

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
St. Cloud Area School District 742  
St. Cloud, Minnesota  
December 18, 2024**

A meeting of the Board of Education of St. Cloud Area School District 742 was held on Wednesday, December 18, 2024, 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, Shannon Haws, Heather Weems. Absent: Monica Segura-Schwartz.

**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, Haws, Weems. Motion carried.

**II. CONSENT AGENDA**

Moved by Board members Copeland and Dahlgren to remove Item D. Acceptance of Grant Awards/Donations from the Consent Agenda.

Moved by Andreasen, seconded by Copeland to approve Consent Agenda Items A-E and G-I:

Approve the minutes from board meetings on November 6, 2024 and November 20, 2024.

Approval of Bills and other Financial Transactions in the grand total amount of \$4,740,573.04.

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**

Awilda Duran, Tier 1 Grade 2 Spanish Immersion Teacher, Clearview Elementary School, effective for the 2024-2025 school year, Lane BA, Pay Level 2 (145 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$38,515.92.

### **Rehire**

Taylor Anderson, Tier 1 Long Call Substitute Math Teacher, Kennedy Community School, effective January 3, 2025 through May 2, 2025, Lane BA, Pay Level 2 (60 days of a full-time contract). Ms. Anderson's salary for this assignment will be \$15,937.62.

### **Extended Contract**

Jillian Mergen, Language Arts Teacher, Tech High School, effective December 2, 2024 through February 28, 2025, Lane MA+40, Pay Level 7 (.20 FTE of a full-time contract). Ms. Mergen's salary for this assignment will be \$5,048.78.

Katherine Green, Language Arts Teacher, Tech High School, effective December 2, 2024 through February 28, 2025, Lane MA+30, Pay Level 11 (.2 FTE of a full-time contract). Ms. Green's salary for this assignment will be \$5,238.02.

Michael Gritman, Social Studies Teacher, Tech High School, effective December 2, 2024 through February 28, 2025, Lane MA+40, Pay Level 11 (.20 FTE of a full-time contract). Mr. Gritman's salary for this assignment will be \$5,568.25.

Mathew Bigler, Social Studies Teacher, Tech High School, effective December 2, 2024 through February 28, 2025, Lane MA+10, Pay Level 6 (.20 FTE of a full-time contract). Mr. Bigler's salary for this assignment will be \$4,362.32.

Susan Iverson, Family and Consumer Science Teacher, Tech High School, effective December 2, 2024 through February 28, 2025, Lane MA, Pay Level 8 (.20 FTE of a full-time contract). Ms. Iverson's salary for this assignment will be \$4,307.10.

Cody Pratt, Technology Education Teacher, Apollo High School, effective December 2, 2024 through February 28, 2025, Lane BA+10, Pay Level 5 (.2 FTE of a full-time contract). Mr. Pratt's salary for this assignment will be \$3,516.74.

Jaret Beckmann, Global Communications Teacher, South Junior High School, effective December 2, 2024 through February 28, 2025, Lane BA+40, Pay Level 3 (.2 FTE of a full-time contract). Mr. Beckmann's salary for this assignment will be \$3,808.65.

Maria Maleska, Social Worker, Madison Elementary School, effective November 26, 2024 through December 20, 2024, Lane MA, Pay Level 2 (.15 FTE of a full-time contract). Ms. Maleska's salary for this assignment will be \$892.45.

Curtis Washington, SPED Social Worker, Apollo High School, effective November 26, 2024 through December 20, 2024, Lane BA+10, Pay Level 10 (.15 FTE of a full-time contract). Mr. Washington's salary for this assignment will be \$856.05.

Diane Olson, Counselor, North Junior High School, effective December 2, 2024 through the 2024-2025 school year, Lane MA+20, Pay Level 11 (.1 FTE of a full-time contract). Ms. Olson's salary for this assignment will be \$5,166.51.

Brooks Marquardt, Health Teacher, Apollo High School, effective December 2, 2024 through February 28, 2025, Lane MA+40, Pay Level 11 (.2 FTE of a full-time contract). Mr. Marquardt's salary for this assignment will be \$5,568.25.

Kimberly Bednarek, SPED Psychologist, Apollo High School, effective November 27, 2024 through February 28, 2025, Lane MA+40, Pay Level 11 (.2 FTE of a full-time contract). Ms. Bednarek's salary for this assignment will be \$5,812.47.

Patrick Russell, SPED Psychologist, Discovery Community School, effective November 27, 2024 through February 28, 2025, Lane MA+40, Pay Level 11 (.1 FTE of a full-time contract). Mr. Russell's salary for this assignment will be \$2,906.24.

Cira Hunstad, SPED Psychologist, Westwood Elementary School, effective November 27, 2024 through February 28, 2025, Lane MA+40, Pay Level 5 (.2 FTE of a full-time contract). Ms. Hunstad's salary for this assignment will be \$5,075.51.

Jaclyn Salisbury, SPED Psychologist, Oak Hill Community School, effective November 27, 2024 through February 28, 2025, Lane MA+40, Pay Level 5 (.1 FTE of a full-time contract). Ms. Salisbury's salary for this assignment will be \$2,537.75.

Tyson Zitzow, SPED Psychologist, North Junior High School, effective November 27, 2024 through February 28, 2025, Lane MA+40, Pay Level 11 (.2 FTE of a full-time contract). Mr. Zitzow's salary for this assignment will be \$5,812.47.

Victoria Balfany, SPED Psychologist, South Junior High School, effective November 27, 2024 through February 28, 2025, Lane MA+40, Pay Level 9 (.1 FTE of a full-time contract). Ms. Balfany's salary for this assignment will be \$2,732.24.

Trista Wochnick, SPED Psychologist, Tech High School, effective November 27, 2024 through the 2024-2025 school year, Lane MA+40, Pay Level 11 (.1 FTE of a full-time contract). Ms. Wochnick's salary for this assignment will be \$5,861.32.

### **Leave of Absence**

Hongyou Ying, Immersion Teacher, North Junior High School, effective January 21, 2025 through February 18, 2025.

### **Resignation**

Laurie Leitch, ABE Teacher, Quarryview Education Center, effective May 25, 2023.

Mary Keating, Homebound Tutor, District Administration Office, effective May 11, 2023.

### **Termination**

Sandra Samayoa Garcia, Grade 2 Spanish Immersion Teacher, Clearview Elementary School, effective January 21, 2025.

### **NON-LICENSED STAFF**

#### **New Hire**

Abdikadar Hassan, Van Driver, District Services Building, effective December 5, 2024, at an hourly rate of \$17.37.

David Mason, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Madison Elementary School, effective December 5, 2024, at an hourly rate of \$18.50.

Deko Maalin, Student Support Paraeducator, Lincoln Elementary School, effective November 21, 2024, at an hourly rate of \$16.50.

Anthony McFadden, Substitute Custodian, District Wide, effective November 21, 2024, at an hourly rate of \$16.25.

Monira Hersi, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Kennedy Community School, effective December 9, 2024, at an hourly rate of \$18.50.

Otgontuya Ross, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Talahi Community School, effective December 9, 2024, at an hourly rate of \$18.50.

Stephanie Cox, Level 4 Advanced SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Roosevelt Education Center/Journey, effective December 9, 2024, at an hourly rate of \$20.50.

Austin Goodwater, Custodian, District Administration Office, effective December 2, 2024, at an hourly rate of \$16.85.

Sowda Mohamed, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Oak Hill Community School, effective December 3, 2024, at an hourly rate of \$18.50.

Kyra Motschenbacher, Student Kitchen Helper, McKinley-ALC, effective November 26, 2024, at an hourly rate of \$16.49.

Aliyah Swilley, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Oak Hill Community School, effective November 21, 2024, at an hourly rate of \$18.50.

Pony Homsombath, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Oak Hill Community School, effective December 9, 2024, at an hourly rate of \$18.50.

### **Rehire**

Deandre Brown, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Westwood Elementary School, effective December 5, 2024, at an hourly rate of \$18.50.

Sahar Mahmoud Abuhussein, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Oak Hill Community School, effective December 5, 2024, at an hourly rate of \$18.50.

Shannon Holroyd, Kitchen Helper, Madison Elementary School, effective December 12, 2024, at an hourly rate of \$17.63.

### **Leave of Absence**

Anisa Abdi, Literacy Accountability Assistant, Quarryview Education Center, effective November 19, 2024 through March 10, 2025.

### **Resignation**

Abdikadar Hassan, Van Driver, District Services Building, effective December 6, 2024.

Madison Nystel, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Talahi Community School, effective December 13, 2024.

Nasra Abdinasir, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Oak Hill Community School, effective December 20, 2024.

Amina Abubaker, Kitchen Helper, Tech High School, effective November 22, 2024.

Eve Richards, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Clearview Elementary School, effective December 20, 2024.

Melissa Buser, Level 4 Advanced SPED Instructional Paraeducator, InStep, effective December 20, 2024.

Sarah Schiefelbein, Behavior Instruction Paraeducator, Kennedy Community School, effective January 13, 2024.

David Mason, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Madison Elementary School, effective December 5, 2024.

Deko Maalin, Student Support Paraeducator, Lincoln Elementary School, effective November 22, 2024.

Anthony McFadden, Substitute Custodian, District Wide, effective November 21, 2024.

Nasra Mursel, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Lincoln Elementary School, effective December 5, 2024.

Abdi Tagal, Custodian, Madison Elementary School, effective November 27, 2024.

Sarah Torelli, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Tech High School, effective November 26, 2024. Ms. Torelli was previously on a leave of absence.

Beth Bays, LPN, Westwood Elementary School, effective December 13, 2024.

### **Termination**

Andrew Bibeau, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Westwood Elementary School, effective December 2, 2024.

Approve the Monthly Financial Report for October 2024.

Approve the Monthly Treasurer's Report for October 2024.

Approve Board Policy 406 – Public and Private Personnel Data (*Legal Reference and Statute Change*).

Approve Board Policy 410 – Family and Medical Leave Policy (*Statute Change*).

Award the Bid for the North Roof Replacement Project to McDowall Company in the amount of \$1,343,500 based on low bid received meeting specifications.

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

Moved by Andreasen, seconded by Dorholt to approve Consent Agenda Item F.

Board members Copeland and Dahlgren recused themselves from this agenda item.

The Administration recommends acceptance of the following grant awards and donations:

1. Donation to Apollo High School:
  - \$1,000 from District 742 LEAF for Speech Team
2. Donation to Clearview Elementary School:

- \$540.38 from Life Touch Shutterfly, LLC for student/staff photo commissions
3. Donation to Discovery Community School:
    - Undergarments from Mary Bjorklan for student use
  4. Donations to Katherine Johnson Education Center:
    - \$755 from The Granite City Lumberjacks, Inc. for student needs
    - \$2,000 from Clearwater Lions Club for InStep field trips and student celebrations
  5. Donations to Madison Elementary School:
    - \$160 from District 742 LEAF for STEM supplies – Art Class Practice and Play
    - \$500 from District 742 LEAF for Grade 2 Chinese Immersion Cultural Exploration
  6. Donations to McKinley-ALC:
    - \$1,235 from District 742 LEAF for Friday Community Learning
    - \$1,859 from District 742 LEAF for CTE Supplies for Woodshop
  7. Donation to North Junior High School:
    - Dinner rolls and honey butter from Texas Roadhouse for Staff Appreciation
  8. Donation to Talahi Community School:
    - \$2,959 from United Way to purchase decodable readers for summer school program
  9. Donations to Transitional Services Program:
    - \$250 from LeSauk Lions Club for coats for students
    - \$16,000 from Stearns Bank for food
  10. Donation to Access SLP's:
    - \$500 from Central MN Noon Optimists Club for therapy materials and training to improve the use of AAC
  11. Donation to District 742:
    - 8 bins of shoes from Once Upon a Child for student use

On roll call, the following voted “aye”: Andreasen, Dorholt, Haws, Weems. Abstained: Copeland and Dahlgren. Motion passed 4-0.

### **III. INFORMATION ITEMS**

#### **A. South High School Presentation**

Principal Becky Estrada provided an overview of South High School including the Continuous Improvement Plan objectives and four pillars of Safety, Sense of Belonging, Collaboration, and Excellence.

Safety – Relationship building, creating positive school climate, support SEL development, active supervision and daily SST meetings, and partnership of SRO on site.

Sense of Belonging – Students and families: new student academy, Student Voices Council, Family Advisory Council, activities and athletics, and Tiger Time. Staff: positive calls and postcards, staff to staff shout outs, celebrating student learning and Tiger Time.

Collaboration – Students and families: “Teams” student scheduling, community supports on campus, SVC/FAC building “Future Ready” students and Career in a Year. Staff: applied learning instruction focus and CIP, BARR meetings in all grades 6-8, I-Time lessons, committees and PLT’s.

Excellence: High Expectations and High Supports – Students and families: attendance intervention Friday’s, grade checks in advisory, Tiger Time Academic Wednesday’s, and homework help with after school support. Staff: Continuous Improvement Plan, leadership team vision, Modern Classroom, and Tier 2 instructional responses and PLT’s.

B. Presentation of Final 2024 Payable 2025 Property Tax Levy Certification

Amy Skaalerud, Executive Director of Finance and Business Services, presented information on the final 2024 Payable 2025 property tax levy. The School Board approved the preliminary 2024 Payable 2025 levy in September and then the district certified that preliminary levy to the State and County. School districts are then required to present a Truth in Taxation presentation by December 28, 2024, and this presentation may be part of a regularly scheduled board meeting.

IV. **OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC INPUT ON THE FINAL LEVY CERTIFICATION**

There was no one in attendance for public input this evening.

V. **DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS**

A. (ACTION ITEM) – Approval of Final 2024 Payable 2025 Property Tax Levy Certification

Amy Skaalerud, Executive Director of Finance and Business Services, noted the final 2024 Payable 2025 levy is \$35,297,586.65, which is an increase of \$1,247,020.93 or 3.66% from the previous year’s levy. This reflects an increase from the preliminary levy approved in September which showed a 3.64% increase. This increase is primarily due to an increase in the general fund levy due to enrollment changes made by MDE, which was somewhat offset by reductions in debt service levy adjustments.

Moved by Copeland, seconded by Andreasen to approve the Final 2024 Payable 2025 Property Tax Levy Certification.

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

**B. (ACTION ITEM) – Approval of Budget for Apollo Referendum**

Amy Skaalerud, Executive Director of Finance and Business Services, presented the Apollo Referendum Budget. The Administration recommends that the Board of Education approve a budget for the Apollo Referendum using unassigned fund balance in an amount not to exceed \$150,000.

Moved by Dahlgren, seconded by Andreasen to approve a budget for the Apollo Referendum using unassigned fund balance in an amount not to exceed \$150,000.

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

**C. (ACTION ITEM) – Approval of 2025-26 High School Course Catalog**

Dr. Jason Harris, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education, and Hillary Johnson, Director of Secondary Education, presented the 2025-26 class registration process and reviewed the 2025-26 High School Course Catalog.

Strategic Plan Focus Areas include: (1) Positive Climate and Culture, (2) Instruction that Produces Positive Results, (3) Innovation, (4) Career and Post-Secondary Education Options, and (5) Family and Community Engagement.

Moved by Copeland, seconded by Weems to approve 2025-26 High School Course Catalog.

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

**VI. REPORTS**

**A. Superintendent’s Report**

Superintendent Laurie Putnam provided an update on events around the district including extending an invitation to local legislators to meet with district administration and the upcoming Board of Education Legislative Chair in early January to review the Board platform and other advocacy items from district administration. Incoming Board member Bruce Hentges also invited local legislators to the AMSD legislative update meeting in January in the Twin Cities.

We also have Pre-K enrollment night on January 16 at Quarryview with Kindergarten enrollment nights beginning the following week at our elementary schools and running through the end of year. See the district website for a full schedule.

Dr. Putnam and Dr. Jason Harris were both invited to participate in Career in a Year as shared by South Principal Becky Estrada earlier this evening. They are both excited to share about their career paths and journeys with students.

**B. Board of Education Standing Committee Reports**

1. Scott Andreasen, Chair of the Board Development, Policy and Governance Committee noted the committee met on December 11, 2024 and reviewed the following policies: 406, 407, 408, 409, and 410. Policies 407, 408, 409 did not have any changes and Policies 406 and 410 are on tonight's consent agenda.
2. Al Dahlgren, Chair of the Board Finance Committee noted the committee met last Friday December 13, 2024 and reviewed two items: (1) Referendum Budget and (2) 2022-2023 MDE Profiles.

**VII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Chair Haws noted the January 8, 2025 Board Meeting/Work Session topics will include:

- Preschool 4 Success Update
- Full Service Community Schools Presentation
- Schools Update
- Policy Readings

Board Member Dahlgren brought up the Board's discussion at yesterday's Board Retreat about MCA scores being publicly distributed and the harmful effect that can have on school districts and communities. Mr. Dahlgren suggested the new Board at the first Board meeting in 2025 review if they want to add the MCA process to the district's legislative agenda prior to meeting with legislators in January.

**VIII. Presentation of Plaque to Board Member Al Dahlgren**

Chair Haws presented a plaque for 12 years of service to Board Member Al Dahlgren. The Board members also shared their appreciation of his leadership, integrity, dedication, attention to detail, and service and care for our students and the community over the past 12 years including his work with MSBA, AMSD, and the MSHSL.

**IX. 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 8:23 p.m.

Zach Dorholt, Clerk

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