

**MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
St. Cloud Area School District 742
St. Cloud, Minnesota
August 20, 2025**

A meeting of the Board of Education of St. Cloud Area School District 742 was held on Wednesday, August 20, 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, Al Dahlgren, Natalie Copeland, 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”: Andreasen, Copeland, Dahlgren, Dorholt, Fenton, Haws, Weems. Motion carried.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

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

Approve the minutes from the Board meeting on July 23, 2025.

Approve Bills and other Financial Transactions in the grand total amount of \$5,659,712.18.

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

Josh Halicke, Tier 1 SPED ABS Teacher, Discovery Community 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.

Riley Spoden, Tier 3 Music Teacher, Clearview 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.

Tyler Malotky, Tier 3 Guidance Counselor, Apollo High School, effective for the 2025-2026 school year, Lane MA, Pay Level 5 (185 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$66,427.

Autumn Fosteson, Tier 3 Social Studies Teacher, Tech High School, effective for the 2025-2026 school year, Lane BA, Pay Level 4 (185 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$53,149.

Rehire

Cody O'Neil, Tier 1 Physical Education/Health Teacher, Apollo High School, North Junior High School and South Junior High School, effective for the 2025-2026 school year, Lane BA, Pay Level 2 (185 days of a .60 FTE contract) with a salary of \$29,484.60.

Mary Barron-Traut, Tier 4 Language Arts Teacher, McKinley-ALC, effective for the 2025-2026 school year, Lane MA+40, Pay Level 8 (185 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$83,442. Ms. Barron-Traut is returning for a one-year assignment after retirement.

Carol Ramler, Tier 4 ADSIS Teacher, Kennedy Community School, effective for the 2025-2026 school year, Lane MA+40, Pay Level 11 (185 days of a full-time contract). Ms. Ramler's salary for this assignment will be \$90,362. Ms. Ramler is returning for a one-year assignment after retirement.

Sumaiya Raka-Bartos, Tier 1 SPED ABS Teacher, District Wide, 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.

Kristin Sowada, Tier 4 Grade 5 Teacher, Kennedy Community School, effective for the 2025-2026 school year, Lane MA+40, Pay Level 11 (185 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$90,362. Ms. Sowada is returning for a one-year assignment after retirement.

David Shelstad, Tier 4 Counselor, North Junior High School, effective for the 2025-2026 school year, Lane MA+40, Pay Level 11 (185 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$90,362. Mr. Shelstad is returning for a one-year assignment after retirement.

Laurel Schoborg, Tier 4 Student Services Coordinator, District Administration Office, effective for the 2025-2026 school year, Lane MA+40, Pay Level 8 (185 days of a .60 FTE contract) with a salary of \$50,065.20. Ms. Schoborg is returning for a one-year assignment after retirement.

Ellen Jahnke, Tier 4 Counselor, Discovery Community School, effective for the 2025-2026 school year, Lane MA+30, Pay Level 8 (185 days of a .60 FTE contract) with a salary of \$48,029.40. Ms. Jahnke is returning for a one-year assignment after retirement.

Mary Adelman, Tier 4 Grade 4 Long Call Substitute Teacher, Westwood Elementary School, effective August 25, 2025 through October 3, 2025, Lane BA+40, Pay Level 8 (185 days of a .60 FTE contract) with a salary of \$10,404.19. Ms. Adelman is returning for this assignment after retirement.

Samantha Carley, Tier 4 EL Teacher, North Junior High School, effective for the 2025-2026 school year, Lane MA+40, Pay Level 8 (185 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$83,442.

Barbara Husmann, Tier 4 Teacher on Special Assignment, District Wide, effective for the 2025-2026 school year, Lane MA+40, Pay Level 11 (185 days of a .40 FTE contract) with a salary of \$36,144.80. Ms. Husmann is returning for a one-year assignment after retirement.

Catherine Thompson, Tier 4 Hourly Tutor, District Wide, effective for the 2025-2026 school year, at an hourly rate of \$40.00. Ms. Thompson is returning for this assignment after retirement.

Jean Motschke, Tier 4 Hourly Tutor, District Wide, effective for the 2025-2026 school year, at an hourly rate of \$40.00. Ms. Motschke is returning for this assignment after retirement.

Debra Johansen, Tier 4 Hourly Tutor, District Wide, effective for the 2025-2026 school year, at an hourly rate of \$40.00. Ms. Johansen is returning for this assignment after retirement.

Leave of Absence

Benjamin Thell, Math Teacher, Tech High School, effective September 18, 2025 through November 2, 2025.

Kelly Jo Herwig, ABE Teacher, Quarryview Education Center, effective September 2, 2025 through September 29, 2025.

Jennifer Furcht, Art Teacher, Tech High School, Intermittent - effective August 25, 2025.

Rebecca Herricks, Language Arts-Science of Reading Teacher, South Junior High School, effective September 16, 2025 through October 12, 2025.

Resignation

Maran Marsh, School Nurse, Quarryview Education Center, effective July 22, 2025.

Margaret Stoterau, SPED Part Time Assessment Specialist, District Wide, effective May 23, 2025.

Catherine Thompson, Tutor, District Wide, effective February 13, 2025.

Amber Brown, EL Teacher, Clearview Elementary School, effective June 2, 2025.

Retirement

Karen Kruse, Music Teacher, Madison Elementary School, effective June 2, 2025, after 48 years of service in District 742.

NON-LICENSED STAFF

New Hire

Darin Sussner, Kitchen Helper, South Junior High School, effective September 2, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$16.49.

Tara Christensen, Pre-K and Media Paraeducator, Kennedy Community School, effective September 2, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$18.50.

Alyssa Thesing, Behavior Instruction Paraeducator, Madison Elementary School, effective September 2, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$20.50.

Keona Barnhill, Level 4 Advanced SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Katherine Johnson Education Center, effective September 2, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$20.50.

Andrew Clark, Information Systems Analyst, District Administration Office, effective August 11, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$29.00.

Garmen Neal, Kitchen Helper, South Junior High School, effective September 2, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$16.49.

Rehire

Melissa Wiechmann, Clerical Class I (10-Month), Discovery Community School, effective September 2, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$16.50.

Heather Green, Clerical Class I (10-Month), Apollo High School, effective August 12, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$16.72.

Brooklyn Dietman, Advanced SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Katherine Johnson Education Center, effective August 1, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$20.50.

Leave of Absence

Betty Andrade Cumbe, Student Support Paraeducator, Oak Hill Community School, effective September 3, 2025 through November 2, 2025.

Wanda Sis, Clerical Class III (12-Month), North Junior High School, effective September 15, 2025 through January 2, 2026.

Resignation

Bailey Steadman, Head Lacrosse Coach, Apollo High School, effective June 20, 2025.

Mohamed Osman, Transportation Coordinator, District Services Building, effective August 14, 2025.

Kayla Kitt, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, South Junior High School, effective May 30, 2025.

Liliana Murray, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Westwood Elementary School, effective May 29, 2025.

Sokorey Mohamed, Custodian, Talahi Community School, effective August 22, 2025.

Taylor Suess, LPN, Oak Hill Community School, effective May 30, 2025.

Jennifer Johnson, Early Childhood Instructional Paraeducator, Quarryview Education Center, effective May 30, 2025.

Julie Schroeder, Kitchen Helper Substitute, District Wide, effective May 30, 2025.

Valencia Pennington, Clerical Class III (12-Month), District Administration Office, effective August 4, 2025.

Michael Trewick, Dean of Students and Coaching Assignments, Apollo High School, effective June 5, 2025.

Pony Homsombath, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Oak Hill Community School, effective May 30, 2025.

Caroline Nerhus, Adult Basic Education Supervisor, Quarryview Education Center, effective August 15, 2025.

Samantha Oveson, Project Challenge/Arise Coordinator, Quarryview Education Center, effective July 31, 2025. Ms. Oveson was previously on a leave of absence.

Brenda Stang, Kitchen Helper, Talahi Community School, effective May 30, 2025.

Retirement

Jill Moline, Clerical Paraeducator, Oak Hill Community School, effective September 30, 2025, after 2 years of service in District 742.

Brenda Enneking, Clerical Class II (12-Month), District Administration Office, effective February 12, 2026, after 28 years of service in District 742.

Wanda Sis, Clerical Class III (12-Month), North Junior High School, effective January 2, 2026, after 31 years of service in District 742.

Sandra Weber, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, McKinley-ALC, effective May 30, 2025, after 27 years of service in District 742.

Kenna Weller, Interpreter, North Junior High School, effective May 30, 2025, after 35 years of service in District 742. Ms. Weller was previously on a leave of absence.

Correction

Dheraj Behram, Clerical Class III (12-Month), District Administration Office, effective August 18, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$20.33. This is a correction to the August 6, 2025 consent agenda where this item was listed as a Clerical Class II (12-Month).

1. Donation to Apollo High School:
 - \$750 from Eckblad Williams Community Fund of Central MN Community Foundation for the All-State Orchestra Camp Registration Fee
2. Donation to South Junior High School:
 - \$200 from Kovell Advisory Services LLC for the Track Program and Porta-Pot
3. Donations to Tech High School:
 - \$270.33 from Girls Volleyball Booster Club for the Girls Volleyball Program
 - \$400 from Tech High School Alumni Association for Activities
4. Donations to District 742:
 - Three \$50 gift cards from Kwik Trip to purchase fruit and donuts for District Leadership Team Professional Learning
 - Six -24 packs of bottled water, eight -12 packs of Bubbler, nine -12 packs of pop from Bernicks for District Leadership Team Professional Learning
 - Thirty \$5 gift cards from Kwik Trip for DAO Staff Appreciation

Approve the Monthly Treasure's Report for June 2025.

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

III. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. End of Summer Construction Project Update

Matthew Boucher, Executive Director of Operations, provided an overview of the 2025 Summer Construction Projects around the district that included Clearview, Discovery, Oak Hill, Talahi, Westwood, Kennedy, North, South, Apollo, Tech, McKinley-ALC, and Quarryview. Mr. Boucher also highlighted our goal for world class facilities to encourage world class learning and he is appreciative of all the hard work by the building and grounds staff across the district in all buildings.

Mr. Boucher also noted the following:

- Completed district-wide faucet and fixture lead remediation project.
- Every Tennis court on district property is striped for both Tennis and Pickleball.
- An evaluation of each parking lot will be conducted to develop a sustainable rotation of parking lot resealing, restriping, and resurfacing.

IV. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS

A. (ACTION ITEM) - Approval of 2025-2026 Student and Family Handbooks

Nikki Hansen, Assistant Superintendent of E-5 Learning, reviewed Administration's request for approval of the 2025-2026 Student and Family Handbooks.

Moved by Copeland, seconded by Dahlgren to approve the 2025-2026 Student and Family Handbooks.

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

B. (ACTION ITEM) - Approval of 2025-2026 Weather Related E-Learning Days Plan

Nikki Hansen, Assistant Superintendent of E-5 Learning, presented the 2025-2026 Weather Related E-Learning Days Plan. Administration recommends approval of the 2025-2026 Weather Related E-Learnings Days Plan.

Moved by Dahlgren, seconded by Copeland to approve the 2025-2026 Weather Related E-Learnings Days Plan.

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

C. (DISCUSSION ITEM) - Proposed Revised Board Policy 506 – Student Discipline (Second Reading)

Shannon Avenson, Executive Director of Community Education and Community Partnerships, reviewed Proposed Revised Board Policy 506 – Student Discipline. There were no suggested changes. This policy will be on September 3, 2025 Board Meeting consent agenda for a third and final reading with a request for approval.

D. (DISCUSSION ITEM) – Review of Proposed Resolutions for the MSBA Delegate Conference

Members of the Superintendent’s Cabinet presented three potential resolutions the Board will review this evening for the MSBA Delegate Conference in early December.

- Resolution 2025-1: Adequate and Equitable Funding for Targeted Services and Extended Learning
- Resolution 2025-2: Redesigning Education for the Age of AI
- Resolution 2025-3: Establish Minnesota Privacy and Cybersecurity for Education (PACE) Council

Board discussion included bringing all three resolutions back to the September 3, 2025 board meeting for further review and approval.

V. **REPORTS**

A. Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Laurie Putnam provided an update on current activities around the district including the kickoff of our school year as licensed staff return on Monday, August 25 and students return on September 2. We have a lot of positive things happening with strong enrollment numbers and we also have a large number of students re-enrolling in the district. We are also thankful for very little staff turnover with a few open positions.

We had successful Welcome Walk visits yesterday to all kindergarteners and new students as we welcome them to the district and answer any questions. A big thank you to Shannon Avenson and her team as well as Ayan Omar and Tami Deland and their teams and their incredible organizational efforts. These visits help remind us of the settings our students come from which include both challenges and benefits as we look forward to the new school year together.

B. Board of Education Standing Committee Reports

1. Diana Fenton, Chair of the Achievement, Integration and Equity Committee, noted the committee met today and the group worked on aligning our committee

meeting calendar with topics for the 2025-2026 school year. The committee also reviewed the presentation on the Immunization Policy Compliance update that will be shared at the next Board meeting.

2. Heather Weems, Chair of the Board Finance Committee, noted the committee met on July 31, 2025, and reviewed the following items: (1) Preliminary Audit Plan, (2) Multipurpose Athletic Facility Project and Budget Update, and (3) Apollo Project and Budget Update.
3. Al Dahlgren, Chair of the Board Legislative Committee, noted the committee met on July 21, 2025, and reviewed the three Resolutions for the MSBA Delegate Conference on tonight's board agenda.

VI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Haws noted the September 3, 2025 Board Meeting/Work Session topics will include:

- 742 Multipurpose Athletic Facility Public Review and Naming
- Approval of Proposed Resolutions for the MSBA Delegate Conference
- Policy Readings

VII. ADJOURNMENT OF BOARD MEETING

Moved by Copeland, seconded by Dorholt to adjourn the Board meeting. All Board members stated "aye". The Board meeting concluded at 7:39 p.m.

Heather Weems, Clerk

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