadership Team, CA, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Brad Boleman:** Building Leadership Team, CA, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Hannah Howe:** Building Leadership Team, CA, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Alison Humpal:** Building Leadership Team, CA, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Nick Rohne:** Building Leadership Team, CA, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Marie Nelson:** Building Leadership Team, CA, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Marie Nelson:** Web Leaders, CA, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Ariane Kokes:** Yearbook, NP, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Molly Crotty:** Patrol Supervisor, NP, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Cheryl Felling:** MRC Tutor Internal Coach, HL, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Elisabeth Cleveland:** MRC Tutor Internal Coach, NP, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Jennifer Hauswirth:** MRC Tutor Internal Coach, NP, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Maureen Reilly:** MRC Tutor Internal Coach, VV, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Steve Rosas:** MRC Tutor Internal Coach, VV, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Troy Sagdalen:** MRC Tutor Internal Coach, CA, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Lorien Stewart:** T&L Leadership Team, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Kelli Silva:** T&L Leadership Team, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Carolyn Teichner:** T&L Leadership Team, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Leah Ambrose:** T&L Leadership Team, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Danyell Christenson:** T&L Leadership Team, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Jennifer Hauswirth:** T&L Leadership Team, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Steve Rosas:** T&L Leadership Team, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Katelyn Smith:** T&L Leadership Team, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Eliza Fultz:** T&L Leadership Team, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Nick Rohne:** T&L Leadership Team, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Alison Humpal:** T&L Leadership Team, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Troy Sagdalen:** T&L Leadership Team, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Darcy Hedeem:** T&L Leadership Team, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Alison Coleman:** Building Leadership Team, NPSfl, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Keon Lewis:**

Building Leadership Team, NPSfl, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Morgan Semanko:** Building Leadership Team, NPSfl, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Molly Crotty:** Building Leadership Team, NPSfl, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Devon Minke:** Building Leadership Team, NPSfl, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Morgan Cunningham:** Building Leadership Team, NPSfl, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Daniela Cervantes Gallegos:** Building Leadership Team, NPSfl, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Stephanie Lindholm:** Building Leadership Team, NPSfl, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Jennifer Hauswirth:** Building Leadership Team, NPSfl, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Resignations/Terminations** **Vincent Kilgore:** Educ Asst, CA, effective 8/26/26, Reason: Resignation. **James Eloff:** Educ Asst, CHHS, effective 9/30/26, Reason: Retirement. **Samaria Gutierrez:** Lunch Duty Monitor, HL, effective 9/15/26, Reason: Resignation. **Verdell Sheets:** Asst. Football Coach, CA, effective 10/25/25, Reason: Resignation. **Alexandra Evens:** Education Assistant, NPSfl, effective 9/14/26, Reason: Resignation. **Megan Hughes:** Teacher, IC, effective 9/14/26, Reason: Retirement.

Acknowledgment of Contributions

Member Houle introduced the Acknowledgment 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 \$4,285 in monetary contributions detailed in the background.

Monetary

- Aspire Bakeries donated \$285 to Valley View for school use.
- DAFgiving 360 donated \$4,000 to Independent School District 13 for High School Activities.

In-Kind

- The Highland PTO donated personal hygiene supplies valued at \$200 to the Highland health office to support the personal hygiene of students.
- Highland PTO donated personal hygiene supplies valued at \$200 to the nurses' office for student needs.
- Falldin American Legion Post 555 donated school supplies valued at \$100 for students' use.
- Donor's Choice donated a rug valued at \$760.74 to the Highland 4th-grade classroom, Mrs. Martinson, for student use.
- Claire Sorvari Graupmann donated a Letter Jacket and news clippings valued at \$100 to CHHS for the Centennial Celebration.
- Betsy Hoium donated items from the 1940s, a 1942 yearbook, and items from 1983-1990 valued at \$350 to CHHS for the Centennial Celebration.
- Joan Miesbauer donated newspapers, hockey jersey sweatshirts, and homecoming buttons valued at \$50 to CHHS for the Centennial Celebration.
- Mark Emme donated School supplies valued at \$100 to Columbia Academy for student use.

The total fiscal year 2026-2027 monetary contributions to date: \$10,085

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:

Fodness-Bondhus-Aye, Granlund-Aye, Houle-Aye, Medearis-Aye, Palmer-Aye, Pettway-Aye

The following voted against the same: None.

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

Reports from members of the Board

Fodness Bondhus- Attended the Centennial event, Highland PTO meetings, opportunities to vote on the Levy; the meeting was well attended; the work session and newly named committee

Granlund- Shout out to alumnus Shane, who created the artwork celebrating the High School.

Centennial event: class of 48 attendees. Pride event. The work session, policy, the mayor forum, and the homecoming game. Students getting ready for the dance. Subcommittee on Policy

Houle- On September 14th, Superintendent Stenvik and I attended the Fridley City Council Meeting and reviewed the Levy information with the council. Work session community engagement and advocacy committee,

Medearis- Attended many meetings with parents and teachers. First CA Parent meeting, the High School Jamboree conferences, and attended the work session and the Policy Subcommittee and the Columbia Heights Athletic Boosters meeting.

Palmer –attended the work session and the centennial celebration. Pride Festival, Policy Subcommittee.

Pettway- attended the centennial celebration, Pride Festival, Work Session, faculty BIPOC meeting, planning the family BIPOC meeting. Subcommunity Engagement Legislative Action Committee has a new name: Community Engagement and Advocacy Committee CEAC

Superintendent's Report

I want to thank the centennial planning committee, which made the event successful, and thank the district's PTO for their contributions to make all the children's activities happen. Goodwill at the event. Last week, visited the Civic Humphry Center Civic Award, one of many that stand for the voices of many students

Student School Board Representative Report

Hanson – Helped Ms. Candella at the Jamboree conference. Attended the Homecoming game and the AI committee; very interesting. Volunteering.

Youth Outreach Officer Agreement

The Board received information on the Youth Outreach Officer agreement for the 2026-2027 school year with the Columbia Heights Police Department at the September 8th, 2026, Board Meeting and the School Board Work Session.

Motion by Pettway, seconded by Palmer, to approve the Youth Outreach Officer contract for the 2026-27 school year. All in favor, motion carries.

Property and Liability Insurance Renewal

The School Board received information on the Property and Liability Insurance Renewal at the September 15th School Board Work Session meeting. Insurance coverage is from Chubb, Handover, and Travelers Insurance. The total package premium for renewal is \$362,306.22.

Motion by Medearis, seconded by Palmer, to the renewal of the Property and Liability Insurance coverage package from Chubb, Handover and Travelers Insurance

as presented. All in favor, motion carries

Clerical Contract

Motion by Palmer, seconded by Houle, to approve the Master Agreement between Independent School District 13, Columbia Heights and the Columbia Heights Clerical SEIU Local 284, covering school years 2026-2027 and 2027-2028. All in favor, motion carried

2026 Payable 2027 Preliminary Levy

The Board received information on the 2026-2027 Preliminary Levy at the September 15, 2026 meeting. The Board must take action on the new levy by the end of September so the county can estimate property owners' property taxes.

Motion by Houle, seconded by Fodness-Bundhus, to approve the 2026, payable 2027 preliminary school levy as the maximum. All in favor; motion passes.

Board Topics

Granlund – Alumni of Distinction event is October 22.

Superintendent – Community Donations & Foundation Exploration: The District leadership is exploring the feasibility of creating a school foundation.

After completing all items on the regular agenda, Chair Granlund adjourned the meeting at 7:22 p.m.

10/13/2026

Date minutes approved

Laura Palmer, Clerk, Board of Education.

Independent School District 13