

**MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
St. Cloud Area School District 742
St. Cloud, Minnesota
February 5, 2025**

A meeting of the Board of Education of St. Cloud Area School District 742 was held on Wednesday, February 5, 2025, at the District Administration Office, 1201 South 2nd Street, Waite Park, Minnesota.

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Chair Shannon Haws with the following Board Members present: Scott Andreasen, Natalie Copeland (Ringsmuth), Zach Dorholt, Diana Fenton, Shannon Haws, Heather Weems.

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”: Andreasen, Copeland, Dorholt, Fenton, Haws, Weems. Motion carried.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Board member Weems to remove Item A – Personnel Staff Changes from the Consent Agenda.

Moved by Copeland, seconded by Andreasen to approve Consent Agenda Items B-F:

Approve the Monthly Financial Report for December 2024.

Approve the Monthly Treasurer’s Report for December 2024.

Authorize a Request for Proposal for Audit Services to be received until 1:00 p.m. Central Time on Friday, February 28, 2025.

Approve Apollo Theater Improvements Change order with H2I Group in the amount of +\$3,000.00.

Approve Resolution to Appoint Absentee Ballot Board for April 8, 2025.

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

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

Louis Lorentz, Tier 1 SPED DCD Teacher, Tech High School, effective for the 2024-2025 school year, Lane BA, Pay Level 2 (179 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$47,547.24.

Carlee Biechler, Tier 4 Title 1 Teacher, District Administration Office and St. John's Prep School, effective for the 2024-2025 school year, at an hourly rate of \$40.00.

Rehire

Jean Motschke, Tier 4 Early Childhood Teacher, Quarryview Education Center, effective December 2, 2024 through February 28, 2025, Lane MA+40, Pay Level 11 (65 days of a .20 FTE contract) with a salary of \$6,349.76. Ms. Motschke is returning for this assignment after retirement.

William O'Donnell, Tier 1 Long Call Substitute EL Teacher, Tech High School, effective November 25, 2024 through February 21, 2025, Lane BA, Pay Level 2 (56.5 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$15,007.93.

Katherine Dobbs, Tier 4 Title 1 Teacher, District Wide and St. Cloud Christian School, effective for the 2024-2025 school year, at an hourly rate of \$40.00.

Leave of Absence

April Seim, Early Childhood Teacher, Madison Elementary School, effective August 26, 2024 through June 2, 2025 (5% leave of a full-time contract). Ms. Seim will work 95% of a full-time contract.

Brooke Nelson, SPED DD Teacher, Talahi Community School, effective January 21, 2025 through May 1, 2025.

April Bogle, Music Teacher, Oak Hill Community School, effective January 2, 2025 through February 17, 2025.

Richard Chakolis, Assistant Principal, McKinley-ALC, effective December 20, 2024 through January 30, 2025.

Raunn Finley, Assistant Principal, South Junior High School, effective December 20, 2024 through January 20, 2025.

Jennifer Johnson-Olsen, Invention Teacher, Talahi Community School, effective September 16, 2024 through October 28, 2024.

Resignation

Rodney Saffert, Language Arts Teacher and Assistant Basketball Coach, Tech High School, effective June 2, 2025.

Kevin Kieke, Technology Education Teacher, Tech High School, effective June 2, 2025.

NON-LICENSED STAFF

New Hire

Michael Lampart, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Talahi Community School, effective January 16, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$18.50.

Kevin Smith, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Westwood Elementary School, effective January 29, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$18.50.

Kelli Mrozek, Facilitator, Talahi Community School, effective February 3, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$17.54.

Yussuf Ahmed, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Talahi Community School, effective January 28, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$18.50.

Kasandra Wisniewski-Grzybowski, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, North Junior High School, effective January 27, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$18.50.

Chelsea Mills, Clerical Class II (10 Month), Apollo High School, effective January 21, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$18.39.

Sandra Miller, Substitute Custodian, District Wide, effective January 16, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$16.25.

Corey Miller, Substitute Custodian, District Wide, effective January 16, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$16.25.

Rehire

Stephanie Shoemaker, Early Childhood Instructional Paraeducator, Oak Hill Community School, effective January 27, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$18.50.

Taylor Hanson, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, North Junior High School, effective January 23, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$18.50.

Brianna Gill, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Quarryview Education Center, effective January 23, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$18.50.

Leave of Absence

Ikran Isse, Custodian, Talahi Community School, effective February 20, 2025 through September 1, 2025.

Rebecca Howe, SPED Early Childhood Instructional Paraeducator, Quarryview Education Center, effective March 13, 2025 through May 16, 2025.

Samantha Anderson, Student Support Paraeducator, Talahi Community School, effective January 23, 2025 through March 27, 2025.

Fartun Noor Ali, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Talahi Community School, effective February 4, 2025 through September 1, 2025.

Resignation

Marissa Martins, Behavior Resource Specialist, Talahi Community School, effective February 7, 2025.

Andrea Laning, Licensed Literacy Coordinator, District Administrative Office, effective June 6, 2025.

Michael Lampart, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Talahi Community School, effective January 16, 2025.

Marisol Angulo Sanchez, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Lincoln Elementary School, effective January 17, 2025.

Safia Abdullahi, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Talahi Community School, effective January 16, 2025.

Linda Becker, Kitchen Helper, District Wide, effective December 17, 2024.

Destinie Buersken, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, South Junior High School, effective February 11, 2025.

Retirement

Denise Jeddelloh, Kitchen Helper, South Junior High School, effective May 30, 2025, after 6 years of service in District 742.

Termination

Javaughn Freeman, Boys Basketball Coach, North Junior High School, effective January 28, 2025.

Sierra Hetrick, Behavior Resource Specialist, Tech High School, effective January 3, 2025.

Imtiaz Qaimkhani, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Talahi Community School, effective January 24, 2025.

Joshua Harris, Boys Basketball Coach, North Junior High School, effective January 30, 2025.

Moved by Andreasen, seconded by Copeland to approve Consent Agenda Item A.

Board member Weems recused herself from this agenda item.

On roll call, the following voted “aye”: Andreasen, Copeland, Dorholt, Fenton, Haws. Abstained: Weems. Motion passed 5-0.

III. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. You’re Not Alone Presentation

Shannon Avenson, Assistant Superintendent of E-12 Educational Services, along with Amy Theisen Walz, Founder and Director of You’re Not Alone (YNA), and Jeni Schad, Tech High School Counselor, provided an overview of the program which supports providing therapy dog services in our schools. This service supports both students and staff.

Fetching Into the Future 2.0 - The Role of Therapy Dogs in our Nation’s Mental Health Crisis. Mental health is defined as a person’s condition with regard to their psychological and emotional well-being. Their mission statement: You’re Not Alone is seeking to shatter the stigma surrounding mental illness, one therapy dog at a time. In Years 1-2, they started in 2021 at Monticello Middle School with about 1,631 students. In Year 3 during 2023-24, their goal was to expand and be in 10 schools and they were in 23 schools. Currently in Year 4 in 2024-25, they are in 42 schools with a waiting list for 30+ schools for 20,000+ students.

IV. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS

A. (ACTION ITEM) – Appointment of Board Clerk

Chair Haws recognized the opening of the Board Clerk officer position with the resignation of Board member Bruce Hentges effective January 31, 2025.

Moved by Chair Haws, seconded by Copeland, to nominate Board member Heather Weems as Board Clerk.

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

B. (ACTION ITEM) – Adoption of the Resolution Filling School Board Vacancy by Appointment

Chair Haws recognized the need to fill a School Board vacancy with the resignation of Board member Bruce Hentges effective January 31, 2025. The reasoning behind selecting Al Dahlgren is there were seven people on the ballot, and the top four were elected. Al Dahlgren was the fifth person. He will serve until the end of December and the district will hold a special election in November and go back to the voters to fill this vacancy opening until January 8, 2029. Chair Haws read the Resolution.

The following resolution was moved by _____ and second by _____

RESOLUTION FILLING SCHOOL BOARD VACANCY BY APPOINTMENT

WHEREAS, a vacancy exists in the office of school board member with a term expiring the first Monday in January 2029; and

[NOTE: Pick ONE of the following three WHEREAS Clauses as it applies]

WHEREAS, the vacancy occurred more than ninety (90) days prior to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November in the year the vacancy occurred in the first or second year of the vacant term;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of St. Cloud Area Schools, Independent School District No. 742, State of Minnesota, as follows:

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 123B.09, Subd. 5b, Allen Dahlgren is hereby appointed to fill the vacancy and to serve until a successor is elected and qualified. The appointment shall be effective thirty (30) days after the adoption of this resolution unless a valid petition to reject the appointee is filed with the school district clerk pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 123B.09, Subd. 5b(b) within that thirty (30) day period.

The vote on adoption of the Resolution was as follows:

Aye:

Nay:

Absent:

Whereupon, said Resolution was declared duly adopted.

By: _____
Board Chair

By: _____
Board Clerk

Moved by Andreasen, seconded by Weems, to nominate Al Dahlgren as the seventh Board Member.

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

C. (DISCUSSION ITEM) – 2025-26 Middle Level Courses Update

Dr. Jason Harris, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education, and Hillary Johnson, Director of Secondary Education, provided an update on 2025-26 Middle Level Courses offerings and the course registration process. Our vision for middle level programming is future ready graduates through exploration, self-reflection, planning, and pathway opportunities for career awareness beginning in middle school.

V. **REPORTS**

A. Board of Education Standing Committee Reports

Zach Dorholt, Chair of the Board Development, Policy, and Governance Committee, noted the committee met on January 29, 2025, and reviewed Policies 525 and 535 with a recommendation to bring both policies forward for three readings.

Natalie Copeland, Chair of the Board Personnel Committee, noted the Committee met on January 28, 2025, and discussed the 2024-2025 Staffing Process: Administration reviewed the 2025-2026 staffing timelines and flowchart. The timelines will be reviewed for the full board in March. Administration is currently reviewing staffing structures at the district level and in each of our buildings and programs to align with identified priorities and budgets.

VI. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Board Chair Haws noted February 19, 2025 Regular Board Meeting topics will include:

- Clearview School Presentation
- American Indian Education Update
- American Indian Parent Advisory Committee Compliance Documentation

- Policy Readings

Board member Weems brought up the Federal Administration and all of the recent changes and asked if the Board will be made aware of any updates or changes that affect our school district and our community partners. Amy Skaalerud, Executive Director of Finance and Business Services, stated changes can happen quickly and the district Administration could share through our Board Updates or an email if there was a significant change or impact. Two partners who have been impacted so far are United Way and YES Network. We would also share any changes as part of next year's budget presentation. Board member Copeland stated she appreciated Board member Weems bringing this up and she would like to receive an email update as things change so she can be informed as she hears from the community.

VII. ADJOURNMENT OF BOARD MEETING

Moved by Copeland, seconded by Andreasen to adjourn the Board meeting.

All Board members stated "aye". The Board meeting concluded at 8:01 p.m.

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

VIII. BOARD OF EDUCATION WORK SESSION

A. Schools Update

Shannon Avenson, Assistant Superintendent of E-12 Educational Services, provided an update on behalf of Nikki Hansen, Assistant Superintendent of E-5 Learning, by highlighting Discovery. Students practice safety routines by lining up for lunch and getting hand sanitizer before going into the lunch line and scanning their lunch card. A Sense of Belonging includes eating pizza with the principal while sharing their voice and perspectives while engaging in school conversations. Students worked in collaboration as authors to write a story. Excellence was demonstrated through the Annual Cultural Night by showcasing the countries where students have family.

Dr. Jason Harris, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education, highlighted South with academic achievers being celebrated with breakfast. Belonging included Grade 8 Art Club students visiting our elementary schools. Collaboration was evident through WE Act students making robots for this year's One District, One Book, and excellence was highlighted through the Career in a Year event.

Shannon Avenson, Assistant Superintendent of E-12 Educational Services, highlighted Katherine Johnson Education Center, who focused on safety with elementary students enjoying working together on social skills, and a sense of

belonging included middle school staff attending one of their student's basketball games at North. The InStep Program collaborated with community partners to provide work experience opportunities for our 18–21-year-old students and excellence was demonstrated through middle school students meeting all three goal areas and a spelling bee winner displaying his prize.

B. Proposed Revised Board Policy 525 – Violence Prevention (Applicable to Students and Staff) - (First Reading)

Shannon Avenson, Assistant Superintendent of E-12 Educational Services, reviewed Proposed Revised Board Policy 525 – Violence Prevention (Applicable to Students and Staff) for a first reading. There were no suggested changes. This policy will come to the February 19, 2025 Board meeting for a second reading.

C. Proposed Revised Board Policy 535 – Service Animals in Schools (First Reading)

Shannon Avenson, Assistant Superintendent of E-12 Educational Services, reviewed Proposed Revised Board Policy 535 – Service Animals in Schools for a first reading. There were no suggested changes. This policy will come to the February 19, 2025 Board meeting for a second reading.

Board member Andreassen asked if we need to have something in our policy about therapy facility dogs which are different from service animals. Shannon noted that we have contracts in place, but she will look into it.

IX. ADJOURNMENT OF THE WORK SESSION

Moved by Chair Haws to adjourn the Work Session. All Board members stated “aye”.

The Work Session ended at 8:24 p.m.

Heather Weems, Clerk

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