

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

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 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 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 Weems, seconded by Andreasen to approve Consent Agenda Items A-C and E.

Approve Board Meeting minutes from December 3, 2025 and December 17, 2025.

Approve Bills and other Financial Transactions in the grand total amount of \$4,495,307.67.

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

Jonathan Tolleiv, Tier 3 Long Call Substitute Band Teacher, South Junior High School, effective August 25, 2025 through December 23, 2025, Lane MA, Pay Level 2 (84.5 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$27,175.66.

Kimberly Kramer, Tier 3 School Nurse, Apollo High School. effective January 5, 2026 through June 1, 2026, Lane MA, Pay Level 8 (100.5 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$37,427.29.

Rehire

Vanderbelt Battle, Tier 1 Music Teacher, Westwood Elementary School, effective for the 2025-2026 school year, Lane BA, Pay Level 2 (185 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$49,141.

Jonathan Tolleiv, Tier 3 Long Call Substitute Band Teacher, South Junior High School, effective January 5, 2026 through June 1, 2026, Lane MA, Pay Level 2 (100.5 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$32,321.34.

Jeffrey Olson, Tier 4 Physical Education Teacher, Oak Hill Community School, effective January 13, 2026 through June 1, 2026, Lane MA+40, Pay Level 11 (94.5 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$46,157.89.

Joshua Gable, Tier 1 Long Call Substitute SPED ABS Teacher, Tech High School, effective November 6, 2025 through December 23, 2025, Lane BA, Pay Level 3 (31.5 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$8,639.68.

Joshua Gable, Tier 1 Long Call Substitute SPED DD Teacher, Oak Hill Community School, effective January 5, 2026 through February 27, 2026, Lane BA, Pay Level 2 (40 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$10,625.08.

Extended Contract

Lisa Doucet, Nurse, Talahi Community School, effective December 12, 2025 through March 31, 2026, Lane MA, Pay Level 4 (.1 FTE of a full-time contract). Ms. Doucet's salary for this assignment will be \$2,218.17.

Lisa Doucet, Nurse, Madison Elementary School, effective for the 2025-2026 school year, Lane MA, Pay Level 4 (5 extra days of a full-time contract). Ms. Doucet's salary for this assignment will be \$1,732.94.

Sarah Davis, Nurse, Katherine Johnson Education Center, effective January 5, 2026 through March 31, 2026, Lane MA, Pay Level 5 (.2 FTE of a full-time contract). Ms. Davis's salary for this assignment will be \$4,021.52.

Amy Hammond, Nurse, Quarryview Education Center, effective January 5, 2026 through March 31, 2026, Lane MA, Pay Level 7 (.2 FTE of a full-time contract). Ms. Hammond's salary for this assignment will be \$4,161.67.

Veronica Dal Canto Bushman, Nurse, Cathedral High School, effective January 5, 2026 through March 31, 2026, Lane MA, Pay Level 5 (.2 FTE of a full-time contract). Ms. Dal Canto Bushman's salary for this assignment will be \$4,021.52.

Nicole Douvier, Social Studies Teacher, Apollo High School, effective December 1, 2025 through February 27, 2026, Lane MA+40, Pay Level 11 (.2 FTE of a full-time contract). Ms. Douvier's salary for this assignment will be \$5,470.56.

Andrew Ray, Science Teacher, Tech High School, effective December 15, 2025 through February 28, 2026, Lane BA+10, Pay Level 7 (.2 FTE of a full-time contract). Mr. Ray's salary for this assignment will be \$3,455.05.

Leave of Absence

Jean Michael, Mathematics Teacher, Apollo High School, effective December 10, 2025 through January 20, 2026.

Kimberly Bednarek, SPED Psychologist, Apollo High School and South Junior High School, effective December 17, 2025 through January 5, 2026.

Jacqueline Bautch, Art Teacher, Talahi Community School, effective October 8, 2025 through November 14, 2025.

Resignation

Malinda O'Brien, SPED EBD Teacher, Clara's House, effective March 16, 2026. Ms. O'Brien was previously on a leave of absence.

Kelly Herwig, Adult Basic Ed Teacher, Community Ed, effective January 12, 2026.

Melissa Reitmeier, Work Experience Coordinator, Tech High School, effective January 15, 2026.

NON-LICENSED STAFF

New Hire

Garrison Murray, Student Support Paraeducator, Tech High School, effective January 15, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$16.50.

Cecil Nesgoda, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Madison Elementary School, effective January 15, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$18.50.

Heather Winters, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, South Junior High School, effective January 21, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$18.50.

Muna Hassan, EL Instructional Paraeducator, South Junior High School, effective January 15, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$18.50.

Kacie Humphrey, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, InStep, effective January 12, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$18.50.

Monte Burger, First Cook, South Junior High School, effective January 8, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$21.73.

Melanie Robinson, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Oak Hill Community School, effective January 14, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$18.50.

Makana McDaniel, Level IV Program Paraeducator, Katherine Johnson Education Center and InStep, effective January 5, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$20.50.

Rehire

Abubakar Wasuge, Bus Driver, District Services Building, effective January 22, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$20.43.

Harold Simon, Student Support Paraeducator, Clearview Elementary School, effective January 8, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$16.50.

Reassignment

Brigette Baird, Clerical Class II (12-Month), District Administration Office, effective February 2, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$19.29.

Lindsay Smith, Clerical Class I (10-Month), District Administration Office, effective January 20, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$17.54.

Leave of Absence

Fartun Ali, Early Childhood Instructional Paraeducator, Discovery Community School, effective January 12, 2026 through April 12, 2026.

Donald Trebtoske, Groundskeeper, Apollo High School, rescinded leave January 8, 2026 through April 3, 2026.

Sowda Mohamud, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Oak Hill Community School, extending leave to February 1, 2026.

Hodan Abdi, Behavior Instruction Paraeducator, Quarryview, Education Center, effective March 9, 2026 through September 1, 2026.

Jeanette Robinette, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Talahi Community School, extending leave to March 22, 2026.

Tamika Grinnell, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Madison Elementary School, effective January 15, 2026 through April 8, 2026.

Samantha Anderson, Student Support Paraeducator, Talahi Community School, effective January 27, 2026 through April 21, 2026.

Pam Schmiesing, Intervener, Tech High School, effective December 15, 2025 through January 4, 2026.

Shannon Holroyd, Kitchen Helper, Madison Elementary School, effective January 5, 2026 through January 29, 2026.

Resignation

Abdi Abdullahi, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Talahi Community School, effective January 23, 2026.

Anna Bard, Level IV SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Katherine Johnson Education Center, effective October 10, 2025.

Patrick Barthelemy, Substitute Bus Driver, District Services Building, effective December 20, 2023.

Martina Ranczka, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Quarryview Education Center, effective November 24, 2025.

Dayan Rosado Vega, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Westwood Elementary School, effective January 23, 2026.

Andrea Cook, Level 4 Advanced SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Roosevelt Education Center, effective January 20, 2026.

Melissa Everts, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Apollo High School, effective January 9, 2026.

Termination

Jordyn Valencia-Tyson, Level IV SPED Instructional Paraeducator, In-Step, effective January 13, 2026.

Asli Hassan, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Oak Hill Community School, effective December 22, 2025.

Maria Ortega, Early Childhood Instructional Paraeducator, Lincoln Elementary School, effective January 8, 2026.

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

Moved by Andreasen, seconded Weems to approve Consent Agenda Item D (Acceptance of Grant Awards and Donations).

Board member Copeland recused herself from this agenda item.

1. Donations to Apollo High School:

- \$1,000 from Kiwanis Club of St. Cloud, Inc. on behalf of the 2026 St. Cloud Kiwanis Club Scholarship
- \$250 Visa Gift Card from Tyler Malotky for the PBIS Program
- \$200 from Eagles Aerie 622 for the Apollo Food Shelf
- \$200 from Susan Nier on behalf of the Sharon Larson “ESL” Memorial Scholarship
- \$1,500 from Optimist Club of St. Cloud on behalf of the 2026 St. Cloud Optimist Club Scholarship

2. Donations to Katherine Johnson Education Center:

- \$750 from Independent Testing Technologies Inc. for middle school program needs
- \$10,000 from St. Cloud Area Golden Gloves Boxing Inc. to update worksite materials and make jobs more realistic for InStep students

3. Donation to Oak Hill Community School:

- \$2,000 from District 742 LEAF for Special Education DCD Teachers for interactive learning through AAC and sensory literacy stations

4. Donations to District 742:

- \$7,250 from District 742 LEAF for the Adopt-A-Classroom program for classroom supplies
- \$2,500 from District 742 LEAF for LGBTQ+ Families Support Group
- \$241.15 Visa Gift Card from Tyler Malotky for Central Minnesota Virtual Academy Academic Recognition
- 3 notebook journals, 1 flashlight, 2 mugs, 1 package of candy, 15 coloring books, 1 pack of colored pencils, and a crocheted craft from Brit Rosha and Shelia Dammann for Project Challenge with Community Ed

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

III. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS

A. (ACTION ITEM) – Approval of Proposed Resolution of Censure of a Board Member

Board of Education Chair Shannon Haws presented and read a proposed Resolution of Censure of a Board Member.

Moved by Weems, seconded by Fenton to approve the Resolution of Censure of a Board Member. Board member Copeland recused herself from this agenda item.

On roll call, the following voted “aye”: Andreasen, Dorholt, Fenton, Haws, Weems. The following voted “nay”: Acevedo. Abstained: Copeland. Motion passed 5-1.

B. (ACTION ITEM) - Approval of School Calendars for 2026-27 and 2027-28 School Years

Matthew Boucher, Executive Director of Operations, presented proposed school calendars for the 2026-27 and 2027-28 school years along with a recommendation from District Administration to approve the two calendars as presented. The calendars were developed by the Calendar Committee, which consists of school staff, building administrators, and District personnel which includes parents.

Moved by Andreasen, seconded by Fenton to approve the proposed school calendars for the 2026-27 and 2027-28 school years.

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

C. (DISCUSSION ITEM) – Changemaker Hub Report Out

Dr. Jason Harris, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education and Donna Roper, Director of Research, Assessment and Gen AI Integration, provided a review of the 742 Future Ready by Design – The Changemaker Hub Experience – Empowering the Changemakers of Tomorrow session held at the December 5, 2025 Professional Development Day.

The partnership ecosystem is a collaborative initiative designed to refine and realize the “742 Future Ready Graduate by Design” through authentic engagement. We are moving beyond surface-level surveys to gather “street-level” data directly from the source. Moving from surveys to vulnerability and complex problem-solving.

Insights included: (1) Where Creativity and Joy already exist, (2) the Adulting Mandate, (3) Redefining Collaboration, (4) Human Skills and Neurodiversity, and (5) the Anatomy of Safety. Also demonstrating the intellectual curiosity driving the “Changemaker” mindset.

The Strategic Pivot by synthesizing insights into a shift in approach which include: (1) Abstract academic tasks to real-world problem solving and adulting skills, (2) Assumed collaboration to structured interdependence and defined roles, and (3) Teacher-led safety to Community-led safety (peer to peer).

They also reviewed recommended curriculum enhancements, instructional design, and community building.

D. (DISCUSSION ITEM) – Mental Health Supports Update

Shannon Avenson, Executive Director of Community Education and Community Partnerships and Jen Lecy, Coordinator of Student Services and Community Education, provided a presentation on Supporting Student Well-Being: Mental Health Services in District 742. We have a robust mental health team with over 90 members with a wide variety of licensures, training, expertise, and compassion ensuring our students are in great hands.

Mental health resources include Triage and School Psychologists for Early Childhood and Grades PK-12, School Counselors and Special Education School Social Workers for Grades K-12, and Mental Health Advocates and Chemical Health Counselors for Grades 6-12.

Other services and highlights included: Social/emotional learning curriculum for Tier 1, 2 and 3. Youth Empowerment Groups at Tech and Apollo. Therapy Dog Services. Chemical Health Programs. Greater Minnesota Family Services. Triage services during crisis situations. Student Suicide Risk Assessments (SSRA). Community Collaborations. Say Something. Professional Development for staff and financial support for Mental Health team members.

IV. REPORTS

A. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Laurie Putnam recognized Kate Butkowski, Director of Student Services and Jess Vos, Supervisor of Health Services, along with their entire team for the months-long effort they have led to ensure immunization compliance across the district. Their diligence, collaboration, and persistence have certainly paid off.

As of January 5, 2026, 418 students districtwide were excluded from returning to school due to non-compliance. Today, that number has been reduced to 24 non-compliant students, with an additional 339 students on approved catch-up schedules or with confirmed appointments. This significant progress reflects the strength of our systems, the dedication of our staff, and the partnership of our families. I am deeply grateful to everyone involved in this work.

I also want to celebrate student achievement across the district. On Monday, January 19, 2026, at the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration at River's Edge Convention Center, 29 district students were recognized for their exemplary essay, visual art, and spoken word entries.

We also have six students advancing from the district spelling bee to regional competition at St. Cloud State University in February. All these students exemplify our district's commitment to academic excellence and student voice. Congratulations to all.

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 (1) Activities Update - Who is participating? and (2) Mid-year behavior data was shared.
2. Heather Weems, Chair of the Board Finance Committee, noted the committee met on January 20, 2026 and discussed (1) Primary Election Opt-In and (2) MDE Profiles.
3. Natalie Copeland, Chair of the Board Personnel Committee, noted the committee met on January 20, 2026 and discussed (1) Superintendent Evaluation (2025–2026), (2) Negotiations update, and (3) Personnel matters.

V. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Haws noted the February 4, 2026 Board Meeting/Work Session topics will include:

- Operations Update
- Approval of Tentative Agreements (if any)
- 2026-2027 Middle Level Courses Update
- Policy Readings
- Schools Update

VI. ADJOURNMENT OF BOARD MEETING

Moved by Weems, seconded by Copeland to adjourn the Board Meeting at 5:31 p.m. All Board members stated "aye".

Heather Weems, Clerk

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