

**MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
St. Cloud Area School District 742
St. Cloud, Minnesota
September 16, 2026**

A meeting of the Board of Education of St. Cloud Area School District 742 was held on Wednesday, September 16, 2026 at the District Administration Office, 1201 South 2nd Street, Waite Park, Minnesota.

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Chair Shannon Haws (*following Community Input*) 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 Fenton, seconded by Copeland to approve the Board Meeting agenda.

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

II. CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Board member Andreasen to remove Item C - Personnel Staff Changes from the Consent Agenda and he will recuse himself from the vote.

Moved by Fenton, seconded by Andreasen to approve Consent Agenda Items A-B and D-H.

Approve Board Meeting minutes from August 5, 2026 and August 19, 2026.

Approve Bills and other Financial Transactions in the grand total amount of \$4,199,570.40.

Approve acceptance of the following grant awards and donations:

1. Donation to Katherine Johnson Education Center:
 - \$1,730 from The Granite City Lumberjacks for student needs
2. Donation to McKinley-ALC:
 - 2 - \$500 gift cards and backpacks from Costco’s Shop Card Backpack Program for student rewards
3. Donation to North Junior High School:
 - \$250 from Sarah Jennings for band instruments and repairs

4. Donations to Quarryview Education Center's ECFE Baby and Toddler Expo:
 - \$500 from St. Cloud Optimist Club
 - \$50 gift card from Costco to purchase food/beverages/supplies/treats
 - \$100 Cash Wise gift card from The Coborn Family Foundation to purchase healthy snacks
 - Ten 24-packs of Peach Breakfast Oat Melts from Amara Organic Foods
5. Donation to Tech High School:
 - \$1,000 from the American Red Cross on behalf of the American Red Cross Scholarship
6. Donation to District 742 Pantry:
 - Shelf stable food and school supplies from Jim and Diane Magnuson

Approve Board Policy 413 – Discrimination, Harassment and Violence (*Third Reading*).

Approve Board Policy 416 – Drug and Alcohol Testing (Third Reading).

Approve Board Policy 417 – Chemical Use and Abuse (*Third Reading*).

Approve the Multipurpose Athletic Facility Change Order with Joe's Excavating in the amount of +\$8,940.75.

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

Moved by Fenton, seconded by Copeland to approve Consent Agenda Item C– Personnel Staff Changes.

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

Dheraj Behram, Tier 1 SPED ASD/DCD Teacher, Lincoln Elementary School, effective for the 2026-2027 school year, Lane MA, Pay Level 2 (185 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$61,597.

Leave of Absence

Samantha Cooper, Kindergarten Teacher, Madison Elementary School, effective August 24, 2026 through June 4, 2027.

Sean Roquette, SPED DD Teacher, CO2, effective September 28, 2026 through January 3, 2027.

NON-LICENSED STAFF

New Hire

Tricia Fox, Level 4 Advanced SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Roosevelt Education Center and Journey, effective September 1, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$21.00

Fenton Saint-Georges, Boys Soccer Coach, North Junior High School, effective September 2, 2026, with an annual stipend of \$2,592.

Shelby Robinson, Kitchen Helper Float, District Wide, effective September 10, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$17.20.

Kiana Sebastian, Clerical Class I (10-Month), Talahi Community School, effective August 10, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$17.72.

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

Rehire

Darbie Johnson, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Westwood Elementary School, effective September 23, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$19.00.

Sahro Ali, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Talahi Community School, effective September 8, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$19.00.

Destiny Garcia-Shidell, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Discovery Community School, effective September 8, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$19.00.

Jaclyn Schaefer, Student Support Paraeducator, Kennedy Community School, effective September 2, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$17.00.

Leave of Absence

Tricia Fox, Level 4 Advanced SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Roosevelt Education Center, effective September 1, 2026 through October 20, 2026.

Karen Stay, Third Party Billing Coordinator, District Administration Office, effective September 3, 2026 through October 11, 2026.

Kimberly Wunderlich, Kitchen Helper, North Junior High School, effective September 16, 2026 through November 1, 2026.

Carol Musielewicz, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Discovery Community School, effective September 2, 2026 through October 25, 2026.

Cheryl Marklowitz, Transportation Instructional Paraeducator, District Services Building, effective September 1, 2026 extended through January 19, 2027.

Crystal Keller, Clerical Class I (10-Month), Westwood Elementary School, effective August 24, 2026 through June 3, 2027.

Bonnie Molitor, First Cook, Discovery Community School, effective September 14, 2026 through October 25, 2026.

Lela Wade, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Oak Hill Community School, effective September 21, 2026 through February 15, 2027.

Joanne Cossairt, Kitchen Facilitator, Oak Hill Community School, effective October 7, 2026 through December 15, 2026.

Porchia Crockett, Behavior Truancy Interventionist, Tech High School, effective September 8, 2026 through January 3, 2027.

Resignation

Tammy Evenson, First Cook, Talahi Community School, effective September 9, 2026.

Masuda Nazari, Student Support Paraeducator, Westwood Elementary School, effective September 3, 2026.

Brianna Walz, Behavior Instruction Paraeducator, Madison Elementary School, effective September 15, 2026.

Brittany Shaw, Clerical Class III (12-Month), Quarryview Education Center, effective September 22, 2026.

Abdirahman Ahmed, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Oak Hill Community School, effective September 1, 2026.

Randy Foster, Kitchen Helper, Tech High School, effective August 20, 2026.

Devon Rodriguez, Security Officer, Tech High School, effective May 29, 2026. Mr. Rodriguez is still an active coach.

Mahad Hersi, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Talahi Community School, effective May 27, 2026.

Georgianna Kjono, Instructional Media Paraeducator, Clearview Elementary School, effective May 29, 2026.

Patricia Levasseur-Funk, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Talahi Community School, effective August 20, 2026.

Haretho Aden, Early Childhood Instructional Paraeducator, Talahi Community School, effective August 6, 2026.

Shane Mahon, Behavior Instruction Paraeducator, SCSU C02 Program, effective May 29, 2026.

Sarah Shoultz, Behavior Resource Specialist, Katherine Johnson Education Center, effective May 29, 2026.

Maria Del Rosario Camacho-Castelan, Clerical Class I (10-Month), Discovery Community School, effective September 4, 2026.

Leslie Bari, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, SCSU C02 Program, effective May 29, 2026.

Termination

Alexis Redwolf, Human Resources Benefits Coordinator, District Administration Office, effective September 18, 2026.

Correction

Selina Kremer, Clerical Class III (12-Month), District Administrative Office, effective September 4, 2026. This is a correction to the August 19, 2026 Board action on the consent agenda where this item was listed with a last day of service of September 7, 2026.

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

III. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS

A. (ACTION ITEM) – Approval of Apollo and Tech Football Co-op

Karl Heine, Apollo High School Activities Director, and Hillary Johnson, Tech High School Activities Director, presented information about the Apollo and Tech Football Co-op.

The following steps are followed when we are looking at forming Co-op sports:

- Participation numbers
- Protecting student safety and creating a strong player experience
- Supporting the developmental growth of athletes at every level
- Partnering first with schools within our own district when participation numbers require a cooperative program.

The next steps include: (1) School Board approval, (2) MSHSL approval, (3) Classification appeal, (4) Fill Head Coach position and coaching staff, (5) Practice and facilities schedule, (6) Cooperative transportation plan, and (7) Crush Advisory Committee.

Karl and Hillary hosted the parents' meetings on Monday night to address any questions, concerns and next steps. We have had really good success with other sports in forming cooperatives.

Moved by Fenton, seconded by Copeland to approve Apollo and Tech Football Co-op.

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

B. (ACTION ITEM) - Approval of Preliminary Levy Certification

Amy Skaalerud, Executive Director of Finance and Business Services, presented information regarding the 2026 Payable 2027 Preliminary Levy Certification.

Moved by Andreasen, seconded by Fenton to approve the 2026 Payable 2027 Preliminary Levy Certification.

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

C. (DISCUSSION ITEM) - Final Levy Certification Announcement

Amy Skaalerud, Executive Director of Finance and Business Services, announced the Final Levy Certification will take place at the regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting on December 16, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Cloud Area School District Administration Office, located at 1201 2nd Street South, Waite Park, Minnesota. There will be time for public testimony.

D. (DISCUSSION ITEM) – Enrollment Report

Amy Skaalerud, Executive Director of Finance and Business Services, presented information regarding District 742 enrollment.

E. (DISCUSSION ITEM) – Strategic Plan Review

Donna Roper, Director of Research, Assessment and AI Integration, reviewed the district's Strategic Plan, shared progress to date, and presented proposed enhancements for the upcoming year.

F. (DISCUSSION ITEM) – E-12 Learning Partnership Review

Nikki Hanse, Assistant Superintendent of E-5 Learning, and Dr. Jason Harris, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education, provided an overview of the E-12 Learning Partnership which includes (1) Partnership Instructional Guide, (2) Developmental and Instructional Milestones, and (3) Read with me and Math with me programming.

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

Amy Skaalerud, Executive Director of Finance and Business Services, reviewed Proposed Revised Board Policy 412 - Travel Expense Reimbursement. There were no suggested changes. This policy will be on the consent agenda at the October 7, 2026 Board of Education Meeting for a third and final reading with a request for approval.

E. Proposed (New) Board Policy 625 – Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence (Second 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 new policy will be on the consent agenda at the October 7, 2026 Board of Education Meeting for a third and final reading with a request for approval.

IV. REPORTS

A. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Laurie Putnam shared an open invitation to our community to attend our Early Childhood and Family Education Baby and Toddler Expo which will take place this Saturday, September 19 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Quarryview Education Center. We will have vendors and onsite educational opportunities that are family and child centered and we would love to see you there. Many thanks to Barika Kevis, Early Childhood Director, and her team for bringing together all of the details for this annual event.

September is School Board Appreciation Month and Dr. Putnam shared her appreciation for our School Board members' service and time, which is also appreciated by our Executive team and our entire district staff team.

B. Board of Education Standing Committee Reports

1. Diana Fenton, Chair of the Achievement, Equity and Integration Committee, noted the committee met today on September 16, 2026 and discussed: (1) Progress on the Strategic Plan and the enhancement for the school year that was presented at the board meeting tonight. (2) Ayan Omar provided the yearly update on the district's Language Access Plan which is found on the website and in the handbooks.
2. Heather Weems, Chair of the Board Finance Committee, noted the committee met on September 14, 2026, and discussed (1) Preliminary Audit Plan, (2) Community Education Facility Rental Category Review, and (3) Preliminary Levy.
3. Gina Acevedo, Chair of the Board Legislative Committee, noted the committee met on September 9, 2026 and worked a draft copy of the 2027 Legislative Platform. This will come before the full board at the November 4th board meeting with a request for approval at the November 18th board meeting. The committee will meet next on October 12, 2026.
4. Natalie Copeland, Chair of the Personnel Committee, noted the committee met on September 15, 2026, and covered: (1) Current personnel, student, and legal/risk management matters. (2) Five days of additional pay for the Executive Director of Finance and Business Services and the Controller to address workload demands related to staffing shortages in the Business Services Department during peak workflow months in August and September. (3) Summary of enrollment based on the start of the school year. (4) Update on our ongoing efforts to reach consensus with NAPAC for this school year.

V. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Haws noted October 7, 2026 Board Meeting topics will include:

- Student AI Senate
- Superintendent Goals
- Approval of 2027-2030 Strategic Plan
- Policy Readings

VI. ADJOURNMENT OF BOARD MEETING

Chair Haws moved to adjourn the Board Meeting at 8:34 p.m. All Board members stated "aye".

Heather Weems, Clerk

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