

**MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
St. Cloud Area School District 742
St. Cloud, Minnesota
May 7, 2025**

A meeting of the Board of Education of St. Cloud Area School District 742 was held on Wednesday, May 7, 2025, at the District Administration Office, 1201 South 2nd Street, Waite Park, Minnesota.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chair Shannon Haws with the following Board Members present: Scott Andreasen, Natalie Copeland (Ringsmuth), Al Dahlgren, 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 and Work Session agenda.

On roll call, the following voted “aye”: Scott Andreasen, Natalie Copeland, Al Dahlgren, Zach Dorholt, Diana Fenton, Shannon Haws, Heather Weems.

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

Miranda Hoffman, Tier 4 Grade 1 Teacher, Talahi Community School, effective for the 2025-2026 school year, Lane MA+20, Pay Level 10 (185 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$79,667.

Rehire

Mackenzie Rudd, Tier 1 Epic MENR and Tech Ed Teacher, Apollo High School and North Junior High 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.

Kimberly Tran, Tier 1 SPED DD Teacher, Talahi Community School, effective August 26, 2024 to March 10, 2025, Lane BA, Pay Level 2 (99.5 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$26,429.88.

Reduction in Contract

Kathryn Knutson, SPED Speech Language Pathologist, Quarryview Education Center, effective for the 2025-2026 school year, Lane MA+40, Pay Level 11 (.6 FTE of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$54,217.20.

Extended Contract

James Blommel, SPED Speech Language Pathologist, Kennedy Community School, effective March 10, 2025 through May 31, 2025, Lane MA+40, Pay Level 2 (.15 FTE of a full-time contract). Mr. Blommel's salary for this assignment will be \$3,426.43.

Leave of Absence

Renee Tamm, SPED Academic and Behavior Strategist, 180 Degrees, Intermittent - effective February 7, 2025 through February 6, 2026.

Brenda Janda, Elementary Grade Level Lead, Discovery Community School, effective October 13, 2025 through January 5, 2026.

Katherine Dorn, SPED Autism Specialist, District Wide, effective May 5, 2025 through August 25, 2025.

Jessica Vos, Health Services Supervisor, District Wide, Intermittent - effective April 29, 2025 through April 28, 2026.

Amin Hashi, Somali Language Teacher, Apollo High School, effective May 10, 2025 through August 25, 2025.

Jennifer Russell, Kindergarten Teacher, Oak Hill Community School, effective for the 2025-2026 school year.

Kaia Swenson, SPED Early Childhood Teacher, Quarryview Education Center, effective for the 2025-2026 school year.

Zamzam Abukar, Grade 1 Teacher, Talahi Community School, effective for the 2025-2026 school year.

Nasrah Mohamed, Kindergarten Teacher, Talahi Community School, effective for the 2025-2026 school year.

Warda Mahmoud, Grade 1 Teacher, Talahi Community School, effective for the 2025-2026 school year.

Julia Fajardo, Adult Basic Education Teacher, Quarryview Education Center, effective for the 2025-2026 school year.

Abigail DeMars, SPED Speech Language Pathologist, North Junior High School, effective for the 2025-2026 school year.

Emily Schneider, Interventionist, Oak Hill Community School, effective for the 2025-2026 school year. This is an extension of a previous leave of absence.

Melissa Thiebaut, Early Childhood Teacher, Talahi Community School, effective for the 2025-2026 school year (20% leave of a full-time contract). Ms. Thiebaut will work 80% of a full-time contract.

Elizabeth Bjorklund, SPED Speech Language Pathologist, Talahi Community School, effective August 25, 2025 through January 5, 2026 (60% leave of full-time contract). Ms. Bjorklund will work 40% of a full-time contract.

Tracy Eiyneck, Early Childhood Teacher, Kennedy Community School, effective for the 2025-2026 school year (30% leave of a full-time contract). Ms. Eiyneck will work 70% of a full-time contract.

Elizabeth Trout, SPED Early Childhood Teacher, Westwood Elementary School and Quarryview Education Center, effective for the 2025-2026 school year (70% leave of a full-time contract). Ms. Trout will work 30% of a full-time contract.

David Ruhlman, Art Teacher, South Junior High School, effective February 1, 2026 through June 14, 2026.

Janie Rundall, SPED Early Childhood Teacher, Quarryview Education Center, effective for the 2025-2026 school year (30% leave of a full-time contract). Ms. Rundall will work 70% of a full-time contract.

Melanie Morris, Occupational Therapist, Madison Elementary School, effective for the 2025-2026 school year (40% leave of a full-time contract). Ms. Morris will work 60% of a full-time contract.

Lauren Pollard, SPED Speech Language Pathologist, District Wide, effective for the 2025-2026 school year (40% leave of a full-time contract). Ms. Pollard will work 60% of a full-time contract.

Kali Walton, SPED Early Childhood Teacher, Quarryview Education Center, effective for the 2025-2026 school year (40% leave of a full-time contract). Ms. Walton will work 60% of a full-time contract.

Katrina Gearhart, Occupational Therapist, Talahi Community School and Lincoln Elementary School, effective for the 2025-2026 school year (10% leave of a full-time contract). Ms. Gearhart will work 90% of a full-time contract.

Polly Alessio, SPED Early Childhood Teacher, Quarryview Education Center, effective for the 2025-2026 school year (20% leave of a full-time contract). Ms. Alessio will work 80% of a full-time contract.

Susan Koester, SPED Early Childhood Teacher, Quarryview Education Center, effective for the 2025-2026 school year (20% leave of a full-time contract). Ms. Koester will work 80% of a full-time contract.

Tracy Stock, Occupational Therapist, Westwood Elementary School, effective for the 2025-2026 school year (20% leave of a full-time contract). Ms. Stock will work 80% of a full-time contract.

Kelly DeWeese, Occupational Therapist, Quarryview Education Center, effective for the 2025-2026 school year (20% leave of a full-time contract). Ms. DeWeese will work 80% of a full-time contract.

Erica Miller, SPED Social Worker, Talahi Community School, effective for the 2025-2026 school year (20% leave of a full-time contract). Ms. Miller will work 80% of a full-time contract.

Haidee Selle, EL Teacher, Talahi Community School, effective for the 2025-2026 school year (10% leave of a full-time contract). Ms. Selle will work 90% of a full-time contract.

Jennifer Lorimer Gerhardt, SPED Speech Language Pathologist, Quarryview Education Center, effective for the 2025-2026 school year (20% leave of a full-time contract). Ms. Lorimer Gerhardt will work 80% of a full-time contract.

Charlene Irvin-Brown, Homebound Tutor, Roosevelt Education Center, effective for the 2025-2026 school year (40% leave of a full-time contract). Ms. Irvin-Brown will work 60% of a full-time contract.

Resignation

Aaron Voronyak, Mathematics Teacher, Apollo High School, effective June 2, 2025.

Lauren Swann, Grade 4 Teacher, Clearview Elementary School, effective June 2, 2025.

Marissa Warren, SPED Psychologist, Kennedy Community School and Tech High School, effective June 2, 2025.

Retirement

Ann Schlichting, Music Teacher, Clearview Elementary School, effective June 2, 2025, after 26 years of service in District 742. Ms. Schlichting was previously on leave of absence.

Ramona Powers, SPED Autism Specialist, Apollo High School, effective June 2, 2025, after 5 years of service in District 742.

NON-LICENSED STAFF

New Hire

Barbara Knutson, Student Support Paraeducator, Clearview Elementary School, effective April 22, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$16.50.

Mason Brill, Summer Groundskeeper, District Wide, effective June 9, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$16.00.

Kaitlin Eide, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Lincoln Elementary School, effective April 21, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$18.50.

Isabella Moreno, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Discovery Community School, effective April 14, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$18.50.

Jessika Olsen, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Discovery Community School, effective April 14, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$18.50.

Rehire

Madeline Kulus, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, North Junior High School, effective May 7, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$18.50.

Megan O'Leary, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Madison Elementary School, effective May 5, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$18.50.

Reassignment

Emily McTarsney, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Talahi Community School, effective May 5, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$18.50.

Leave of Absence

Hayat Ali, Student Support Paraeducator, Oak Hill Community School, effective September 2, 2025 through November 30, 2026.

Mohamed F. Mohaumud, Custodian, South Junior High School, effective May 19, 2025 through June 25, 2025.

Rahmo Aden, Behavior Instruction Paraeducator, North Junior High School, effective April 7, 2025 through September 3, 2025.

Amina Yusuf, Custodian, Tech High School, effective April 14, 2025, through May 16, 2025. This is an extension of a previous leave of absence.

Resignation

Chelsea Santos, Kitchen Helper, Oak Hill Community School, effective May 30, 2025.

Katherine Nier, Kitchen Helper, South Junior High School, effective April 29, 2025.

Lucia Shyiaik, Clerical Class II (10-Month), Tech High School, effective June 6, 2025.

Farah Mohamed, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Talahi Community School, effective May 15, 2025.

Michael Schmidt, Custodian, Madison Elementary School, effective May 9, 2025.

Idil Farah, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Madison Elementary School, effective April 24, 2025.

Heidi Eiyneck, Level IV Program Paraeducator, InStep, effective April 16, 2025.

Martha Chuol, Custodian, Talahi Community School, effective April 11, 2025.

Mahammed Ahmed, Custodian, Apollo High School, effective April 14, 2025.

Ahmed Gamadid, Level IV Program Paraeducator, Katherine Johnson Education Center, effective April 16, 2025.

Thomas Borrett, Student Support Paraeducator, Clearview Elementary School, effective April 8, 2025.

Ahmed Noor, Behavior Resource Specialist, Talahi Community School, effective April 17, 2025.

Retirement

Nancy Trobec, Clerical Class III (10-Month), Talahi Community School, effective June 6, 2025, after 34 years of service in District 742.

Termination

Matthew Miller, Custodian, Kennedy Community School, effective April 29, 2025.

Mark Fleisher, Level IV Program Paraeducator, InStep, effective April 22, 2025.

Nafissatou Bray, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Madison Elementary school, effective April 10, 2025.

Tyesha Warren, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Madison Elementary School, effective April 16, 2025.

Susan Stang, Level IV Program Paraeducator, InStep, effective March 26, 2025.

Approve the Monthly Financial Report for March 2025.

Approve the Monthly Treasurer's Report for March 2025.

Authorize a Call for Bids for Milk to be opened on Thursday, May 29, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. Central Time.

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

III. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Community Education and Adult Basic Education Update

Adam Holm, Executive Director of Community Education, along with Jennifer Noble, Supervisor of Community Education, and Caroline Nerhus, Supervisor of Adult Basic Education, provided an update on these programs in our district.

Ms. Noble shared about the Community Education program. Adult Enrichment served 6,801 total open gym participants and 1,1162 adult enrichment participants. Project Challenge served 211 participants with 2,631 enrollments with 172 classes offered. Youth Enrichment served 3,301 participants and offered 658 classes along with 298 aquatics classes with 1,124 participants. We have 1,079 active volunteers with Madison Elementary volunteers logging 650 hours in the month of March. Apollo and Tech National Honor Society, Apollo Swim and Dive, and RSVP volunteers supported our One District, One Book campaign.

Ms. Nerhus shared that St. Cloud is part of the Central Minnesota Adult Basic Education Consortium which includes 30 school districts, 14 locations and 1,900 students. St. Cloud area has 880 students. In St. Cloud, we offer 35 different classes at five different sites including Quarryview Education Center, Great River Regional Library, La Cruz, Sartell, and St. Joseph. Classes include ESL levels 1-6, diploma classes, GED classes, citizenship, Accuplacer Prep, and English for childcare.

Two students in the ABE Program shared how they have been impacted by being a part of this wonderful program. One of them is already working and the other plans to graduate next year.

IV. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS

A. NAPAC Board Response Letter

Ayan Omar, Equity Services Director, provided a copy of the required Board response to the Native American Parent Advisory Committee. The Board members signed the document during the meeting. The Administration, on behalf of the Board, will forward a copy to NAPAC and MDE.

B. 2025-2026 Budget Forecast Based on State Funding

Superintendent Laurie Putnam provided an overview of the 2025-2026 Budget Forecast Based on State Funding. Our commitment to this community is to pass balanced budgets that prioritize student-centered instruction and supports, along with safe and welcoming learning and working environments.

The Board appreciates the district's strength of transparent communication and always being committed to having a balanced budget and making hard decisions when needed. Superintendent Putnam would be happy to provide a screencast of this presentation to the Board members, place it on our website, and share this important information with our families, students, and staff.

V. REPORTS

A. Board of Education Standing Committee Reports

1. Zach Dorholt, Chair of the Board Development, Policy, and Governance Committee, noted the committee met on April 23, 2025, and reviewed Policy 721 with a recommendation to move forward with three readings and Policy 704 with minor changes on the consent agenda at the May 21 Board meeting. Policies 798, 203, and 203.1 were reviewed with no changes.
2. Al Dahlgren, Chair of the Board Legislative Committee, noted the committee met on April 21, 2025, and discussed three items: (1) Update on St. Cloud Education Rights Advocacy Council (SCERAC), (2) Reviewed 2024-25 Legislative Priorities, and (3) Reviewed Committee Goals.
3. Natalie Copeland, Chair of the Board Personnel Committee, noted the committee met on April 22, 2025, and discussed two items: (1) Reviewed the superintendent's proposal for executive contract changes for Assistant Superintendents and Executive Directors of Finance and Human Resources for

2025-2026 to align placements with new Executive Contracts for Operations, Technology and Innovation, and Special Education. The committee reviewed salary comparisons and budget implications supporting the recommendations and recommends moving the contracts forward for full board review and approval on June 4, 2025, and (2) Recommends, consistent with past practice, a one-time five-day vacation payout for superintendent as compensation for unused vacation days due to the referendum campaign and presentation schedule. Payment will be reflected on the consent agenda on May 21, 2025 with payment on the May 31, 2025 payroll.

VI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Board Chair Haws noted May 21, 2025 Regular Board Meeting topics will include:

- District Retiree Recognition
- Transitional Services Update
- Graduation and End of Year Celebrations
- 2025 Summer School Review
- Approval of List of Graduates for Apollo and Tech High School
- Policy Readings

VII. ADJOURNMENT OF BOARD MEETING

Chair Haws adjourned the Board meeting at 7:51 p.m. All Board members stated “aye”.

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

VIII. BOARD OF EDUCATION WORK SESSION

A. Schools Update

Nikki Hansen, Assistant Superintendent of E-5 Learning, highlighted Kennedy and Early Childhood Education at Quarryview. Safety focus included our littlest learners at Quarryview exploring building and construction activities and our Kennedy second graders learning about water safety through our partnership with the YMCA. Early Childhood Family Education families sit in a circle to create a sense of belonging and a welcoming space and Kennedy students spent time together making friendship bracelets. Collaboration at Quarryview includes our Rotarian partners working with our preschoolers on an art project and Kennedy students working together on coding with their robots. High expectations and high supports were demonstrated at Quarryview with students working with letters to strengthen their literacy skills and fine motor development. Students at Kennedy grades 5-8 can obtain responsibility passes by consistently showing examples of being kind, safe, and responsible.

Dr. Jason Harris, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education, highlighted safety at McKinley and Tech where students created art portraits for their schools. Sense of belonging occurred when over 100 Newcomer students visited St. Cloud State University and St. Cloud Technical Community College to learn about post career and secondary options. Collaboration included featuring our Tech Girls Softball Team with a 23 Dreams documentary, Tech featured a south side family night and theater production, and signing days at both Apollo and Tech. High expectations and high supports include the Students of Excellence Awards night through our partnership with Resource Training and students earning Bi-lingual Seal Certificates.

Shannon Avenson, Assistant Superintendent of E-12 Educational Services, highlighted professional development for our Special Education and Student Services staff who had the opportunity to tour Clara's House and the Child Advocacy Center to better understand the programs and be able to connect our families to these valuable resources. Belonging included a speaking engagement by a nationally known author and speaker for the community and our staff about autism, parenting, and motherhood. Collaboration included the Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) meeting with parents, community members and school staff this spring. High expectations and high supports featured our mental health team learning more about CRI (Crisis Response Initiative) and J-CAT (Juvenile Community Action Team) which are both incredible partnerships with law enforcement and Stearns County to provide wrap-around services to our students and families.

IX. 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 8:00 p.m.

Heather Weems, Clerk

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