COLUMBIA HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Independent School District 13
Columbia Heights, Minnesota
Community Room
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
October 13, 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, Superintendent Stenvik
Members absent: None

Approval of Agenda
Motion by Medearis, seconded by Houle, to approve the agenda as presented. All in Favor. Motion Carried.

Announcements
Oct. 15 & 16: No School
Oct. 16: District closed
Oct. 27, 6:00, School Board Meeting, Community Room
Nov. 3: No School Election Day
Nov. 10, 4:45, Subcommittee on Policy, Superintendent's Conference Room
Nov. 10, 5:00, Subcommittee on Community Engagement and Legislative Action, Community Room
Nov. 10, 6:00, School Board Meeting

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: **Personal Report** **Licensed - Conditional Janell Frakes:** Homebound Teacher, DW, new hire, effective 10/6/26. (the conditional offer of employment is subject to successful completion of a criminal background check). **Support – Conditional Lourdes Tapia:** Night Custodian, CHHS, new hire, effective 10/5/26. (the conditional offer of employment is subject to successful completion of a criminal background check). **Silvia Cuzco:** Educational Asst, CA, new hire, effective 9/21/26. (the conditional offer of employment is subject to successful completion of a criminal background check). **Alia Maxamed:** Educational Asst, NP, new hire, effective 9/21/26. (the conditional offer of employment is subject to successful completion of a criminal background check). **Amanda Hassinger:** Lunch Duty Monitor, HL, new hire, effective 9/28/26. (the conditional offer of employment is subject to successful completion of a criminal background check). **Victor Gines:** Night Custodian, HL/VV,

new hire, effective 9/29/26. (the conditional offer of employment is subject to successful completion of a criminal background check). **Brandon Logan:** Educational Asst, HL, new hire, effective 10/5/26. (the conditional offer of employment is subject to successful completion of a criminal background check). **Support Irene Ventura Solano:** Attendance Specialist, DW, rehire, effective 9/23/26. **Crystal Risvold:** Change to Medium Hour Cook, 6.0 hrs/day, CA, effective 9/21/26. **Norma Inamagua:** Change to Medium Hour Cook, 5.0 hrs/day, CA, effective 9/21/26. **Blanca Inamagua Fernandez:** Change to Medium Hour Cook, 5.0 hrs/day, VV, effective 9/21/26. **Latifa Moulahid:** Change to Medium Hour Cook, 4.5 hrs/day, VV, effective 9/21/26. **Alicia Inamagua:** Change to Long Hour Cook, 7.0 hrs/day, VV, effective 9/21/26. **Sam Jursik:** Change to Cook Manager 8.0 hrs/day, VV, effective 9/21/26. **Coach/Advisor/Additional Assignment Melissa Deloach:** Adaptive Soccer Assistant Coach, CHHS, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Racheal Naessens:** Head Synchronized Swim Coach, CHHS, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year.
Tina Schaefer: Overage (1st Semester), CHHS, 1.167 FTE, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Michelle Douglas:** Overage (1st Semester), CHHS, 1.167 FTE, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Morgan Semanko** T&L Leadership Team, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Devon Minke:** T&L Leadership Team, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Tanya Moore:** Co-Student Council, CHHS, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Tanya Moore:** Black Student Union, CHHS, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Justine Malecha:** 12th Grade Advisor, CHHS, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Dan Shuck:** Building Leadership Team, CHHS, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Carolyn Teichner:** MRC Tutor Internal Coach, HL, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Melanie Kennedy:** HOSA, CHHS, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Melanie Kennedy:** National Honor Society, CHHS, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year. **Melanie Kennedy:** Building Leadership Team, CHHS, current employee, effective 2026-2027 school year.
Resignations/Terminations Lexie Whitney: Educ Asst, HL, effective 9/30/26, Reason: Resignation. **Natasha Pasch:** Special Education Teacher, CA, effective 10/2/26, Reason: Resignation. **Alexandra Tobachi Barbecho:** Med Hour Cook, HL, effective 9/23/26, Reason: Resignation. **Billy Depies:** Head Wrestling Coach, CHHS, effective 9/28/26. Reason: Resignation. **Ifolo Nwulu:** Lunch Duty Monitor, VV, effective 10/30/26, Reason: Resignation. **Mark Cramer:** Cook Manager, NPSfI, effective 10/14/26, Reason: Resignation. **Keturah Spriggs:** School Nurse, DW, effective 10/23/26, Reason: Resignation. **Sandra Garzon:** Interpreter, CE/DW, effective 10/5/26, Reason: Resignation. **Policy:** 208-DEVELOPMENT, ADOPTION, AND IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICIES, **Assurance of Compliance, Minutes:** September 22, 2026

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 $6,990.12 in monetary contributions detailed in the background.

Monetary

- Anonymous parents donated $2,615 to North Park for school supplies.
- The Columbia Heights Athletic Boosters donated $2,000 to the Activities Department to support Adapted Bowling.
- Reading For Education donated $2,175.12 for school use at Valley View.
- Mandy Iverson donated $200 to the Columbia Heights Public School District.

In-Kind

- The Columbia Heights Police Department donated 50 Orange Combat Application Tourniquets valued at $1,749.50 to Columbia Heights Public Schools for student/staff health and safety in the event of an emergency.
- The Columbia Heights Lions donated Personal Hygiene products valued at $400 to Columbia Heights High School for student use.
- Lisa Van Drasek donated 396 books valued at $3,960 to Columbia Heights High School, Columbia Academy, Highland Elementary, North Park School for Innovation, and Valley View Elementary for student use.
- Carol Behning donated food valued at $400 to Columbia Heights High School.

The total fiscal year 2026-2027 monetary contributions to date: $17,075.12
The motion for the adoption of the preceding resolution was duly seconded by Member Fodness Bondhus, 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- I helped plan and participated in a Rock painting event at Highland Elementary. Had many conversations with community members about the levy and permanent student funding.

Granlund- Attended an Amnesty International meeting in Washington, DC, on ICE's impact on communities across the nation. Attended SEIU contract negotiations; spoke with community members; supported Stenvik and fellow board members; chaired the meeting; and served on the Policy meeting.

Houle- Reviewed June and July expenses as treasurer, attended the Community Engagement Advocacy Committee meeting before this meeting

Medearis-Attended Columbia Academy and Valley View popsicles with principals event. Family Center family event night, the October PTO meeting at Columbia Academy, the newly reestablished PTO meeting at the High school, and the Policy Subcommittee meeting.

Palmer – Attended the 916 monthly meeting and the Subcommittee on Policy meeting.

Pettway- attended the first BIPOC family meeting of the year, attended the EA negotiations meetings, the chair meeting and the Community Engagement Advocacy Committee meeting.

Superintendent's Report

This week, the Legislative Task Force on Compensatory Revenue wrapped up its work, meeting our October 15 deadline. I anticipate several school district leaders from across the state will speak with lawmakers during the session about the report's recommendations.

I met with the MN Truth Council for a work session to review our preliminary recommendations for the final report. This week, I will meet with Parent Teacher Organizations at three of our schools. The admin team has been working hard to compile the upcoming report to the Board on the strategic plan. I appreciate their efforts and the opportunity to have transparent discussion in a public forum. We are navigating several areas of newness. We have a new schedule at the middle school, new curriculum in some areas, new leaders, new assessments and I think we are quickly learning and adjusting as we work through the implementation process. With all of the newness- I am seeing people show each other grace and I truly appreciate that.

Student School Board Representative Report

Pena Velez-September band all-district tour for Homecoming. Attended the pep fest high school spirit celebration. AVID Program college fair. To see the college opportunities.

Flex saw the Journalism Association results, including how our program won some state awards. And our voices were heard. Observed the Mock Trial after-school program.

Policy First Reading

The following Policies have been reviewed following a three-year cycle by the Policy Subcommittee: 201-Legal Status of the School Board, 202- School Board Officers, 203-Operations of the School Board- Governing Rules, 203.1- School Board Procedures; Rules of Order, 203.2- Order of the Regular School Board Meeting, 203.6 - Consent Agendas, 212 - School Board Member Development, 213 - School Board Committees, 214 - Out-of-State Travel by School Board Members.

These policies will be made available for staff and community input and will be brought before the Board for approval at a future Board meeting.

Fall Season Activities Update

Athletic Director Jake Henderson provided the Board with a 2026 Fall Season update. Highlights included a combined Varsity GPA of 3.2 and increased participation across activities.

MSHSL Foundation Grant Form A

Motion by Pettway, seconded by Houle, to adopt MSHSL Foundation Grant Form A.

RESOLUTION OF GOVERNING BOARD SUPPORTING FORM A APPLICATION TO MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE FOUNDATION

WHEREAS, the Minnesota State High School League Foundation was formed to provide support for Minnesota's high school youth to participate in MSHSL athletics and fine arts;

WHEREAS, the Governing Board of Columbia Heights Public Schools, Independent School District 13 recognizes the value of student participation in MSHSL athletics and fine arts; and

WHEREAS, the MSHSL Foundation is offering grants and funding to assist schools in recognizing, promoting and funding extracurricular participation by high school students in MSHSL athletic and fine arts programs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Governing Board of Columbia Heights Public Schools, Independent School District 13 supports the school's application to the Minnesota State High School League Foundation for a FORM A grant to offset student activity fees.
Roll call vote: Fodness Bondhus Aye, Granlund Aye, Houle Aye, Medearis Aye, Palmer Aye, Pettway Aye. Resolution passes

MSHSL Foundation Grant Form B

Motion by Houle**,** seconded by Fodness Bondhus, to adopt MSHSL Foundation Grant Form B RESOLUTION OF SCHOOL BOARD/GOVERNING BOARD SUPPORTING FORM B APPLICATION TO MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE FOUNDATION

WHEREAS, the Minnesota State High School League Foundation was formed to provide support for Minnesota's high school youth to participate in MSHSL athletics and fine arts;

WHEREAS, the Governing Board of Columbia Heights Public Schools, Independent School District 13 recognizes the value of student participation in MSHSL athletics and fine arts; and

WHEREAS, the MSHSL Foundation is offering grants and funding to assist schools to provide seminars/training opportunities or support for specific school functions for students/faculty members/officials and others who are involved in MSHSL athletic and fine arts programs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Governing Board of Columbia Heights Public Schools, Independent School District 13, supports the school's application to the Minnesota State High School League Foundation for a FORM B grant.

Roll call vote: Fodness Bondhus Aye, Granlund Aye, Houle Aye, Medearis Aye, Palmer Aye, Pettway Aye. Resolution passes

Custodial Contract

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

Food Service Contract

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

Board Topics

Granlund – reminder: the Alumni Foundation dinner is next week; tickets are available to purchase

Stenvik- Student School Board applications for swearing-in in January. Email me any adjustments to the applications, and discuss whether to maintain your position or reapply.

Adjourn

After completing all items on the regular agenda, Chair Granlund adjourned the meeting at 6:56 p.m.

Date minutes approved 10/27/2026

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