

**MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
St. Cloud Area School District 742
St. Cloud, Minnesota
October 15, 2025**

A meeting of the Board of Education of St. Cloud Area School District 742 was held on Wednesday, October 15, 2025 at the District Administration Office, 1201 South 2nd Street, Waite Park, Minnesota.

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by Chair Shannon Haws with the following Board Members present: Natalie Copeland (Ringsmuth), Al Dahlgren, Zach Dorholt, Diana Fenton, Shannon Haws. Absent: Scott Andreasen and Heather Weems.

I. APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Moved by Fenton, seconded by Dahlgren to approve the Board Meeting agenda.

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

II. CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Board member Copeland to remove Item D - Acceptance of Grant Awards and Donations from the Consent Agenda.

Moved by Fenton, seconded by Dahlgren to approve Consent Agenda Items A-C and E-F:

Approve the minutes from September 3, 2025 and September 17, 2025 board meetings.

Approve Bills and other Financial Transactions in the grand total amount of \$5,018,996.18.

LICENSED STAFF

New Hire

Denise Nusbaum, Tier 4 ABE Teacher, Community Ed, effective October 1, 2025 through the 2025-2026 school year, Lane BA+40, Pay Level 11 (167 days of a .55 FTE contract) with a salary of \$36,765.82.

Rehire

Krisi Lain, Tier 4 Counselor, Apollo High School, effective from October 6, 2025 through October 31, 2025, Lane MA+20, Pay Level 8 (19 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$7,872.78. Ms. Lain is returning for this assignment after retirement.

Beth Fenstad, Tier 4 Literacy Specialist, Apollo High School, effective for the 2025-2026 school year, Lane MA+40, Pay Level 8 (162 days of a .50 FTE contract) with a salary of \$36,534.06. Ms. Fenstad is returning for this assignment after retirement.

Cathy Clem, Tier 4 Hourly SPED Substitute Teacher, South Junior High School, effective for the 2025-2026 school year, at an hourly rate of \$40.00. Ms. Clem is returning for this one-year assignment after retirement.

Extended Contract

Katherine Opsahl, Media Specialist, Kennedy Community School, effective for the 2025-2026 school year, Lane BA, Pay Level 2 (5 additional days of a full-time contract). Ms. Opsahl's salary for this assignment will be \$1,328.13.

Lisa Gapinski, Physical Therapist, District Wide, effective for the 2025-2026 school year, Lane MA+40, Pay Level 11 (.4 FTE of a full-time contract). Ms. Gapinski's salary for this assignment will be \$36,144.80.

Nicole Kipka, SPED DCD Teacher, Kennedy Community School, effective October 6, 2025 through November 21, 2025, Lane BA+10, Pay Level 10 (.3 FTE of a full-time contract). Ms. Kipka's salary for this assignment will be \$3,146.56.

Scott Skaalerud, SPED LD Teacher, Kennedy Community School, effective October 6, 2025 through November 21, 2025, Lane MA, Pay Level 10 (.3 FTE of a full-time contract). Mr. Skaalerud's salary for this assignment will be \$4,000.05.

Andrew Ray, Science Teacher, Tech High School, effective September 24, 2025 through November 25, 2025, Lane BA+10, Pay Level 7 (.2 FTE of a full-time contract). Mr. Ray's salary for this assignment will be \$2,776.38.

Elizabeth Sarff, Deaf Hard of Hearing Teacher, District Wide, effective October 6, 2025 through December 23, 2025, Lane BA+10, Pay Level 11 (.2 FTE of a full-time contract). Ms. Sarff's salary for this assignment will be \$3,485.90.

Brenna Reichle, Deaf Hard of Hearing Teacher, District Wide, effective October 6, 2025 through December 23, 2025, Lane MA, Pay Level 10 (.2 FTE of a full-time contract). Ms. Reichle's salary for this assignment will be \$4,431.43.

Kathryn Simacek, Elementary Grade Level Lead, District Administration Office, effective for the 2025-2026 school year, Lane MA+40, Pay Level 10 (3 additional days of a full-time contract). Ms. Simacek's salary for this assignment will be \$1,421.48.

Brenda Thielen, Elementary Grade Level Lead, Oak Hill Community School, effective for the 2025-2026 school year, Lane MA+30, Pay Level 11 (3 additional days of a full-time contract). Ms. Thielen's salary for this assignment will be \$1,378.43.

Lyndsey Olson, Elementary Grade Level Lead, Westwood Elementary School, effective for the 2025-2026 school year, Lane MA+40, Pay Level 11 (3 additional days of a full-time contract). Ms. Olson's salary for this assignment will be \$1,465.33.

Anne Mertensotto, Elementary Grade Level Lead, Oak Hill Community School, effective for the 2025-2026 school year, Lane MA+40, Pay Level 11 (3 additional days of a full-time contract). Ms. Mertensotto's salary for this assignment will be \$1,465.33.

Jenna Noble, Elementary Grade Level Lead, Kennedy Community School, effective for the 2025-2026 school year, Lane MA+20, Pay Level 11 (3 additional days of a full-time contract). Ms. Noble's salary for this assignment will be \$1,319.11.

Jennifer Bibeau, Elementary Grade Level Lead, Kennedy Community School, effective for the 2025-2026 school year, Lane MA+10, Pay Level 10 (3 additional days of a full-time contract). Ms. Bibeau's salary for this assignment will be \$1,234.31.

Melissa Jongeward, Elementary Grade Level Lead, Westwood Elementary School, effective for the 2025-2026 school year, Lane MA+10, Pay Level 11 (3 additional days of a full-time contract). Ms. Jongeward's salary for this assignment will be \$1,260.13.

Amy Dvorak, Elementary Grade Level Lead, Lincoln Elementary School, effective for the 2025-2026 school year, Lane MA+40, Pay Level 11 (3 additional days of a full-time contract). Ms. Dvorak's salary for this assignment will be \$1,465.33.

Leave of Absence

Mychaela Burggraff, Grade 1 Teacher, Westwood Elementary School, effective January 21, 2026 through April 27, 2026.

Linda McGowan, SPED EBD Teacher, Katherine Johnson Education Center, effective September 15, 2025 through October 13, 2025.

Tabatha Raden, SPED EBD Teacher, Kennedy Community School, effective September 24, 2025 through November 24, 2025.

Resignation

Glen Palm, Hourly Teacher, District Wide, effective July 12, 2024.

Lori Steen, Parent Family Education Teacher, Quarryview Education Center, effective May 30, 2025.

Sundee Kuechle, Grade 2 Spanish Immersion Teacher, Clearview Elementary School, effective August 14, 2025.

NON-LICENSED STAFF

New Hire

Sahra Jimale, Student Support Paraeducator, Talahi Community School, effective October 6, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$16.50.

Owen Miller, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Katherine Johnson Education Center, effective October 6, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$18.50.

Jordyn Valencia-Tyson, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, In-Step, effective October 13, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$18.50.

Emmerson Beumer, Custodian, District Wide, effective October 2, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$16.85.

Trista Hersman, Kitchen Helper, Apollo High School, effective September 30, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$16.49.

Bernice Smith, Kitchen Helper, Tech High School, effective September 30, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$16.49.

Stephanie Lopez Rodriguez, Kitchen Helper, Kennedy Community School, effective September 30, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$16.49.

Susanna Saavedra-Ramos, Kitchen Helper, Talahi Community School, effective September 30, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$16.49.

Amariyah Wright, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Talahi Community School, effective September 25, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$18.50.

Frank Caligiuri, Transportation Coordinator, District Services Building, effective September 30, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$30.50.

Abdi Abdullahi, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Talahi Community School, effective September 29, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$18.50.

Terry Leeks, Level 4 Advanced SPED Instructional Paraeducator, InStep, effective September 26, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$20.50.

Rehire

Irene Sanchez, Bilingual Communications Support Specialist, Quarryview Education Center, effective October 9, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$25.50.

Nimco Olad, Student Support Paraeducator, Madison Elementary School, effective October 9, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$16.50.

Augustine Hahn, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Tech High School, effective October 13, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$18.50.

Yahya Abdullahi, Student Support Paraeducator, Lincoln Elementary School, effective October 6, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$16.50.

Leave of Absence

Selina Kremer, Clerical Class III (12-Month), District Administration Office, effective September 29, 2025 through October 30, 2025.

Sowda Mohamed, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Oak Hill Community School, effective October 27, 2025 through January 12, 2026.

Annabel Anderson, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Oak Hill Community School, effective October 27, 2025 through January 28, 2026.

Jowell Harris, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Talahi Community School, effective September 2, 2025 through October 17, 2025.

Oluwaseun Babalola, Custodian, Clearview Elementary School, effective December 15, 2025 through April 1, 2025.

Michelle Price, Facilitator, Apollo High School, effective September 8, 2025 through January 5, 2026.

Resignation

Natalie Hassett, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Talahi Community School, effective October 20, 2025.

Janet Michelson, SPED Early Childhood Instructional Paraeducator, Quarryview Education Center, effective September 30, 2025.

Yuly Moua, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Quarryview Education Center, effective October 23, 2025.

Termination

Colia Hartung, Transitional Services Coordinator, District Administration Office, effective October 8, 2025.

There were no Board Member expenses incurred from July 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025.

Authorize a Call for Bids for the Multipurpose Athletic Facility Bid Package 1 to be opened on Thursday, November 13, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. Central Time.

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

Moved by Fenton, seconded by Dorholt to approve Consent Agenda Item D (Acceptance of Grant Awards and Donations).

Board member Copeland recused herself from this agenda item.

1. Donations to Apollo High School:
 - \$1,600 from Kopp Family Foundation for Random Acts of Kindness Program
 - \$1,500 from Kimberly Ann Ritsche Memorial Fund of Central MN Community Foundation for Kimberly Ann Ritsche Memorial Scholarships
 - \$1,816.66 from Kimberly Ann Ritsche Memorial Fund of Central MN Community Foundation for Apollo Wellness Center
2. Donation to Katherine Johnson Education Center:
 - \$1,295 from The Granite City Lumberjacks Inc. for student needs
3. Donation to North Junior High School:
 - \$1,500 from Kopp Family Foundation for Random Acts of Kindness Program
4. Donation to South Junior High School:
 - \$2,000 from Central MN Noon Optimist Club for back to school shirts for incoming students
5. Donation to Talahi Community School:
 - \$3,583.05 from District 742 LEAF for yearbooks
6. Donations to Tech High School:
 - \$250 from Jim Dahl on behalf of the Tech Class of '76 Scholarship
 - \$250 from Pediatric Dentistry P.L.C. for the Cross Country Tiger Prowl
 - \$3,854 from Shelley Pick on behalf of the Travis Pick Memorial Scholarship
7. Donations to Westwood Elementary School:
 - Fajita Bar from Cinco de Mayo Mexican Restaurant for Conference Night Teacher Meal
 - Baked Potato Bar from Texas Roadhouse for Conference Night Teacher Meal

8. Donations to District 742:

- Used Trombone from Sheldon Vie for the Music Department
- \$2,843.57 from Central MN Community Foundation on behalf of the Tony and Elise Dingmann Fund for the High School Band Program
- \$250 from Kiwanis Club of St. Cloud Inc. for the Second Chance Bus Program

On roll call, the following voted “aye”: Dahlgren, Dorholt, Fenton, Haws. Abstained: Copeland. Motion passed 4-0.

III. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Graduation Plan Update

Dr. Jason Harris, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education, and Molly Kensy, Tech High School principal, provided a Graduation Ceremonies update with the goal of using the feedback for future planning to strengthen community trust, improve the experience, and reinforce our district’s values of safety, belonging, collaboration, and excellence.

The purpose of graduation celebrates academic achievement and personal growth, recognizing students’ dedication and adaptability as they prepare for the future. It honors the essential collaboration between students, families, and staff, signifying a shared commitment to a promising future.

Dr. Harris and Ms. Kensy highlighted key themes and presented findings from the student and family stakeholder data.

Feedback themes include: (1) Ensure dignity and recognition for every graduate, (2) Maintain safety and effective crowd control, (3) Promote accessibility and inclusion, addressing language, mobility, and sensory needs, (4) Set clear expectations and enforce standards for noise, behavior, and decorum, (5) Provide clear communication both before and during the event, and (6) Optimize the venue layout and floor plan for smooth flow and access.

A decision will be made by the end of October so we can let the venue know and discuss any layout changes.

IV. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS

A. (DISCUSSION ITEM) - 2025-2028 Strategic Plan Draft

Donna Roper, Director of Research, Assessment, and AI Integration, reviewed the 2025-2028 Strategic Plan Draft - 742 Future Ready by Design. Building on our

foundation to create exceptional learning experiences for every student. We are guided by our Mission Statement and Core Values of Equitable Access, Multiple Perspectives, Common Goals, Lifelong Learning, and Shared Ownership, along with our Foundation Goals of Safety, Belonging, Collaboration, and Excellence.

Ms. Roper reviewed Key Achievements from 2023-2025 and Critical Lessons Learned. Our Continuous Improvement Plan Commitments for 2025-2028:

- Reduce Suspensions
- Boost Consistent Attendance
- Focus on Literacy
- Address Math Challenges
- Cultivate Student Engagement

Portrait Work of a 742 Graduate: Empowering students with early intervention, industry-connected experiences, and stackable credentials to seamlessly transition into chosen career and college pathways.

Opportunities and challenges include: (1) Opportunity to Learn, (2) Disengagement, (3) Staff Retention, and (4) Future Readiness.

Our Focus Areas: (1) Positive Climate and Culture, (2) Instruction that Produces Positive Outcomes, (3) Innovation, (4) Career and Post-Secondary Options, and (5) Family and Community Engagement.

A recommendation for approval of the 2025-2028 Strategic Plan Development will be on the November 5, 2025 Board Meeting agenda.

B. (ACTION ITEM) – Approval of Community Education Facility Rental Fees

Shannon Avenson, Executive Director of Community Education and Community Partnerships, provided reasons for updating our facility rental fees which include the new Multipurpose Athletic Facility, our fees being lower than average across comparable districts and venues, updates to Board Policy 902, and a growing number of community partnerships which require more intentionality with the fee structure.

Category I (First Priority – No Fee) for District 742 school activities and sporting events, community education programs, elections, special hearings, and district co-sponsored events.

Category II (Reduced Fee 50%) for Local Non-profit 501 (c) (3) organizations primarily serving youth attending District 742 schools (when not charging gate fees). The organization must also be an approved district community partner. Also for Local Non-profit civic groups who are an approved district community partner.

Category III (Full Price) for Local and State government entities and organizations including colleges and universities, all other non-profit organizations who are not an approved partner and who are not verified to be serving primarily District 742 youth, private organizations or businesses, private individuals, and religious or political organizations including precinct caucuses and required legislative district or county conventions.

Moved by Dahlgren, seconded by Fenton to approve the Community Education Facility Rental Fees.

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

C. (DISCUSSION ITEM) – Proposed Revised Board Policy 902 - Use of School District Facilities and Equipment (First Reading)

Shannon Avenson, Executive Director of Community Education and Community Partnerships, reviewed Proposed Revised Board Policy 902 - Use of School District Facilities and Equipment. There were no suggested changes. This policy will come for a second reading to the November 5, 2025 Board meeting.

D. (DISCUSSION ITEM) - Proposed Revised Board Policy 611 - Homeschooling (Second Reading)

Shannon Avenson, Executive Director of Community Education and Community Partnerships, reviewed Proposed Revised Board Policy 611 - Homeschooling. There were no suggested changes. This policy will be on the November 5, 2025 Board Meeting consent agenda for a third and final reading with a request for approval.

V. **REPORTS**

A. Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Laurie Putnam noted across St. Cloud Area Schools, our students and staff continue to embody our district’s commitment to excellence in academics, activities, and leadership by sharing a few examples of achievement.

Tech High School senior Paige Tarrolly has qualified for the State Tennis Tournament for the third consecutive year, this time competing in Class 3A after key wins over St. Michael-Albertville and Brainerd. The state tournament begins October 23 at the Baseline Tennis Center in Minneapolis.

Apollo High School speech coach Grace Weitz has been named the Minnesota Speech Coaches Association Class AA Coach of the Year. Under her leadership,

Apollo's speech team has grown in both size and success. Last winter, eight students competed nationally and one advanced to the state meet.

Krista Dillman, Deaf and Hard of Hearing teacher, has been appointed by Governor Walz to the Blue Ribbon Commission on Special Education. She joins educators and legislative leaders from across the state to strengthen and sustain special education while ensuring a free and appropriate education for every student.

Finally, we celebrate our Leaders in Educational Excellence Award (LEEA) recipients with two outstanding staff members from each school and site who are recognized for their dedication, innovation, and care for students. These honorees exemplify the heart of our district's Excellence pillar and remind us daily of the difference great educators make.

Together (Paige, Grace, Krista, and our LEEA honorees) represent the best of District 742's Excellence, achieving at high levels and leading with pride.

B. Board of Education Standing Committee Reports

Diana Fenton, Chair of the Achievement, Integration and Equity Committee, noted the committee met today on October 15, 2025, and reviewed (1) Update on Literacy Efforts: LETRS and the Science of Reading, (2) Literacy and Math Achievement Data, and (3) Proposal of the 2025-2028 Strategic Plan Draft as presented tonight by Donna Roper.

VI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Haws shared topics for the November 5, 2025 Board Meeting/Work Session will include:

- 2025-2026 Inclement Weather Protocols
- 742 Multipurpose Athletic Facility Naming
- Approval of Tentative Agreements (if any)
- Approval of 2025-2028 Strategic Plan Development
- 2026 Board of Education Legislative Platform
- Policy Readings

Chair Haws also noted Board member Copeland suggested a future agenda topic about federal funding and LGBTQ+ concerns as well as Board Member LGBTQ+ training. These topics will be forwarded to the Board Policy, Development, and Governance Committee for review.

VII. ADJOURNMENT OF BOARD MEETING

Moved by Copeland, seconded by Fenton to adjourn the Board meeting. All Board members stated "aye". The Board meeting concluded at 7:33 p.m.

Zach Dorholt, Clerk Pro Tem

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