

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
St. Cloud Area School District 742
St. Cloud, Minnesota
January 22, 2025

A meeting of the Board of Education of St. Cloud Area School District 742 was held on Wednesday, January 22, 2025 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: Scott Andreasen, Natalie Copeland (Ringsmuth), Zach Dorholt, Diana Fenton, Shannon Haws, Bruce Hentges, Heather Weems.

I. APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Moved by Andreasen, seconded by Copeland to approve the Board Meeting agenda.

On roll call, the following voted “aye”: Andreasen, Copeland, Dorholt, Fenton, Haws, Hentges, Weems. 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 Andreasen, seconded by Copeland to approve Consent Agenda Items A-C and E-J.

Approve the minutes from board meetings on December 4, 2024, December 17, 2024, and December 18, 2024.

Approval of Bills and other Financial Transactions in the grand total amount of \$5,995,761.08.

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

Nawal Ibrahim, Tier 3 Pre-K Teacher, Madison Elementary School, effective January 27, 2025 for the 2024-2025 school year, Lane BA, Pay Level 2 (86.5 days of a .80 FTE contract) with a salary of \$18,381.39.

Cheyenne Novak, Tier 3 SPED Social Worker, Tech High School, effective December 16, 2024 for the 2024-2025 school year, Lane MA, Pay Level 3 (107.5 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$35,914.88.

Kelly Herwig, Tier 1 ABE Instructor, Quarryview Education Center, effective January 21, 2025 for the 2024-2025 school year, at an hourly rate of \$40.00.

Extended Contract

Katelyn Dietrich, SPED Speech/Language Pathologist, District Wide, effective December 2, 2024 through February 28, 2025, Lane MA+40, Pay Level 3 (.2 FTE of a full-time contract). Ms. Dietrich's salary for this assignment will be \$4,490.31.

Cathleen Bengtson, SPED Speech/Language Pathologist, District Wide, effective December 2, 2024 through February 28, 2025, Lane MA+40, Pay Level 11 (.2 FTE of a full-time contract). Ms. Bengtson's salary for this assignment will be \$5,568.25.

Justin Skaalerud, Principal, Apollo High School, effective for the 2024-2025 school year (10 additional days of a full-time contract). Mr. Skaalerud's salary for this assignment will be \$5,779.79.

Tori Stacken, SPED Speech Language Pathologist, Talahi Community School, effective for the 2024-2025 school year, Lane BA, Pay Level 2 (.1 FTE of a full-time contract). Ms. Stacken's salary for this assignment will be \$4,914.10.

Leslie Wildtraut, SPED Speech Language Pathologist, Madison Elementary School, effective for the 2024-2025 school year, Lane MA+40, Pay Level 11 (.15 FTE of a full-time contract). Ms. Wildtraut's salary for this assignment will be \$13,554.30.

Karen Mastin, SPED Speech Language Pathologist, Discovery Community School, effective for the 2024-2025 school year, Lane MA+40, Pay Level 11 (.20 FTE of a full-time contract). Ms. Mastin's salary for this assignment will be \$18,072.40.

Geri Swanson, SPED Speech Language Pathologist, Clearview Elementary School, effective December 2, 2024 through February 28, 2025, Lane MA+40, Pay Level 11 (.2 FTE of a full-time contract). Ms. Swanson's salary for this assignment will be \$5,568.25.

Kaycee Enyart, SPED Speech/Language Pathologist, District Wide, effective December 2, 2024 through February 28, 2025, Lane MA+40, Pay Level 5 (.2 FTE of a full-time contract). Ms. Enyart's salary for this assignment will be \$4,862.25.

Kirsten Doering, SPED Speech Language Pathologist, Quarryview Education Center, effective November 18, 2024 through June 2, 2025, Lane MA+40, Pay Level 11 (.08 FTE of a full-time contract). Ms. Doering's salary for this assignment will be \$4,962.58.

Kathleen Scholtes, SPED Speech Language Pathologist, Oak Hill Community School, effective for the 2024-2025 school year, Lane MA+40, Pay Level 11 (.15 FTE of a full-time contract). Ms. Scholtes' salary for this assignment will be \$13,554.30.

Nicole Zitzow, SPED Speech Language Pathologist, Westwood Elementary School, effective for the 2024-2025 school year, Lane MA+40, Pay Level 11 (.15 FTE of a full-time contract). Ms. Zitzow's salary for this assignment will be \$13,554.30.

Lajoy Fischer, SPED Speech Language Pathologist, Talahi Community School, effective for the 2024-2025 school year, Lane MA+40, Pay Level 5 (.2 FTE of a full-time contract). Ms. Fischer's salary for this assignment will be \$15,781.00.

Leave of Absence

Callie Silvers, Occupational Therapist, Discovery and Oak Hill Community School, effective April 5, 2025 through August 31, 2025.

Johannah Ploof, SPED Early Childhood Teacher, Oak Hill Community School and Lincoln Elementary School, effective April 21, 2025 through August 31, 2025.

Melissa Caughlan, EL Teacher, Oak Hill Community School, effective January 15, 2025 through March 15, 2025.

Victoria Balfany, SPED Psychologist, South Junior High School, effective January 21, 2025 through August 31, 2025.

Jaymie Christensen, SPED Early Childhood Teacher, Quarryview Education Center, effective December 19, 2024 through January 27, 2025.

Resignation

Megan O'Leary, Early Childhood Teacher, Madison Elementary School, effective January 23, 2025.

NON-LICENSED STAFF

New Hire

Christel Ross, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Clearview Elementary School, effective January 13, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$18.50.

Tenley Quesnell, SPED Behavior Instruction Paraeducator, South Junior High School, effective January 16, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$20.50.

Leanna Neuschwander, Mental Health Advocate, Quarryview Education Center, effective February 5, 2025, at a yearly salary of \$36,973.

Mackenzie Rekstad, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, South Junior High School, effective January 21, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$18.50.

Marcus Brown, Substitute Custodian, District Wide, effective January 13, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$16.25.

Marty Turner, Substitute Custodian, District Wide, effective January 13, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$16.25.

Linda Rein, Clerical Class III (10 Month), Lincoln Elementary School, effective January 9, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$21.24.

Emmanuella Mayan, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Westwood Elementary School, effective January 9, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$18.50.

Lakesha Taylor, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Talahi Community School, effective December 5, 2024, at an hourly rate of \$18.50.

Dilara Celik, Level 4 Advanced SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Roosevelt Education Center, effective January 9, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$20.50.

Jenna Meredith, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Westwood Elementary School, effective January 9, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$18.50.

Rachel Bredlau, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Talahi Community School, effective January 9, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$18.50.

Rehire

Piers Knightingale, Advanced SPED Instructional Paraeducator, InStep, effective January 21, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$20.50.

Leave of Absence

Asha Ali, Student Support Paraeducator, Discovery Community School, effective January 2, 2025 through August 31, 2025.

Miranda Seffinga, Kitchen Helper, Westwood Elementary School, effective January 28, 2025 through April 14, 2025.

Gwen Dunderi, Kitchen Helper, Talahi Community School, effective January 13, 2025 through April 14, 2025.

Lynn Peterson, Kitchen Helper, Apollo High School, effective January 6, 2025 through February 17, 2025.

Brianna Flannigan, Kitchen Helper, Oak Hill Community School, effective October 30, 2024 through January 9, 2025.

Sari Waytashek, Behavior Truancy Interventionist, Tech High School, effective March 10, 2025 through May 5, 2025.

Johnathan Bruns, Behavior Resource Specialist, Clearview Elementary School, effective December 16, 2024 through January 31, 2025.

Resignation

Courtney Hogan, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Discovery Community School, effective January 30, 2025.

Dangelo Gaddie-Stevenson, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Talahi Community School, effective January 14, 2025.

Darlene Olorunsogbon, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Quarryview Education Center, effective January 13, 2025.

Christel Ross, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Clearview Elementary School, effective January 14, 2025.

Fosia Omar, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, North Junior High School, effective January 10, 2025.

Fardosa Mohamed, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Westwood Elementary School, effective January 10, 2025.

Marcy Kickhafer, Math Coordinator, District Administration Office, effective June 2, 2025. Ms. Kickhafer was previously on a leave of absence.

Lakesha Taylor, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Talahi Community School, effective December 5, 2024.

Jada Williams-Gresham, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Madison Elementary School, effective September 30, 2024. Ms. Willilams-Gresham was previously on a leave of absence.

Shawnjaia Evans, Substitute Custodian, District Wide, effective December 18, 2024.

Janice Holland, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Talahi Community School, effective December 17, 2024.

Abdirizak Mohamed, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Talahi Community School, effective December 19, 2024.

Fatuma Abdi, Early Childhood Instructional Paraeducator, Oak Hill Community School, effective January 23, 2025.

Deangelo Hunt, Security Officer, Tech High School, effective January 2, 2025.

John Scharenbroich, Head Golf Coach, Tech High School, effective June 21, 2024.

Allyson Franz, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, South Junior High School, effective January 10, 2025.

Eric Ruska, Activities Director, Tech High School, effective February 14, 2025.

Retirement

Connie Cook, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Westwood Elementary School, effective February 14, 2025, after 3 years of service in District 742.

Termination

Sarah Norton, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Westwood Elementary School, effective January 3, 2025.

Correction

Sarah Schiefelbein, Behavior Instruction Paraeducator, Kennedy Community School, effective January 13, 2025. This is a correction to the December 18, 2024 consent agenda where this item was listed with an effective date of January 13, 2024.

Helena McDaniel, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Madison Elementary School, effective December 20, 2024. This is a correction to the November 20, 2024 consent agenda where this item was listed with an effective date of January 10, 2025.

There were no Board Member expenses incurred from October 31, 2024 through December 31, 2024.

Approve the Apollo Theater Improvements Change Orders with Design Electric in the amount of +\$5,259.37 and Design Electric in the amount of +\$26,064.10, for a grand total amount of +\$31,323.47.

Authorize a Call for Bids for the North Junior High LTFM Improvements to be opened on Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. Central Time.

Authorize a Call for Bids for the South Junior High LTFM Improvements to be opened on Thursday, February 13, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. Central Time.

Authorize a Call for Bids for the Apollo Parking Lot Improvements to be opened on Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. Central Time.

Approve entering into a contract with H2I Group under the Sourcewell Joint Purchasing Contract for the South Locker Replacement in the amount of \$440,502.00.

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

Moved by Hentges, seconded by Andreasen to approve Consent Agenda Item D.

Board member Copeland recused herself from this agenda item.

1. Donations to Discovery Community School:
 - \$1,000 from Patsy Magelssen for teacher use
 - Over 200 Abayomi Dolls from Patsy Magelssen to give out to students
2. Donation to Lincoln Elementary School:
 - \$525.97 from District 742 LEAF for the music program to purchase instruments
3. Donation to McKinley-ALC:
 - 100 (\$5 gift cards) from Kwik Trip for positive student behavior rewards
4. Donations to North Junior High School:
 - \$567.49 from District 742 LEAF for the choir program – accompanist and music
 - \$1,000 from St. Cloud Technical Community College for VEX Robotics Nationals
 - Sandwiches, chips, cookies, and beverages from Westwood Community Church for Teacher’s Conference Meal
 - \$575 from Westwood Community Church for school supplies for students in need
 - \$500 from District 742 LEAF for VEX Robotics Nationals Registration Fees
 - \$2,117 from District 742 LEAF for the music program to purchase instruments
 - 100 (BOGO Drink Certificates) from Scooter’s Coffee for Teacher Staff Appreciation
 - 750 (Smiley Scholar Half Off Drink Certificates) from Scooter’s Coffee for student rewards
5. Donations to South Junior High School:
 - \$1,525 from District 742 LEAF for Yearbook Club supplies

- \$2,140 from District 742 LEAF for Baseball and Softball supplies
 - \$160 from District 742 LEAF for Tiger Time knitting supplies
 - \$3,000 from District 742 LEAF for Orchestra program instrument repair workshops
6. Donations to Talahi Community School:
- \$600 from District 742 LEAF to purchase STEM supplies
 - \$750 from District 742 LEAF to purchase positive recognition books
 - \$400 from District 742 LEAF to help cover expenses for Artist in Residence
 - \$244 from District 742 LEAF to help cover expenses for Artist in Residence (March 11-12, 2025)
7. Donation to Tech High School:
- \$2,800 from Central MN Arts Board for Artist in Residence (January 22-24, 2025)
8. Donations to District 742:
- 168 sweatshirts, 120 onesies, and a box of shoes from Once Upon a Child for Full Service Community Schools
 - Size 1 Zing Stander from Fosia Abdi for student use in the SPED Program
 - \$2,000 from Central MN Community Empowerment Org to purchase school sporting equipment
 - \$1,000 from Credent Care LLC to purchase school sporting equipment

On roll call, the following voted “aye”: Andreasen, Dorholt, Fenton, Haws, Hentges, Weems. Abstained: Copeland. Motion passed 6-0.

III. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Comprehensive Arts Planning Program

Laura Steabner, Director of Elementary Education, and Maran Wagner, K-5 Art Teacher at Kennedy Community School, provided an overview of District 742’s Arts Strategic Plan facilitated by the Perpich Center for the Arts which provide assistance to selected school districts as they develop a strategic plan for arts programming and provides financial and technical assistance and leadership development.

The three-year program began in 2023-24 with data analysis and strategic planning. We are currently in the middle of the second year in 2024-25 moving to implementation, and full implementation will occur in the third year 2025-26.

The planning team includes Co-Chairs Meriah Chamberlain, District 742 Music Lead, and Maran Wagner, along with community partners Paramount Theater and SCSU, three music/art teacher representatives, parents, and district leadership.

Identified strategic directions include a connection to the community, intentional and thoughtful engagement in diversity, equity and access to the arts, and supplying support to staff.

B. Apollo High School Presentation

Principal Justin Skaalerud provided an overview of Apollo High School including the Continuous Improvement Plan objectives and four pillars of Safety, Sense of Belonging, Collaboration, and Excellence.

Sense of Belonging – Students and families belonging includes home visits to start each school year, homecoming community picnic, and a family picnic at the end of each school year. Staff belonging includes staff competition dress up days, team competitions, and a gingerbread house competition in December.

Safety – Relationships create a safe environment with Eagle Time lessons around relationships, safety, and college and career readiness, active supervision, and daily support team meeting. The Deans and Assistant Principals have daily check-ins with students, and we now have single use restrooms.

Excellence: High Expectations and High Supports – 878 out of 1,240 students received an Honor Roll Certificate (A, B or Credits), 20% of 11 and 12 graders earned college credit through AP, College in the School, and PSEO. The Bilingual Seal in 7 languages allows students to earn elective credits and possible college credits based on proficiency.

Collaboration – 240 out of 320 seniors filled out college applications, 180 students applied to SCSU/SCTCC. Both St. John's and St. Ben's had staff helping students with the common app. EPIC Day included all 10 graders attending an event at SCTCC in October. Students have received exposure to the college and different college and career pathways and students get real life experiences with experts in the field.

IV. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS

A. (ACTION ITEM) – Approval of Girls' Soccer Co-op

Dr. Jason Harris along with Apollo Activities Director Karl Heine, provided an overview for a request for a new Girls' Soccer Co-op.

Forming Crush Cooperatives provides benefits of participation numbers, safety of all student participants, access and opportunity for our district students, and allows them to stay in the district.

The why behind a new Girls' Soccer Co-op include Apollo is a Varsity only program while most schools carry both Varsity and JV and athletes playing out of position.

District Junior High numbers are low and the Minnesota State High School League timeline/reclassification.

The benefit of a new Girls' Soccer Crush Cooperative include Tech will become the host school in Fall 2025 with games split between locations, Coach Boardman will be the Head Coach, and the Crush branding of uniforms.

Next Steps:

- School Board Approval
- Central Lakes Conference Approval
- Section 8AA Approval
- Submit Cooperative to MSHSL
- February Notification of Classification
- March File Appeal of Classification, if needed

Moved by Andreasen, seconded by Hentges to approve the new Girls' Soccer Co-op as presented.

Board member Copeland would like to see the Board include a letter as discussed.

Moved by Andreasen, seconded by Hentges to amend the motion to recommend adoption of the new Crush Girls' Soccer with the caveat that the Board participate with Administration to formulate a letter supporting the Board's position related to classification

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

B. (ACTION ITEM) – Approval of Elementary School Boundaries

Administration recommends the Board of Education approve the Elementary School Boundary changes as presented at the January 8, 2025 Board Meeting.

Moved by Hentges, seconded by Dorholt to approve the Elementary School Boundary changes.

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

C. (ACTION ITEM) – Approval of 2025-26 School Calendar

Shannon Avenson, Assistant Superintendent of E-12 Educational Services, reviewed the proposed 2025-26 School Calendar. The Calendar Committee had 23 members that included building principals, SCEA Teacher's Union representatives, Executive Directors of Human Resources and Operations, Assistant Superintendents, Athletic Directors, and an Equity Department representative.

Moved by Copeland, seconded by Andreasen to approve the 2025-26 School Calendar as presented.

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

VI. REPORTS

A. Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Laurie Putnam provided a statement in response to recent immigration concerns.

Our district’s mission is to provide a safe and caring climate and culture for all students, staff and families.

In this time of heightened anxiety and worry from, and for, our immigrant community, I want to assure our school community that St Cloud Area School District is committed to the physical safety and emotional well-being of all students within its control and is committed to ensuring that all schools and district facilities are welcoming and safe places for students and their families.

I want to assure this community that pursuant to federal law, all students of this district will continue to have access to the learning and other educational services available at their schools, including rigorous courses, student extracurricular activities and athletics, and support services regardless of the student's or family's immigration status.

I further want to assure our community that we will act in accordance with *School Board Policy 519, Interviews of Students by Outside Agencies, and School Board Policy 903, Visitors to School District Buildings and Sites*, to ensure that we protect our schools and our students to the fullest extent possible under the law from any disruption of their educational programs and from any threat to the safety of our students.

To that end, I will issue a memorandum to all district leaders reminding them of these important policies and providing guidance for responding to any presence of immigration officials on district property. This guidance includes directing any immigration and customs enforcement agents that may appear at our schools to my office for full review of the purpose and authority for their visit, consistent with school board policy. Further, unless compelled by a valid court order or by law, I want to assure you that we will not disclose private student information about a student or allow immigration officials to have access to students. Where we are

legally required to provide information or access based on a court order or other valid legal authority, we will take all legal steps available to provide proper notice to their parents consistent with FERPA, the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, and/or other legal requirements before complying.

We want our students, families, and staff to know that we care deeply about your wellbeing and will act within our legal authority to ensure that our schools are safe and welcoming places during this difficult time.

I will meet with district and school leaders and family advocates tomorrow to review these protocols and answer any questions in collaboration with Executive Director Bowe. This statement will also be shared with all staff and families tomorrow.

Board member Weems thanked Dr. Putnam for addressing this issue directly. She has appreciated this Board and District 742 because we have a history of respecting public schools as non-partisan. Our mission is to create a safe environment in which students have the best opportunity to learn. This statement and reference to board policy, state and federal law, makes it clear to our public our continued commitment and clarifies the role of our school personnel and the district's grounding in our mission.

B. Board of Education Standing Committee Reports

1. Diana Fenton, Chair of the Achievement, Integration and Equity Committee, noted the committee met today and reviewed the following topics: (1) Activities Update, (2) Discussed information from the December Board Retreat regarding MCA testing and alternatives, and (3) the Board Committee meeting schedule for 2025.
2. Heather Weems, Chair of the Board Finance and Audit Committee, noted the committee met today and reviewed the following topics: (1) Board Finance Committee Community Representative and (2) Audit RFP's.
3. Bruce Hentges, Chair of the Board Legislative Committee, shared that while the committee is not meeting in January, Mr. Hentges has attended a few meetings recently that dealt with the legislature and platforms of AMSD and MSBA. The committee will have their first meeting on February 21, 2025.

VII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Haws noted the February 5, 2025 Board Meeting/Work Session topics will include:

- You're Not Alone Presentation
- 2025-26 Middle Level Courses Update

- Schools Update
- Policy Readings

IX. 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 9:19 p.m.

Zach Dorholt, Clerk

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