

**MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
St. Cloud Area School District 742
St. Cloud, Minnesota
May 1, 2024**

A meeting of the Board of Education of St. Cloud Area School District 742 was held on Wednesday, May 1, 2024, at the District Administration Office, 1201 South 2nd Street, Waite Park, Minnesota.

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Chair Shannon Haws with the following Board Members present: Scott Andreasen, Natalie Copeland (Ringsmuth), Al Dahlgren, Zach Dorholt. Absent: Monica Segura-Schwartz, Heather Weems.

I. APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING AGENDA

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

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

II. CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Andreasen, seconded by Copeland to:

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

Nathalie Shepard, Tier 1 EL Teacher, North Junior High School, effective for the 2024-2025 school year, Lane MA+20, Pay Level 4 (185 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$70,000.

Madison Albertson, Tier 2 Art Teacher, Oak Hill Community School, effective for the 2024-2025 school year, Lane BA, Pay Level 2 (185 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$49,141.

Tara Levine, Tier 4 Grade 1 Teacher, Talahi Community School, effective for the 2024-2025 school year, Lane MA+10, Pay Level 11 (185 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$77,708.

Tori Stacken, Tier 2 Speech Language Pathologist, District Wide, effective for the 2024-2025 school year, Lane BA, Pay Level 2 (185 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$49,141.

Nicole Alley, Tier 4 School Psychologist, Madison Elementary School, effective for the 2024-2025 school year, Lane MA+40, Pay Level 6 (185 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$80,418.

Sarah Luckhardt, Tier 4 Grade 3 Teacher, Oak Hill Community School, effective for the 2024-2025 school year, Lane MA+20, Pay Level 11 (185 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$81,345.

Marissa Warren, Tier 3 School Psychologist, Kennedy Community School, effective for the 2024-2025 school year, Lane MA+40, Pay Level 5 (185 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$78,905.

Jacqueline Junes, Tier 3 Elementary Teacher, Discovery Community School, effective for the 2024-2025 school year, Lane BA, Pay Level 3 (185 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$50,741.

Samantha Oswald, Tier 1 EL Teacher, Oak Hill Community School, effective for the 2024-2025 school year, Lane BA, Pay Level 2 (185 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$49,141.

Christine Steinbach, Tier 4 CTE Business Teacher, Apollo and Tech High School, effective for the 2024-2025 school year, Lane MA+40, Pay Level 10 (185 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$87,658.

Jermika Craft, Assistant Principal, Discovery Community School, effective July 1, 2024, with an annual salary of \$104,825, for 220 days.

Summer School Assignment

Mary Barron-Traut, Tier 4 Summer School Language Arts Teacher, McKinley-ALC, effective June 10, 2024, at an hourly rate of \$40.00. Ms. Barron-Traut is returning for this assignment after retirement.

Extended Contract

Amy Ruegemer, SPED Social Worker, Tech High School, effective April 22, 2024 through May 31, 2024, Lane MA, Pay Level 10 (.25 FTE of a full-time contract). Ms. Ruegemer's salary for this assignment will be \$2,873.28.

Maria Maleska, Social Worker, Madison Elementary School, effective April 22, 2024 through May 31, 2024, Lane MA, Pay Level 1 (.15 FTE of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$1,358.91.

Cody Pratt, Technology Education Teacher, Apollo High School, effective March 11, 2024 through April 5, 2024, Lane BA, Pay Level 4 (.2 FTE of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$1,086.42.

Leave of Absence

Elizabeth Bjorklund, Speech Language Pathologist, Talahi Community School, effective August 26, 2024 through June 2, 2025 (60% leave of a full-time contract). Ms. Bjorklund will work 40% of a full-time contract.

Dani Sibley, Grade 4 Teacher, Westwood Elementary School, effective August 26, 2024 through June 2, 2025.

Resignation

Londa Wagner, Triage Therapist/Mental Health Practitioner, Quarryview Education Center, effective June 3, 2024.

Mitchell Nelsen, Counselor, Katherine Johnson Education Center, effective June 3, 2024.

Leah Berscheit, Physical Education Teacher, McKinley ALC, effective June 3, 2024.

Mikayla Miller, SPED ABS Teacher, South Junior High School, effective April 19, 2024.

Sara Smith, SPED DCD Teacher, Westwood Elementary School, effective June 3, 2024.

Ellie Nieder, Early Childhood Teacher, Talahi Community School, effective June 3, 2024.

Patrick McGuire, SPED EBD Teacher, North Junior High School, effective June 3, 2024.

Nicole Fagerstrom, Grade 1 Teacher, Discovery Community School, effective June 3, 2024.

Dena Connors-Millard, Science Teacher, McKinley-ALC, effective July 25, 2024.

NON-LICENSED STAFF

New Hire

Morgen Greathouse, Early Childhood Instructional Paraeducator, Quarryview Education Center, effective April 1, 2024, at an hourly rate of \$18.00.

Savannah Curtis, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Discovery Community School, effective April 22, 2024, at an hourly rate of \$18.00.

Madison Nystel, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Talahi Community School, effective April 15, 2024, at an hourly rate of \$18.00.

Patrick Walsh, Substitute Kitchen Helper, District Wide, effective April 16, 2024, at an hourly rate of \$16.01.

Karen Nash, Clerical Class II (12-Month), Quarryview Education Center, effective April 12, 2024, at an hourly rate of \$18.03.

Sam Katke, Clerical Class I (10-Month), North Junior High School, effective April 15, 2024, at an hourly rate of \$16.39.

Jeremy Kirsch, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Apollo High School, effective April 22, 2024, at an hourly rate of \$18.00.

Rehire

Aksel Krafnick, Behavior Resource Specialist, McKinley-ALC, effective April 22, 2024, at an hourly rate of \$27.50.

Reassignment

Stacy Prendergast, Clerical Class III (12-Month), District Administration Office, effective March 11, 2024, at an hourly rate of \$21.93.

Leave of Absence

Lisa Lechner, Executive Assistant, District Administration Office, effective May 1, 2024 through June 13, 2024.

Resignation

Tarji Kennedy, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Talahi Community School, effective April 19, 2024.

Farah Mohamed, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Talahi Community School, effective May 1, 2024.

Estelle Sukhu, Administrative Dean, South Junior High School, effective June 5, 2024.

Amanda Perkins, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Quarryview Education Center, effective May 31, 2024.

Basema Amro, Behavior Instruction Paraeducator, Apollo High School effective May 2, 2024.

Kathleen Donaldson, Student Support Paraeducator, Talahi Community School, effective June 2, 2024.

Mohamed Yussuf, Somali Immersion Coordinator, District Administration Office, effective April 30, 2024.

Brittany Mueller, Level 4 Program Paraeducator, Roosevelt Education Center, effective April 15, 2024.

Lauren Rezac, Student Support Paraeducator, Talahi Community School, effective April 30, 2024.

Mahad Ahmed, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Oak Hill Elementary School, effective April 18, 2024. Mr. Ahmed was previously on a leave of absence.

Ashley Mirzakanli, SPED Early Childhood Instructional Paraeducator, Talahi Community School, effective May 31, 2024.

Grace Holm, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Oak Hill Community School, effective April 25, 2024.

Halima Abdi, Custodian, South Junior High School, effective April 16, 2024.

Retirement

Theresa Skalla, Level IV Program Paraeducator, InStep, effective May 31, 2024, after 14 years of service in District 742.

Kathleen Kirchner, Kitchen Helper, North Junior High School, effective May 31, 2024, after 12 years of service in District 742.

Termination

Catherine McCoy, Kitchen Helper, Apollo High School, effective April 19, 2024.

David Smith, Van Driver, District Services Building, effective April 19, 2024.

Adrian Peterson, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Apollo High School, effective April 17, 2024.

Approve the Monthly Financial Report for March 2024.

Approve the Monthly Treasurer's Report for March 2024.

Approve Board Policy 503 – Student Attendance, as revised (*Third Reading*)

The Administration recommends the Board of Education award the bid for the Apollo Theater Improvements to Design Electric, Inc. in the amount of \$1,357,147, based on low bid received meeting specifications.

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

III. INFORMATION ITEMS

Board member Segura-Schwartz arrived at 6:39 p.m.

A. Community Education and Adult Basic Education (ABE) Update

Adam Holm, Executive Director of Community Education, along with Caroline Nerhus, Supervisor of Adult Basic Education and Jennifer Noble, Supervisor of Community Education Program provided an update.

Caroline Nerhus began by sharing that St. Cloud is part of the Central MN ABE Consortium which includes 31 school districts, 17 locations and 1,700 students. St. Cloud area has 862 students. In St. Cloud, we offer 35 different classes at five different sites including Quarryview Education Center, Sartell, St. Joseph, Great River Regional Library, and La Cruz.

St. Cloud ABE has 13 licensed teachers with 10 classroom support staff and 27 volunteers. There are four components to ABE funding: (1) Contact Hours, (2) Population, (3) Limited English Proficient, and (4) Adults Without Diploma. We are very proud of our GED Graduates.

Classes include: ESL levels 1-6, diploma classes, GED classes, citizenship, Accuplacer Prep, and Nutrition Pathway. Expansion of offerings includes an Integrated Education and Training (IET) Course by partnering with CentraCare and Career Solutions to expose students to career pathways and Monday/Wednesday classes after meeting with Latino faith leaders that Tuesday/Thursday dates did not work for people interested in taking classes. Quarryview Education Center is an official Pearson Vue test center which offers 200+ different tests including GED, MTLE, and ParaEducator.

Information was also provided on Youth and Adult Enrichment Classes, Project Challenge Classes, and Facility and Volunteer Services. Our active volunteer base has grown to 940 volunteers and we are busy engaging community partners with our schools such as the Foster Grandparent Program, Americorps Retired Senior Volunteer Program, student volunteers, and more. Volunteer support is also provided for One District, One Book.

Two students in ABE also shared how they have been impacted by being a part of this wonderful program. One of them is already working and the other hopes to start work soon.

The Board members were very appreciative of all the work being done to impact so many people and the start of some new courses is also encouraging to provide additional services.

IV. REPORTS

A. Board of Education Standing Committee Reports

Scott Andreasen, Chair of the Board Development, Policy, and Governance Committee, noted the committee met on April 24, 2024, and reviewed the following policies with no recommended changes: Policy 518 and 519. Policies 501 and 708 will be presented this evening during the work session for the first of three readings.

V. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Haws noted May Regular Board Meeting topics will include:

- Transitional Services Update
- Summer Learning Opportunities
- Approval of List of Graduates for Apollo and Tech High School
- Policy Readings

VI. 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 7:24 p.m.

The Board then moved to the Work Session, which included discussion of the following items:

VII. BOARD OF EDUCATION WORK SESSION

A. Walker West Music Partnership Update

Representatives from Walker West Academy in St. Paul along with district staff provided an update on year two programming and partnership. The presentation highlighted professional development, parent engagements, and instructional collaborations with the district's music department as well as data on the programming. The goal of this program is to increase our students' participation and engagement in music programs throughout the district.

Year 2 goals for 2023-2024 included: (1) offering instructional programs by Walker West Music Academy Teaching Artists that are culturally appropriate and commiserate with the changing demographics of the St. Cloud Area School District, (2) providing professional development for St. Cloud music teachers, (3) creating new programs from local Somali musicians that bring new artists into schools, and (4) increasing enrollment for students of color in middle school music classes. Madison, Lincoln, and Discovery schools were chosen to host the Walker West residencies in 5th grade music classes based on location and demographics:

Year 3 goals for 2024-2025 include: (1) to make St. Cloud Area Schools independent of Walker West, as we look to co-create culturally relevant instructional practices by providing teaching artists to further that mission, (2) to provide continued professional development that speak to these practices, and (3) to further increase enrollment from students of color in middle and high school music classes.

The Board was very appreciative of this unique opportunity to increase students' interest and participation in music programs throughout the district. We are very fortunate to work with Walker West.

B. Schools Update

Nikki Hansen, Assistant Superintendent of PK-5 Education, highlighted Kennedy Community School with greatest strengths of staff going above and beyond to meet student needs. Principal Willhite is proud of their great community culture and how they work together to support all students and families in a variety of ways. Some recent amazing events included a Student Spring Showcase with 630 people in attendance. A meal was served with the opportunity for families to explore the building and celebrate the great growth and accomplishments of their scholars this school year.

Dr. Jason Harris, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education, also highlighted Kennedy Community School at the middle level. We continue to build a partnership with Apollo High School with students and coaches having the opportunity to go to Kennedy and share their experiences and spark the interest of the younger students

and what they can expect at the high school level. This is another great way to plant seeds for the next group of students to get involved.

Dr. Mike Rivard, Assistant Superintendent of E-12 Education Services, highlighted Katerine Johnson Education Center which has programs for K-12 and ages 18-22. The Setting 4 Day Program which is operated by the Special Education Department has 25 elementary, 30 middle and 30 high school students who are all benefiting from this level of service. Some of the incredible things happening include working on reading projects that includes mentorship between Level 4 and our InStep students. There is a coffee making spot at the front door where students can use their entrepreneurial skills, and a botany project that started in middle school science which has become a flower sale. Other opportunities include students going to the YMCA for water safety and transitional services of learning sewing and music skills. KJEC is in the infancy stage as a new school with so many program opportunities ahead.

C. Proposed New Board Policy 606.5 – Library Materials (*First Reading*)

Gary Ganje, Executive Director of Operations, reviewed Proposed New Board Policy 606.5 - Library Materials for a first reading. There were no suggested changes. This policy will be on the May 15, 2024 board agenda for a second reading.

D. Proposed Revised Board Policy 708 – Transportation of Nonpublic School Students (*First Reading*)

Gary Ganje, Executive Director of Operations, reviewed Proposed Revised Board Policy 708 – Transportation of Nonpublic School Students for a first reading. There were no suggested changes. This policy will be on the May 15, 2024 board agenda for a second reading.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT OF THE WORK SESSION

Moved by Andreasen, seconded by Copeland to adjourn the Work Session. All Board members stated “aye”.

The Work Session ended at 8:55 p.m.

Zach Dorholt, Clerk

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