

**MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
St. Cloud Area School District 742
St. Cloud, Minnesota
January 7, 2026**

A meeting of the Board of Education of St. Cloud Area School District 742 was held on Wednesday, January 7, 2026, at the District Administration Office, 1201 South 2nd Street, Waite Park, Minnesota.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chair Shannon Haws with the following Board Members present: Gina Acevedo, Scott Andreasen, Natalie Copeland (Ringsmuth), Diana Fenton, Shannon Haws, Heather Weems. Absent: Zach Dorholt.

I. APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Moved by Andreasen, seconded by Copeland to approve the Board Meeting and Work Session agenda.

On roll call, the following voted “aye”: Acevedo, Andreasen, Copeland, Fenton, Haws, Weems. Motion carried.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Andreasen, seconded by Copeland to:

Approve the following personnel changes pursuant to relevant laws and appropriate provisions of negotiated agreements between the Board of Education and exclusive representatives. For new hires, the indicated rates are consistent with current negotiated agreements and Board approved rates of pay. All rates/salaries listed do not include fringe benefits.

LICENSED STAFF

New Hire

Taylor Rouillard, Tier 2 SPED Elementary Teacher, Katherine Johnson Education Center, effective for the 2025-2026 school year, Lane MA, Pay Level 2 (185 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$59,497.

Hala Alrikabi, Tier 2 ECSE B-3 Teacher, Quarryview Education Center, effective for the 2025-2026 school year, Lane BA+30, Pay Level 3 (185 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$59,041.

Rehire

Julie Swenson, Tier 1 CTE Cosmetology Teacher, Apollo and Tech High School, effective for the 2025-2026 school year, Lane BA, Pay Level 8 (185 days of a .80 FTE contract) with a salary of \$43,776.

Amin Hashi, Tier 1 World Language - Somali for Heritage Speakers Teacher, Tech High School, effective for the 2025-2026 school year, Lane BA, Pay Level 3 (185 days of a .60 FTE contract) with a salary of \$30,444.60.

Jane Daffinrud, Tier 1 Homebound Tutor, Katherine Johnson Education Center, effective for the 2025-2026 school year, Lane BA, Pay Level 2 (185 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$49,141.

Nathan Hackensack, Tier 2 SPED ASD/DCD Teacher, Apollo and Tech High School, effective for the 2025-2026 school year, Lane BA+10, Pay Level 2 (185 days of a .70 FTE contract) with a salary of \$36,210.30.

Kelli Dahl, Tier 1 SPED DD Teacher, Oak Hill Community School, effective for the 2025-2026 school year, Lane MA, Pay Level 2 (185 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$59,497.

Yordy Camacho, Tier 1 Somali Immersion Kindergarten Teacher, Westwood Elementary School, effective for the 2025-2026 school year, Lane BA, Pay Level 2 (185 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$49,141.

Louis Lorentz, Tier 1 SPED DD Teacher, Talahi Community School, effective for the 2025-2026 school year, Lane BA, Pay Level 2 (185 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$49,141.

Erin Gerdes, Tier 1 CTE Business Teacher, Tech High School, effective for the 2025-2026 school year, Lane BA, Pay Level 3 (185 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$50,741.

Extended Contract

Justin Kilanowski, Mathematics Teacher, Apollo High School, effective December 1, 2025 through February 27, 2026, Lane MA+40, Pay Level 6 (.2 FTE of a full-time contract). Mr. Kilanowski's salary for this assignment will be \$4,868.55.

Leave of Absence

Stephanie Olson, Social Studies Teacher, Tech High School, effective March 23, 2026 through June 1, 2026.

Brett Larson, El Teacher, South Junior High School, effective December 8, 2025 through January 2, 2026.

Katherine Opsahl, Media Specialist, Westwood Elementary School, effective January 5, 2026 through April 10, 2026.

David Wright, Grade 3 Teacher, Westwood Elementary School, effective December 1, 2025 through December 16, 2025.

Retirement

Jeffrey Olson, Physical Education Teacher, Oak Hill Community School, effective January 9, 2026, after 32 years of service in District 742.

Anita Boster, Band Teacher, South Junior High School, effective December 23, 2025, after 34 years of service in District 742. Ms. Boster was previously on a leave of absence.

NON-LICENSED STAFF

New Hire

Hibo Hussein, Student Support Paraeducator, Tech High School, effective December 22, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$16.50.

Rahma Abdi, Early Childhood SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Quarryview Education Center, effective December 22, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$18.50.

Deanna Will, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Tech High School, effective January 5, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$18.50.

Jody Randolph, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Discovery Community School, effective December 18, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$18.50.

Kate Legg, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Roosevelt Education Center/Journey, effective January 5, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$18.50.

Marabeth Toenjes, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Talahi Community School, effective January 5, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$18.50.

Halla Omar, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Quarryview Education Center, effective December 22, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$18.50.

Rebecca Owens, Instructional Paraeducator, South Junior High School, effective December 11, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$18.50.

Michael Gardner, Substitute Custodian, District Wide, effective December 11, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$16.25.

Hindi Awale, Student Support Paraeducator, Madison Elementary School, effective December 8, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$16.50.

Kate Schlenker-Vance, Clerical Class I (10-Month), Madison Elementary School, effective December 8, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$16.72.

Jeremiah Biggar, Student Support Paraeducator, Westwood Elementary School, effective December 1, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$16.50.

Fadumo Ashkir, Student Support Paraeducator, Madison Elementary School, effective December 1, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$16.50.

Chantelle Merrell, Custodian, Katherine Johnson Education Center, effective November 21, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$16.85.

Misty Peterson, American Indian Education Cultural Liaison, District Administration Office, effective November 21, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$25.50.

John Sobiech, Assistant Engineer, District Wide, effective November 17, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$20.91.

Leave of Absence

Tiffany Daniels, Family Access & Community Liaison, District Administration Office, effective December 1, 2025 through January 2, 2026.

Annabel Anderson, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Oak Hill Community School, effective October 13, 2025, extending through March 20, 2026.

William Trebtoske, Head Carpenter, District Services Building, effective December 9, 2025 through January 19, 2026.

Donald Trebtoske, Groundskeeper, Apollo High School, effective January 8, 2026 through April 3, 2026.

Position Eliminated

Ruqayah Abuhadid, SPED Behavior Resource Specialist, Kennedy Community School, effective November 28, 2025.

Resignation

Tara Maish, Interpreter, Discovery Community School, effective January 14, 2026.

Susan Ross, Clerical Class I (10-Month), District Administration Office, effective December 5, 2025.

Alexis Drew, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Discovery Community School, effective November 25, 2025.

Cody Hagen, Student Support Paraeducator, Tech High School, effective December 15, 2025. Mr. Hagen was previously on a leave of absence.

Haredo Jimale, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Madison Elementary School, effective December 4, 2025.

Keith Anderson, Kitchen Helper, Tech High School, effective December 8, 2025.

Betty Andrade Cumbe, Student Support Paraeducator, Oak Hill Community School, effective November 28, 2025. Ms. Andrade Cumbe was previously on a leave of absence.

Foos Suadal, SPED Transportation Instructional Paraeducator, District Services Building, effective November 18, 2025.

Amina Shire, SPED Early Childhood Instructional Paraeducator, Quarryview Education Center, effective November 13, 2025.

Morgan Freese, Behavior Resource Specialist, South Junior High School, effective November 21, 2025.

Termination

Amino Ali, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Talahi Community School, effective December 17, 2025.

Approve the Monthly Financial Report for November 2025.

Approve the Monthly Treasurer's Report for November 2025.

Award the bid for the Talahi Roof Replacement Project to Palmer West Construction in the amount of \$179,000, based on low bid received meeting specifications.

Approve Proposed Revised Board Policy 101 – Legal Status of the School District (*Statute formats only*).

Approve Board Policy 101.1 – Name of the School District (*Reviewed, No Changes*).

Approve Board Policy 530 – Immunization Requirements (*Reviewed, No Changes*).

On roll call, the following voted “aye”: Acevedo, Andreasen, Copeland, Fenton, Haws, Weems. Motion carried.

III. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Cybersecurity Update

Katie Herrboldt, Executive Director of Innovation and Technology Services, provided an update on the district's cybersecurity plan. Cybersecurity protects networks, devices, and data from unauthorized access or criminal use and the practice of ensuring confidentiality, integrity, and availability of information. We are building a culture of security with our multi-layered approach which combines technology, training, and planning to protect what matters most: student data, operational continuity, and community trust.

IV. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS

A. (DISCUSSION ITEM) – Central Minnesota Virtual Academy Update

Katie Herrboldt, Executive Director of Innovation and Technology Services, Laura Freese, Apollo High School Assistant Principal and Central Minnesota Virtual Academy Administrator, and Tyler Malotky, Central Minnesota Virtual Academy School Counselor, provided an update on the district's Central Minnesota Virtual Academy which is an online school serving students in grades 9-12.

As of December 2025, there are 451 students taking at least one online class and 91 full time online students in Trimester 2, which is up from 60 students in Trimester 1. Part-time online students total 359. An impressive 92% of full-time online students in grade 12 are on track to graduate.

Students choose Central Minnesota Virtual Academy for the following reasons: PSEO, medical and mental health needs, work force, athletics and competition, family obligations and flexibility. It also offers all credits a student would need to graduate in 4 years. It has increased in the total number of students each year since its inception in the 2023-24 school year and we expect continued growth into 2026-27.

Board member Zach Dorholt arrived at 7:20 p.m.

Future goals include (1) Continue to expand course offerings and options, (2) Continue to build unique online learning opportunities and adapt to innovation in online learning platforms and formats, and (3) Provide students the opportunity to build future skills.

Board member Weems requested to see demographic information for this year's online students.

B. (DISCUSSION ITEM) – Generative Artificial Intelligence Update

Donna Roper, Director of Research, Assessment and Gen AI Integration, provided an update on the guidance and use of Gen AI in the school district.

Strategic work in 2025-26 includes (1) Leadership Learning in August 2025 on Productive Struggle, (2) Learning from Peers in December 2025, and (3) Third Annual MN Thought Leaders' Summit in June 2026. Measurement is also a key next step by developing measures of learning and growth to gather authentic feedback and target opportunities to learn gaps.

Focus areas for this year include (1) Bringing clarity to guidance and use, (2) Professional learning opportunities, and (3) Leadership and Fierce Collaboration for Change.

V. REPORTS

A. Board of Education Standing Committee Reports

1. Zach Dorholt, Chair of the Board Development, Policy, and Governance Committee, noted the committee met on December 17, 2025, and reviewed four district policies. Policies 101, 101.1, and 530 required only minor statute updates or no changes at all and were recommended for the consent agenda. Policy 624 - Online Instruction, was recommended for a first read due to a major statute change that requires significant policy change.

VI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Board Chair Haws noted January 21, 2026 Regular Board Meeting topics will include:

- Changemaker Hub Report Out
- Approval of 2026-27 and 2027-28 School Calendars
- Approval of Tentative Agreements (if any)
- Mental Health Supports Update
- Policy Readings

VII. ADJOURNMENT OF BOARD MEETING

Moved by Andreasen, seconded by Copeland to adjourn the Board meeting. All Board members stated “aye”. The Board meeting concluded at 8:20 p.m.

The Board then moved to the Work Session, which included discussion of the following items.

VIII. BOARD OF EDUCATION WORK SESSION

A. Proposed Revised Board Policy 624 – Online Instruction

Katie Herrboldt, Executive Director of Innovation and Technology Services, reviewed Proposed Revised Board Policy 624 – Online Instruction. This is rewritten due to statute repeal and replacement. There were no suggested changes. This proposed revised policy will be on the January 21, 2026 Board of Education Meeting agenda for a second reading.

IX. ADJOURNMENT OF THE WORK SESSION

Moved by Andreasen, seconded by Copeland to adjourn the Work Session at 8:27 p.m. All Board members stated “aye”.

Heather Weems, Clerk

These minutes are not official until reviewed and approved by the Board of Education.