

**MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
St. Cloud Area School District 742
St. Cloud, Minnesota
July 22, 2026**

A meeting of the Board of Education of St. Cloud Area School District 742 was held on Wednesday, July 22, 2026 at the District Administration Office, 1201 South 2nd Street, Waite Park, Minnesota.

The meeting was called to order at 6:39 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 Andreasen, 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 Weems to remove Item C - Personnel Staff Changes from the Consent Agenda and she will recuse herself from the vote.

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

Moved by Andreasen, seconded by Copeland to approve Consent Agenda Items A-B and E-P.

Approve Board Meeting minutes from June 3, 2026 and June 17, 2026.

Approve Bills and other Financial Transactions in the grand total amount of \$6,557,887.92.

Approve the Monthly Financial Report for May 2026.

Approve the Monthly Treasurer's Report for May 2026.

Approve the Quarterly Expenditures for Board Members from April 1, 2026 through June 30, 2026.

Approve the Resolution Relating to the Ten-Year Long-Term Facilities Maintenance Plan.

Approve Proposed Revised Board Policy 414 – Mandated Reporting of Child Neglect or Physical or Sexual Abuse (*Third Reading*).

Approve Membership Renewal in the Minnesota State High School League for 2026-2027.

Approve Membership Renewal in the Minnesota School Boards Association for 2026-2027.

Approve Membership Renewal in the Association of Metropolitan School Districts for 2026-2027.

Approve the Multipurpose Athletic Facility Change Orders with Joe's Excavating in the amount of +\$20,260, Joe's Excavating in the amount of +\$0, Joe's Excavating in the amount of +\$10,279.55, Design Electric in the amount of +\$33,810.42, DRSC Concrete in the amount of +\$525, Midwest Fence in the amount of -\$8,455, Lake Country Mechanical in the amount of +\$17,680, Legacy Building Solutions in the amount of +\$7,449.71, MCI, Inc. in the amount of +\$790, Pinnacle Wall Systems in the amount of +\$6,651, United Glass in the amount of +\$34,740, Ben's Structural Fabrication in the amount of +\$13,535, and Ben's Structural Fabrication in the amount of +\$2,441 for a grand total amount of +\$139,706.68.

Authorize a Call for Bids for the Apollo Additions and Remodeling Bid Package 2 Re-Bid to be opened on Thursday, August 20, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. Central Time.

Enter into a Joint Purchasing Contract for the Apollo Additions and Remodeling as follows:

- Weight Room Equipment through Sourcewell Joint Purchasing Contracts – Push-Pedal-Pull - \$198,315.76.
- Music Equipment through OMNIA Jointing Purchasing Contract – Wenger - \$324,220.19.

Approve the Talahi Parking Lot Improvements Change Orders with Knife River Corporation in the amount of +\$28,374.50 and Knife River Corporation in the amount of +\$17,545 for a grand total amount of +\$45,919.50.

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 II-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 ADMINISTRATIVE HIRES OR ASSIGNMENTS

Kaitlyn Gumphrey, Assistant Principal, Kennedy Community School, effective July 1, 2026, with an annual salary of \$109,000, for 225 days.

Safiyo Hassan, Assistant Principal, Talahi Community School, effective July 1, 2026, with an annual salary of \$108,325, for 220 days.

Hassan Yussuf, Administrative Intern, Tech High School, effective July 1, 2026, with an annual salary of \$95,000, for 220 days.

New Hire

Rebecca Pollard, Tier 3 Grade 4 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.

Madison Staska, Tier 3 Grade 2 Teacher, Kennedy 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.

Cavan Wroblewski, Tier 3 Grade 5 Teacher, Madison Elementary 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.

Maria Gonzales Garcia, Tier 3 Grade 1 Spanish Immersion Teacher, Kennedy Community School, effective for the 2026-2027 school year, Lane BA+20, Pay Level 2 (185 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$56,234.

Stacey Zierden, Tier 4 Grade 4 Teacher, Clearview Elementary School, effective for the 2026-2027 school year, Lane MA+40, Pay Level 6 (185 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$83,257.

Erika Rivera, Tier 3 Art/C4 Teacher, North Junior High 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.

Janette Nieuwsma, Tier 4 Speech/Language Pathologist, District Wide, effective for the 2026-2027 school year, Lane MA+40, Pay Level 6 (185 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$83,257.

Jason Ruiz, Tier 3 Grade 6 Language Arts Teacher, North Junior High School, effective for the 2026-2027 school year, Lane BA+30, Pay Level 2 (185 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$58,918.

Kayla Allar, Tier 4 ESCE (B-3) Teacher, Quarryview Education Center, effective for the 2026-2027 school year, Lane BA+30, Pay Level 7 (185 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$67,745.

Karen Cunningham, Tier 4 Physical Education Teacher, Kennedy Community School, effective for the 2026-2027 school year, Lane MA, Pay Level 5 (185 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$68,772.

Lydia Peters, Tier 4 Kindergarten Teacher, Westwood Elementary 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.

Tessa Peterson, Tier 3 Long Call Substitute Grade 1 Teacher, Lincoln Elementary School, effective August 24, 2026 through November 16, 2026, Lane BA, Pay Level 2 (57 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$15,675.31.

Jakob Waller, Tier 3 Music Teacher, Lincoln Elementary 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.

Katie Diehl, Tier 2 SPED Teacher, Discovery Community School, effective for the 2026-2027 school year, Lane BA+10, Pay Level 2 (185 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$53,555.

Olivia Maselter, Tier 3 Grade 5 Teacher, Clearview Elementary 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.

Mitchell Budreau, Tier 3 Band/Making Music Teacher, South Junior High School, effective for the 2026-2027 school year, Lane BA+30, Pay Level 2 (185 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$58,918.

Jada Whiting, Tier 3 Grade 4 Teacher, Madison Elementary 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.

Jessica Neeser, Tier 3 Occupational Therapist, Site to be Determined, effective for the 2026-2027 school year, Lane MA+40, Pay Level 3 (185 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$75,441.

Thomas Hackey, Tier 3 Grade 2 Teacher, Talahi Community 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.

Ryan O'Donoghue, Tier 3 Long Call Substitute Choir Teacher, South Junior High School and Tech High School, effective August 24, 2026 through November 13, 2026, Lane MA, Pay Level 2 (56 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$18,645.58.

Kelsey Bailey, Tier 1 Language Arts Teacher, South Junior High School and Tech High School, effective for the 2026-2027 school year, Lane BA, Pay Level 2 (185 days of a .80 FTE contract) with a salary of \$44,020.

Allison Shepard, Tier 1 Grade 4 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.

Rehire

Vanessa VanLaanen, Tier 4 SPED Teacher, Katherine Johnson Education Center, effective for the 2026-2027 school year, Lane MA, Pay Level 7 (185 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$71,169.

Terra Jerde, Tier 4 SPED Teacher, Clara's House, effective for the 2026-2027 school year, Lane MA+40, Pay Level 11 (185 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$93,552. Ms. Jerde is returning for this assignment after retirement.

Katie Schwarz, Tier 4 EL Teacher, Clearview Elementary School, effective for the 2026-2027 school year, Lane MA, Pay Level 4 (185 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$66,382.

Stephanie McGuinness, Tier 4 Secondary SPED Teacher, Tech High School, effective for the 2026-2027 school year, Lane MA+40, Pay Level 7 (185 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$84,824.

William O'Donnell, Tier 1 Math Teacher, South Junior High 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.

Earnest Gardner, Tier 1 SPED Teacher, South Junior High 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.

Extended Contract

Ana Galgano, SPED Early Childhood Teacher, Discovery Community School, effective April 9, 2026 through May 29, 2026, Lane BA, Pay Level 5 (.2 FTE of a full-time contract). Ms. Galgano's salary for this assignment will be \$2,292.89.

Leave of Absence

Jeanine Schroeder, Early Childhood Family Education Teacher, Quarryview Education Center, effective August 24, 2026 through June 4, 2027.

Nicholas Schaefer, Grade 5 Teacher, Kennedy Community School, effective October 19, 2026 through January 3, 2027.

Alexis Hosch, Kindergarten Teacher, Oak Hill Community School, effective August 24, 2026 through November 29, 2026.

Tessa Krauel, Early Childhood Family Education Teacher, Talahi Community School, effective September 1, 2026 through November 29, 2026.

Michelle Ewaysi, Grade 5 Teacher, Discovery Community School, effective August 24, 2026 through June 4, 2027.

Emily Miller, Assistant Principal, Kennedy Community School, effective June 8, 2026 through June 21, 2026.

Resignation

Sarah Huberty, Grade 2 Teacher, Clearview Elementary School, effective June 1, 2026.

Retirement

Ann Theisen, EL Teacher, Madison Elementary School, effective June 1, 2026, after 11 years of service in District 742.

Terra Jerde, SPED Developmental Disabilities Teacher, Clara's House, effective June 1, 2026, after 37 years of service in District 742.

NON-LICENSED STAFF

New Hire

Madison Schlicht, Groundskeeper, District Wide, effective July 9, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$16.50.

Marsha Culbreth, ASL Sign Language Interpreter, Discovery Community School, effective September 1, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$30.42

Tammi Arenkiel, Benefits Coordinator, District Administration Office, effective July 6, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$30.50.

Tammi Arenkiel, Human Resources Supervisor, District Administration Office, effective July 13, 2026, at an annual salary of \$92,500.

Emma Dahnert, HRIS and Communications Specialist, District Administration Office, effective July 6, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$26.00.

Haretho Aden, Early Childhood Instructional Paraeducator, Lincoln Elementary School, effective September 1, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$18.75.

Lindsey Gunnerson-Gutsch, College and Career Pathways Coordinator, District Administration Office, effective August 3, 2026, at an annual salary of \$90,000.

Jack Butkowski, District Support Technician Level 1, Katherine Johnson Education Center, effective June 8, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$22.50.

Leave of Absence

Garrett Brannan, Head Custodian, Apollo High School, effective June 2, 2026 extended through August 5, 2026.

Susan Bertram, Behavior Truancy Interventionist, South Junior High School, effective September 24, 2026 through January 3, 2027.

Jacob Sanchez, Groundskeeper, Tech High School, effective July 13, 2026 through October 4, 2026.

Halima Hassan, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Discovery Community School, effective September 1, 2026 through January 31, 2026.

Rescind Resignation

Mohamed Mohamed, Custodian, Apollo High School. Rescind Board action of May 6, 2026, where Mr. Mohamed was listed as a resignation from this position.

Resignation

Michelle Hommerding, Dean of Students, North Junior High School, effective June 30, 2026.

Joleen Kadlec, Clerical Class III (12-Month), Quarryview Education Center, effective June 26, 2026.

Breanna Bielefeld, Kitchen Facilitator, Madison Elementary School, effective May 29, 2026. Ms. Bielefeld was previously on a leave of absence.

Lisa Henning, Clerical Class III (12-Month), District Administration Office, effective August 7, 2026.

Audrey Okonek, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Clearview Elementary School, effective May 28, 2026.

Madison Schlicht, Groundskeeper, District Wide, effective July 9, 2026.

Antania Carr, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Quarryview Education Center, effective May 28, 2026.

Megan Ostermann, Human Resources Supervisor, District Administration Office, effective July 17, 2026.

Retirement

Kelly Henry, Head Engineer, South Junior High School, North Junior High School, and Madison Elementary School, effective July 15, 2026, after 35 years of service in District 742. Mr. Henry was previously on a leave of absence.

Dawn Henderson Varner, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Kennedy Community School, effective May 29, 2026, after 14 years of service in District 742.

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

Moved by Andreasen, seconded Fenton to approve Consent Agenda Item D - Acceptance of Grant Awards and Donations.

1. Donations to Apollo High School:

- \$500 gift card from Costco to purchase 385 backpacks for the 26-27 school year
- \$1,000 from Eckblad Williams Community Fund on behalf of the Bev Williams Scholarship Fund

2. Donations to North Junior High School:

- \$100 from District 742 LEAF for art piece for annual meeting
- \$500 from Coborn’s for the Future Problem Solving International Conference

3. Donations to Tech High School:

- \$1,000 from Eckblad Williams Community Fund on behalf of the Tiffany Haugen Scholarship Fund
 - \$1,214.06 from Community Giving on behalf of the Mikayla C. Boerger Memorial Fund for Robotics Team Roulette
4. Donations to Ready Set School Program
- \$15,000 from Thomas and Joyce Schlough for Westwood
 - \$2,500 from Matt and Aimee McDowall
 - \$2,500 from BCI Construction Inc.
 - \$5,000 from Community Giving on behalf of the Chris and Joanne Kudrna Fund
 - \$1,000 from Community Giving on behalf of the Bauerly Kopel Family Fund
5. Donations to District 742:
- 12 scrapbooks, hole punches, 3 ring binders from Sarah Frank for Community Education Project Challenge classes
 - \$100 from an anonymous donor for the District's Food Pantry
 - \$200 from Kwik Trip, La Crosse, WI for the ECFE Baby and Toddler Expo
 - \$200 gift cards from Kwik Trip, La Crosse, WI for E-12 Education

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

III. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Code of Conduct Updates

Assistant Superintendent Jason Harris provided a review of Code of Conduct updates which include (1) Sexual Physical Contact, (2) Substantial Disruption, and (3) Technology Adjacent Codes.

We have updated the response and intervention categories to adequately reflect our progressive responses and a broader use of instructional, restorative, supportive, and administrative interventions and responses.

IV. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS

A. (DISCUSSION ITEM) – 2025-2026 Activities Update

Karl Heine, Apollo High School Activities Director, and Hillary Johnson, Tech High School Activities Director, provided an overview of the activities program with the district for the 2025-2026 school year which included a video.

Utilizing the district's Four Pillars of Safety, Belonging, Collaboration, and Excellence, Karl and Hillary provided highlights from activities and participation around the district.

- Safety – The Central Lakes Conference behavior discussions and expectations, include monthly sportsmanship discussions and problem solving and Tech and Apollo nurses have instated weekly meetings to have open communication and pro-active planning to keep all students with health concerns safe.
- Belonging – Free student admissions at all venues and (2) family passes to their scholar’s home games and provide culturally appropriate uniform accessories and equipment for all in partnership with District 742 LEAF.
- Collaboration – District 742 LEAF covers activity fees resulting in a 10% overall participation increase and community connections include Community Education, St. Cloud Interact and Rotary, and Volunteer Service.
- Excellence – MSHSL State Tournament appearances, All-State Orchestra, Robotics sent teams to State, Nationals and Worlds, and Future Problem Solvers qualified for International Competition.

The Minnesota State High School League partnership focus areas include (1) safe, respectful, and inclusive environments for all participants, (2) supporting coaches, officials, and administrators, and (3) education beyond the classroom.

B. (ACTION ITEM) – Approval of Boys Volleyball Funding

Karl Heine, Apollo High School Activities Director, and Hillary Johnson, Tech High School Activities Director, shared the district had received a request for Boys Volleyball to be a district funded activity. This activity was recently approved as a Minnesota State High School League recognized activity. The total cost is projected to be approximately \$33,000 and was included in the budget approved by the Board in June.

Moved by Copeland, seconded by Fenton to approve Boys Volleyball Funding.

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

C. (DISCUSSION ITEM) - Proposed Revised Board Policy 534 – Unpaid Meal Charges (First Reading)

Sarah Motl, Nutritional Services Supervisor, reviewed Proposed Revised Board Policy 534 – Unpaid Meal Charges. There were no suggested changes. This proposed revised policy will be on the August 5, 2026 Board of Education Meeting agenda for a second reading.

D. (DISCUSSION ITEM) - Proposed Revised Board Policy 533 – Wellness (First Reading)

Sarah Motl, Nutritional Services Supervisor, reviewed Proposed Revised Board Policy 533 – Wellness. There were no suggested changes. This proposed revised policy will be on the August 5, 2026 Board of Education Meeting agenda for a second reading.

E. (DISCUSSION ITEM) – Proposed Revised Board Policy 531 – Pledge of Allegiance (First Reading)

Katie Herrboldt, Executive Director of Innovation and Technology Services, reviewed Proposed Revised Board Policy 531 – Pledge of Allegiance. There were no suggested changes. This proposed revised policy will be on the August 5, 2026 Board of Education Meeting agenda for a second reading.

V. **REPORTS**

A. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Laurie Putnam shared several updates that reflect the care, collaboration, and commitment of our staff and community partners as we prepare for the upcoming school year.

First, our summer work is well underway across the district. While summer may look quieter from the outside, our teams are busy preparing buildings, supporting students, hiring and onboarding staff, strengthening instructional plans, and ensuring that our schools are ready to welcome students and families back this fall. I want to thank our administrators, teachers, support staff, custodial and facilities teams, technology staff, transportation staff, nutrition services employees, and district office teams. The work happening now creates the conditions for a strong opening to the school year. Much of it happens behind the scenes, but it is essential to student success.

We are also nearing our districtwide **Ready, Set, School!** packing event. On July 30, community members, staff, and partners will gather at the Tech High School gymnasium to pack classroom supplies for every PK–5 student in District 742. This effort will ensure that our youngest learners begin the school year with the supplies they need, at no cost to their families. It builds upon last year's successful pilot at Talahi and Quarryview and expands that commitment across the district.

We are grateful to the many individuals, foundations, businesses, and community organizations that have contributed financially, volunteered their time, and helped make this effort possible. Ready, Set, School! is a strong example of what can happen when a community comes together around a shared belief that every child deserves access and opportunity from the very first day of school.

I also want to recognize our technology team and staff throughout the district for their work during our transition from Outlook to Gmail. Change of this size requires patience, flexibility, and a great deal of support. Staff can now access email through

Gmail using Rapid Identity on the web or through the Gmail application on their phones.

We know that transitions do not always go perfectly, and we appreciate employees helping one another as everyone becomes comfortable with the new system. Staff who need assistance should continue to reach out to Andrew Blanchette and our technology team. We are grateful for their responsiveness and problem-solving throughout this transition.

Across each of these updates, the common thread is people coming together on behalf of students. Whether preparing schools for the fall, providing supplies to families, or supporting employees through a major technology transition, our staff and partners continue to demonstrate what it means to lead with care. I am deeply grateful for their work and proud of the way our community continues to show up for our students and one another.

B. Board of Education Standing Committee Reports

1. Heather Weems, Chair of the Board Finance Committee, noted the committee met on July 13, 2026, and discussed (1) Boys Volleyball Request for Funding and (2) Apollo Project Change Order.
2. Natalie Copeland, Chair of the Personnel Committee, noted the committee met on July 21, 2026, and reviewed the recommendations of the Labor Management Committee regarding the annual establishment of premiums for the district's self-insured health and dental plans.
3. Zach Dorholt, Chair of the Board Development, Policy and Governance Committee, provided reports from the past two meetings. At our June 24, 2026 meeting, the committee reviewed three policies: Policy 534 (Unpaid Meal Charges), Policy 533 (Wellness), and Policy 531 (Pledge of Allegiance). The committee has recommended all three of these policies to move forward for their first reading at tonight's board meeting. At today's meeting on July 22, 2026, the committee reviewed three policies: Policy 413 (Discrimination, Harassment, and Violence), 416 (Drug, Alcohol, and Cannabis Testing), 417 (Chemical Use and Abuse). All three policies were recommended for first readings at the August 19, 2026 board meeting.

VI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Haws noted August 5, 2026 Board Meeting topics will include:

- Review of 2026-2027 Student and Family Handbooks
- Central MN Regional Career Pathways
- Approval of Health and Dental Insurance Plan Renewals and Premiums for 2026-2027

- Policy Readings

VII. ADJOURNMENT OF BOARD MEETING

Moved by Fenton, seconded by Copeland to adjourn the Board Meeting at 7:50 p.m. All Board members stated “aye”.

Heather Weems, Clerk

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