MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
St. Cloud Area School District 742
St. Cloud, Minnesota
October 21, 2026

A meeting of the Board of Education of St. Cloud Area School District 742 was held on Wednesday, October 21, 2026 at the District Administration Office, 1201 South 2nd Street, Waite Park, Minnesota.

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

I. APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING AGENDA

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

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

II. CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Fenton, seconded by Copeland to:

Approve Board Meeting minutes from September 2, 2026 and September 16, 2026.

Approve Bills and other Financial Transactions in the grand total amount of $8,731,327.44.

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

Rehire

Paul Bates, Tier 4 Long Call Substitute Physical Education Teacher, Oak Hill Community School, effective September 15, 2026 through October 2, 2026, Lane MA+40, Pay Level 9 (13 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of $6,180.34.

Extended Contracts

Emily Fogel, SPED Early Childhood Teacher, Talahi Community School, effective August 24, 2026 through September 25, 2026, Lane MA+10, Pay Level 9 (.2 FTE of a full-time contract). Ms. Fogel's salary for this assignment will be $1,835.15.

Emily Fogel, SPED Early Childhood Teacher, Talahi Community School, effective September 28, 2026 through December 18, 2026, Lane MA+10, Pay Level 9 (.4 FTE of a full-time contract). Ms. Fogel's salary for this assignment will be $10,009.94.

Diane Olson, Counselor, North Junior High School, effective for the 2026-2027 school year, Lane MA+20, Pay Level 11 (15 days of a full-time contract). Ms. Olson's salary for this assignment will be $6,828.32.

Andrew Ray, Science Teacher, Tech High School, effective October 5, 2026 through November 24, 2026, Lane BA+10, Pay Level 9 (.2 FTE of a full-time contract). Mr. Ray's salary for this assignment will be $2,363.40.

Opal Mattila, Mathematics Teacher, Tech High School, effective October 5, 2026 through November 24, 2026, Lane BA+40, Pay Level 8 (.2 FTE of a full-time contract). Ms. Mattila's salary for this assignment will be $2,846.76.

Leave of Absence

Anna Lewer, Nurse, South Junior High School, effective September 16, 2026 through February 3, 2027.

Gloria Reyes-Aparicio, EL Teacher, Lincoln Elementary School, effective September 24, 2026 through February 15, 2027.

Natalie Manning, Grade 2 Teacher, Clearview Elementary School, effective January 25, 2027 through April 25, 2027.

Monica Bucholz, SPED Social Worker, Discovery Community School, effective October 23, 2026 through November 22, 2026.

Resignation

Hala Alrikabi, Long Call Substitute Teacher, Talahi Community School, effective September 24, 2026.

NON-LICENSED STAFF

New Hire

Asho Mahdi, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Lincoln Elementary School, effective October 8, 2026, at an hourly rate of $19.00.

Lily Sickmann, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Lincoln Elementary School, effective October 8, 2026, at an hourly rate of $19.00.

Nikole Olson, First Cook, Talahi Community School, effective October 12, 2026, at an hourly rate of $21.54.

Kathlyn Kirchoff, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Westwood Elementary School, effective October 8, 2026, at an hourly rate of $19.00.

Richard Bailey, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Katherine Johnson Education Center, effective October 8, 2026, at an hourly rate of $19.00.

Chasity DeGroat, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Talahi Community School, effective October 8, 2026, at an hourly rate of $19.00.

Sadia Nur, Clerical Class I (10-Month), Discovery Community School, effective October 6, 2026, at an hourly rate of $17.72.

Teri Zablocki, Clerical Class III (12-Month), District Administration office, effective October 19, 2026, at an hourly rate of $22.34.

Roxanne Roth, Early Childhood Instructional Paraeducator, Westwood Elementary School, effective October 5, 2026, at an hourly rate of $19.00.

Patricia Engels, Clerical Class II (Temp), District Administration office, effective October 5, 2026, at an hourly rate of $19.48.

Nyakuech Rial, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Talahi Community School, effective October 8, 2026, at an hourly rate of $19.00.

Hali Muse, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Westwood Elementary School, effective October 5, 2026, at an hourly rate of $19.00.

David Dale, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, C02, effective October 8, 2026, at an hourly rate of $19.00.

Hailey Mueller, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Discovery Community School, effective October 8, 2026, at an hourly rate of $19.00.

Kristal McKinzie, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Westwood Elementary School, effective October 8, 2026, at an hourly rate of $19.00.

Abdulmalik Barud, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Talahi Community School, effective October 8, 2026, at an hourly rate of $19.00.

Sumaya Noor, Clerical Class III (12-Month), Quarryview Education Center, effective October 1, 2026, at an hourly rate of $21.45.

Linda Tinajero, Clerical Class I (10-Month), Oak Hill Community School, effective September 21, 2026, at an hourly rate of $18.51.

Hinda Nuh, Student Support Paraeducator, Westwood Elementary School, effective September 22, 2026, at an hourly rate of $17.00.

Patience Acorlor, Behavior Truancy Interventionist, South Junior High School, effective September 22, 2026, an hourly rate of $26.00.

Mehgon Hanlon, Behavior Truancy Interventionist, Tech High School, effective September 17, 2026, an hourly rate of $29.00.

Rehire

Amino Adan, Kitchen Helper, Tech High School, effective October 1, 2026, at an hourly rate of $17.20.

David Backes, Substitute Custodian, District Wide, effective October 2, 2026, at an hourly rate of $16.25.

Emma Sutton, Student Support Paraeducator, Kennedy Community School, effective September 2, 2026, at an hourly rate of $17.00.

Leave of Absence

Jennifer Lage, Behavior Resource Specialist, Oak Hill Community School, effective January 11, 2027 through April 8, 2027.

Jowell Harris, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Talahi Community School, effective October 6, 2026 through November 17, 2026.

Kendall Niehaus, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, North Junior High School, effective September 25, 2026 through November 8, 2026.

Laura Ritsche, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Apollo High School, effective October 1, 2026 through November 15, 2026.

Abdirahman Yussuf, Bus Driver, District Services Building, effective September 1, 2026 through October 18, 2026.

Resignation

Hailey Kamtz, Student Support Paraeducator, South Junior High School, effective September 28, 2026.

Jaelynn Morris, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Westwood Elementary School, effective October 5, 2026.

Shari Newman, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Discovery Community School, effective September 24, 2026.

Maureen Murphy, Literacy Accountability Assistant, Quarryview Education Center, effective July 30, 2026.

Gloria Haider, Literacy Accountability Assistant, Quarryview Education Center, effective May 28, 2026.

Juan Calleros, Literacy Accountability Assistant, Quarryview Education Center, effective May 26, 2026.

Nicholas Sones, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Talahi Community School, effective May 29, 2026.

Najma Nuur, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Lincoln Elementary School, effective May 29, 2026.

Jama Hoosh, Van Driver, District Services Building, effective September 29, 2026.

Amarah Schleicher, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Talahi Community School, effective September 29, 2026.

Jane Hall, Kitchen Helper Substitute, District Wide, effective September 23, 2026.

Ashley Thielen, Student Support Paraeducator, Discovery Community School, effective September 21, 2026.

Retirement

Marjean Galles, Clerical Class II (10 Months), Apollo High School, effective December 18, 2026, after 27 years of service in District 742.

Patricia Shoutz, Kitchen Helper, Discovery Community School, effective November 30, 2026, after 12 years of service in District 742.

Termination

Shelby Robinson, Kitchen Helper Float, District Wide, effective October 2, 2026.

Approve acceptance of the following grant awards and donations:

1. Donations to Apollo High School:

- $2,000 from James and Kathleen Parsons on behalf of the Emmett and Agnes Thomas Memorial Scholarship
- $1,500 from the Kimberly Ann Ritsche Memorial Fund of Central MN Community Foundation on behalf of the Kimberly Ann Ritsche Memorial Scholarship
- School supplies including notebooks, folders, colored pencils, pens, erasers, index cards, and other supplies including Kleenex, Clorox wipes, hand sanitizer, headphones, and personal hygiene products from Knights of Columbus 5548 Auxiliary for student needs
- $1,600 from Kopp Family Foundation for Random Acts of Kindness

2. Donations to Katherine Johnson Education Center:
   - $5,000 from St. Cloud Area Golden Gloves Boxing Inc. for the In-Step Kitchen Remodel
   - $10,000 from Thomas A. Ritsche Fund for Youth of the Central MN Community Foundation for the Rebalance Program with Youth for Christ

3. Donations to Kennedy Community School:
   - $218 from St. Cloud HRA for student supplies
   - $100 from St. Joseph Women of Today for student supplies

4. Donation to Madison Elementary School:
   - $970.30 from Atonement Lutheran Church for field trips and enrichment opportunities

5. Donations to McKinley-ALC:
   - 25 ($5 gift cards) from Coborn's for student rewards
   - Boxes of produce from Mi Casa in Shakopee to support McKinley families in need

6. Donations to North Junior High School:
   - $970.31 from Atonement Lutheran Church for student needs and instructional supplies
   - $1,500 from Kopp Family Foundation for Random Acts of Kindness

7. Donations to Talahi Community School:
   - $3,248.37 from Thomas and Janet Grones for Talahi Yearbooks
   - $115.00 from D&J Duggan for teacher classroom supplies

8. Donation to Ready Set School Program:
   - $60.00 from United Way of Central MN

9. Donation to District 742:
   - Subway lunch provided by Horace Mann (The Bauer Group) for New Teacher Academy on August 18, 2026

There were no Board Member expenses incurred from July 1, 2026 through September 30, 2026.

Approve the Talahi Parking Lot Improvements Change Order with Knife River Corporation in the amount of +$3,279.32.

Approve the Apollo Renovations and Additions Change Order with Twin Town Demolition in the amount of +$866.25.

Approve the Multipurpose Athletic Facility Change Orders with DRSC Concrete in the amount of +$1,378.00 and Joe's Excavating in the amount of +$1,800.00, for a grand total amount of +3,178.00.

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

III. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Language Access Plan

Ayan Omar, Executive Director of Engagement, Equity and Strategic Communications, provided an overview of the district's Language Access Plan. Our Policy Statement and Mandate in accordance with Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) recognizes that timely and effective language assistance is essential to ensuring equitable access, inclusion, and justice. Without accessible language support, individuals who communicate in languages other than English may be excluded from important opportunities to engage. According to our Multilingual Learning PK-12 Education Program, students in our District's schools speak 54 different languages.

The Superintendent's Goals for Family and Community Partnership has a core mandate and alignment of every family, in every language, to access and navigate the district and department oversight of communications and equity services.

Language access is required for (1) student health, safety and well-being, (2) family action and consent, (3) essential district operations, and (4) time-sensitive and legal notices.

A key takeaway – if a communication affects a family's ability to understand, respond, or participate meaningfully, assess the need for translated information and qualified interpretation in accordance with applicable requirements.

Tools and resources to provide language access include: (1) TransAct Parent Notices, (2) Multilingual Staff, (3) Remote Interpretation Services, and (4) Communication Platforms.

Our Language Access Plan can be found (1) on the district website, (2) school handbooks, (3) enrollment process, 4) staff communication, (5) informational meetings, and (6) IEP process.

IV. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS

A. (DISCUSSION ITEM) – Community Advisory Update

Superintendent Laurie Putnam presented information about the district's new advisory groups which kicked off on October 19. Families are choosing District 742 through growing enrollment, many communities with over 40 home languages and a high share of families qualifying for free and reduced-price meals, and advance course taking above state averages, and Tech and Apollo graduation rates rising.

The role of an advisory allows real voices and clear boundaries as we listen, advise, act, and report back. Every advisory has a home and a plan with people, rhythm, and follow-through. Our students are better served because families and community partners are at the table with us.

Our 2026-27 advisories include:

- Gen AI and Ed Tech
- Immersion Education
- Crush Activities
- Curriculum and Instruction
- Community Education
- Special Education
- School Finance
- Safety and Wellness
- Equity: Family Affinity

School Finance first session is on November 16, advisory groups take up their first priorities on January 11, and advisory members hear what changed and help shape next year on April 12.

B. (DISCUSSION ITEM) - Proposed Revised Board Policy 419 – Tobacco-Free Environment; Possession and use of Tobacco, Tobacco-Related Devices, and Electronic Delivery Devices; Vaping Awareness and Prevention Instruction (*Second Reading)*

Katie Herrboldt, Executive Director of Innovation and Technology Services, reviewed Proposed Revised Board Policy 419 – Tobacco-Free Environment; Possession and use of Tobacco, Tobacco-Related Devices, and Electronic Delivery Devices; Vaping Awareness and Prevention Instruction. There were no suggested changes. This policy will be on the consent agenda at the November 4, 2026 Board of Education Meeting for a third and final reading with a request for approval.

C. (DISCUSSION ITEM) - Proposed Revised Board Policy 423 – Employee-Student Relationships (*Second Reading)*

Katie Herrboldt, Executive Director of Innovation and Technology Services, reviewed Proposed Revised Board Policy 423 – Employee-Student Relationships. There were no suggested changes. This policy will be on the consent agenda at the November 4, 2026 Board of Education Meeting for a third and final reading with a request for approval.

V. REPORTS

A. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Laurie Putnam provided an update from this morning's Community Conversation. Families feel informed, welcomed and connected as we widen the circle and keep raising outcomes. We are making progress in real time with automated reports and paperless report cards, while improving the personal connection with positive phone calls from teachers, strong fall conferences, and staff who are responsive and helpful. We provide early learning that fits families with preschool in the morning and ECFE in the evening, and more balanced buildings as the boundary changes eased crowding and teachers are sharing how they challenge students who are ready for more.

We can improve on helping every family understand AI, let our social media reflect our diversity with more languages featuring family and student voices. We can lower language and technology barriers with workshops and how-to times so every family can navigate our online systems with confidence. Holding neighborhood open houses, learning breakfasts, and events at games and concerts at varied times of the day. Raise achievement and graduation rates, employ more staff who reflect our students, provide safer drop-off and pickup at buildings, build math intervention, and keep families informed as we continually seek to keep our schools safe.

B. Board of Education Standing Committee Reports

1. Diana Fenton, Chair of the Achievement, Equity and Integration Committee, noted the committee met today on October 21, 2026 and discussed: (1) Update on Climate and Culture Survey Dissemination Process and the 2026-2027 survey cycle. We discussed strategies for increasing participation and how data is used for decision making processes, and (2) Literacy & Math & Science results from spring testing.

2. Gina Acevedo, Chair of the Board Legislative Committee, noted the committee met on October 12, 2026, and finalized a draft copy of the 2027 Legislative Platform which 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 again on December 9, 2026.

VI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Vice Chair Dorholt noted November 4, 2026 Board Meeting/Work Session topics will include:

- Full Service Community Schools Update
- 2026-2027 Inclement Weather Protocols
- 2027 Board of Education Legislative Platform
- Policy Readings

VII. ADJOURNMENT OF BOARD MEETING

Moved by Copeland, seconded by Fenton to adjourn the Board Meeting at 7:21 p.m. All Board members stated "aye".

Heather Weems, Clerk

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