

**MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
St. Cloud Area School District 742
St. Cloud, Minnesota
September 2, 2026**

A meeting of the Board of Education of St. Cloud Area School District 742 was held on Wednesday, September 2, 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), 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”: Acevedo, Andreasen, Copeland, Dorholt, 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

Kaylee Glaim, Tier 4 Kindergarten Teacher, Discovery Community School, effective for the 2026-2027 school year, Lane BA, Pay Level 2 (185 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$50,876.

Austin Ganz, Tier 3 Long Call Substitute Grade 1 Teacher, Talahi Community School, effective for the 2026-2027 school year, Lane BA, Pay Level 2 (53 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$14,575.29.

Rehire

Megan O’Leary, Tier 1 Long Call Substitute ECFE Teacher, Quarryview Education Center, effective for the 2026-2027 school year, Lane BA, Pay Level 3 (185 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$52,532.

Leave of Absence

Katherine Shealy, Science Teacher, Tech High School, effective September 1, 2026, through September 15, 2026.

Resignation

Tina Flores, Early Childhood Teacher, Quarryview Education Center, effective June 1, 2026.

Sean Degerstrom, Physical Education Teacher, Katherine Johnson Education Center, effective June 1, 2026.

NON-LICENSED STAFF

New Hire

Bailey Burton, Kitchen Helper, Kennedy Community School, effective September 1, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$17.20.

Alexander Burns, Assistant Mechanic, District Services Building, effective September 1, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$22.00

Abdullahi Ahmed, Van Driver, District Services Building, effective September 1, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$17.50.

Ervin Popp, Kitchen Helper, Clearview Elementary School, effective September 1, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$17.20.

Shana Simon, Kitchen Helper, Tech High School, effective September 1, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$17.20.

Jane Hall, Substitute Kitchen Helper, District Wide, effective September 1, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$17.20.

Cole Newman, Level 4 Advanced SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Roosevelt Education Center, effective September 1, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$21.00

Kowsar Ahmed, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Discovery Community School, effective September 1, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$19.00.

Caylin Bollman, Behavior Instruction Paraeducator, North Junior High School, effective September 1, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$21.00

Jamie Baker, Kitchen Helper, Madison Elementary School, effective September 1, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$17.20.

Kevin Fritz, Assistant Engineer, District Wide, effective August 13, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$21.96.

Mouhiyadine Houssein, Level 4 Advanced SPED Instructional Paraeducator, InStep, effective September 1, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$21.00.

Rehire

Gail Counter, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, North Junior High School, effective September 1, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$19.00.

Jackie Chatfield, Level 4 Advanced SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Katherine Johnson Education Center, effective September 1, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$21.00.

Lavayah Oden, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, South Junior High School, effective September 1, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$19.00.

Shannon George, Kitchen Helper, South Junior High School, effective September 1, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$17.20.

Leave of Absence

Paulette Price, Clerical Class III (12-Month), Apollo High School, effective September 10, 2026 through October 21, 2026.

Barbara Barreto-Ruiz, Instructional Paraeducator, North Junior High School, effective September 28, 2026 through January 10, 2027.

Fartun Haji, Student Support Paraeducator, Kennedy Community School, effective September 1, 2026 through November 29, 2026.

Emily McTarsney, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Talahi Community School, effective September 1, 2026 through January 3, 2027.

Resignation

Safia Ali, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Westwood Elementary School, effective May 29, 2026.

Kole Scott, Lead SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Madison Elementary School, effective May 29, 2026.

Isabella Moreno, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Discovery Community School, effective June 26, 2026.

Naeomie Roberts, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Lincoln Elementary School, effective May 29, 2026.

Dalton Anderson, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Talahi Community School, effective June 26, 2026.

Joshua Bentley, Accounting and Payroll Coordinator, District Administration Office, effective September 2, 2026.

Catherine Kremers, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Talahi Community School, effective May 29, 2026.

Natalie Ratha, Transportation Supervisor, District Services Building, effective August 28, 2026.

Brittany Stredelman, SPED Behavior Resource Specialist, Kennedy Community School, effective May 29, 2026.

Najma Osman, Level 4 Advanced SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Roosevelt Education Center, effective May 29, 2026.

Retirement

Lynnette Volkers, Bus Driver, District Services Building, effective September 1, 2026, after 13 years of service in District 742.

Approve the Monthly Finance Report for July 2026.

Approve the Monthly Treasurer's Report for July 2026.

Award the Casework Bid for the Apollo Renovations and Additions Bid Package 2 Re-Bid to Woodside Industries, Inc. in the amount of \$477,375, based on low bid received meeting specifications.

Approve the Apollo Renovations and Additions Change Orders with Henkemeyer Excavating in the amount of +\$6,300, Masters Plumbing in the amount of +\$6,690.52, Wenger in the amount of +\$2,041.17, A.J. Moore Electric in the amount of +\$182,655.80, and C&L Excavating in the amount of +\$61,910, for a grand total amount of +\$259,607.49.

Approve entering into a contract with H2I Group for the joint purchasing contracts for the Apollo Renovations and Additions Athletic Equipment in the amount of \$183,740.

Approve the Multipurpose Athletic Facility Change Order with Joe's Excavating in the amount of +\$3,000.

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

III. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Apex and Apollo Facilities Update

Justin Skaalerud, Apollo High School Principal, provided an update on the Apex and Apollo Facilities projects.

Work on the Apex Athletics Center began in June with the footings completed last week and the steel structure of the building started this week. The Apex entrance graphic as well as the different sports graphics for baseball, softball, and golf were presented.

Apollo updates include the ambulance bay and classroom, shed relocation for the storm shelter, remodeling the lecture halls in the 400 and 600 areas to be more functional for day to day classroom use, and expanding the current weight room which will include temporary walls around both construction areas. The building stain will begin next summer.

B. Screen Time Guidelines

Katie Herrboldt, Executive Director of Innovation and Technology Services, reviewed the K-12 District Screen Time Policy framework which promotes technology with intention following the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) framework.

Research and guiding principles confirm screen impact is driven by context, purpose and content, not clock time alone for both purposeful active use and purposeful passive use. Every classroom screen activity should be evaluated across five key developmental pillars: Child and Content, Calm and Crowding Out, and Communication. There are daily limits for PK-5 and policy expectations for grades 6-12.

Practical Classroom Guidance includes (1) Adult co-engagement, (2) Prioritize active creation, (3) Protect off-screen time, and (4) Keep bursts intentional.

We will partner with families utilizing the AAP Family Media Plan, Common Sense Media, and Tools for Open Dialogue.

IV. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS

A. (ACTION ITEM) – Approval of Apex Logo

Superintendent Laurie Putnam brought forward a recommendation to approve the new Apex facility logo.

Moved by Dorholt, seconded by Copeland to approve the new Apex facility logo.

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

IV. REPORTS

A. Board of Education Standing Committee Reports

1. Diana Fenton, Chair of the Achievement, Equity and Integration Committee, noted the committee met on August 26, 2026, and discussed the proposal for meeting topics for the 2026-27 school year, committee purpose and goals, and Ms. Fenton noted our next meeting is scheduled for September 16 at 8:30 a.m.
2. Zach Dorholt, Chair of the Development, Policy and Governance Committee, noted the committee met on August 26, 2026, and reviewed two key policy items presented by district leadership. Superintendent Laurie Putnam and Donna Roper introduced a brand-new policy on Artificial Intelligence (Policy 625), while Amy Skaalerud led the review of redlined revisions to the existing Travel Expense Reimbursement (Policy 412). The committee recommended both policies to move forward for a first reading at today’s September 2nd board meeting.
3. Heather Weems, Chair of the Board Finance Committee, noted the committee met on August 10, 2026, and reviewed (1) Apex Interior Graphics and Logo, (2) 2026-2027 Adult Meal Prices, and (3) Board Policy 412 – Travel Expense Reimbursement which will come forward for a first reading on September 2, 2026.

V. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Board Chair Haws noted September 16, 2026 Regular Board Meeting topics will include:

- Approval of Preliminary Levy Certification
- Final Levy Certification Announcement
- Enrollment Report
- Strategic Plan Review
- E-12 Learning Partnership Resources

- Policy Readings

VI. 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 7:12 p.m.

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

VII. BOARD OF EDUCATION WORK SESSION

A. Proposed Revised Board Policy 413 – Discrimination, Harassment and Violence (Second Reading)

Tracy Flynn Bowe, Executive Director of Human Resources and General Counsel, reviewed Proposed Revised Board Policy 413 – Discrimination, Harassment and Violence. There were no suggested changes. This policy will be on the consent agenda at the September 16, 2026 Board of Education Meeting for a third and final reading with a request for approval.

B. Proposed Revised Board Policy 416 – Drug and Alcohol Testing (Second Reading)

Tracy Flynn Bowe, Executive Director of Human Resources and General Counsel, reviewed Proposed Revised Board Policy 416 – Drug and Alcohol Testing. There were no suggested changes. This policy will be on the consent agenda at the September 16, 2026 Board of Education Meeting for a third and final reading with a request for approval.

C. Proposed Revised Board Policy 417 – Chemical Use and Abuse (Second Reading)

Tracy Flynn Bowe, Executive Director of Human Resources and General Counsel, reviewed Proposed Revised 417 – Chemical Use and Abuse. There were no suggested changes. This policy will be on the consent agenda at the September 16, 2026 Board of Education Meeting for a third and final reading with a request for approval.

D. Proposed Revised Board Policy 412 – Travel Expense Reimbursement (First Reading)

Amy Skaalerud, Executive Director of Finance and Business Services, reviewed Proposed Revised Board Policy 412 - Travel Expense Reimbursement. There were suggested changes. This policy will be on the September 16, 2026 Board of Education Meeting agenda for a second reading.

E. Proposed (New) Board Policy 625 – Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence (*First Reading*)

Donna Roper, Director of Research, Assessment and AI Integration, reviewed Proposed (New) Board Policy 625 – Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence. There were no suggested changes. This proposed (new) policy will be on the September 16, 2026 Board of Education Meeting agenda for a second reading.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT OF THE WORK SESSION

Moved by Copeland, seconded by Andreasen to adjourn the Work Session at 7:49 p.m. All Board members stated “aye”.

Heather Weems, Clerk

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