

**MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
St. Cloud Area School District 742
St. Cloud, Minnesota
April 1, 2026**

A meeting of the Board of Education of St. Cloud Area School District 742 was held on Wednesday, April 1, 2026, at the District Administration Office, 1201 South 2nd Street, Waite Park, Minnesota.

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by Chair Shannon Haws 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 and Work Session agenda.

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

Abdirashid Adow, Tier 4 Long Call Substitute Science Teacher, Apollo High School, effective April 27, 2026 through June 1, 2026, Lane BA, Pay Level 2 (26.5 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$7,179.92.

New Administrative Assignment

Ayan Omar, Executive Director of Engagement, Equity and Strategic Communications, effective July 1, 2026, with an annual salary of \$135,000, for 230 days. Ms. Omar previously served as the Director of Equity Services.

Extended Contracts

Andrew Ray, Science Teacher, Tech High School, effective March 9, 2026 through June 1, 2026, Lane BA+10, Pay Level 7 (.2 FTE of a full-time contract). Mr. Ray's salary for this assignment will be \$3,732.69.

Mathew Bigler, Social Studies Teacher, Tech High School, effective March 9, 2026 through June 1, 2026, Lane MA+10, Pay Level 6 (.20 FTE of a full-time contract). Mr. Bigler's salary for this assignment will be \$4,630.18.

Leave of Absence

Allison Celik, SPED Autism Specialist, South Junior High School, effective March 12, 2026 through August 23, 2026.

Paige Griggs, Kindergarten Teacher, Discovery Community School, effective March 9, 2026 through May 6, 2026.

Sara Bauer-Sand, Pride Program Teacher, North Junior High School, effective March 9, 2026 through May 10, 2026.

Charles Arnzen, Social Studies Teacher, South Junior High School, effective May 18, 2026 through May 29, 2026.

Matthew Richmond, Physical Education Teacher, Oak Hill Community School, effective May 1, 2026 through May 29, 2026.

Brenna Hippman, SPED Social Worker, Quarryview Education Center, effective March 18, 2026 through November 30, 2026.

NON-LICENSED STAFF

New Hire

Samantha Zimmerman, Head Volleyball Coach, Tech High School, effective August 17, 2026, with an annual stipend of \$5,771.

Marie Lemke, Early Childhood Instructional Paraeducator, Lincoln Elementary School, effective March 23, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$18.75.

Salim Abukar, Van Driver, District Services Building, effective March 23, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$17.37.

Alexcya Cox-Payton, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Madison Elementary School, effective March 24, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$18.75.

Sahara Qoriyow, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Westwood Elementary School, effective March 23, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$18.75.

Karl Jacobs, Substitute Custodian, District Wide, effective March 23, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$16.25.

Melina Hunter, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Katherine Johnson Education Center, effective March 23, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$18.75.

Kayla Amundson, Kitchen Helper Float, District Wide, effective March 26, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$16.49.

Abdul Habib, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Oak Hill Community School, effective March 23, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$18.75.

Leave of Absence

Amber Dobberstein, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Apollo High School, effective April 8, 2026 through August 31, 2026.

Breanna Bielefeld, Kitchen Facilitator, Madison Elementary School, effective March 9, 2026 through April 10, 2026.

Brenda Schmidt, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Kennedy Community School, effective March 9, 2026 through May 17, 2026.

Resignation

Darcell Kindred, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Discovery Community School, effective March 13, 2026.

Chelsea Schmitz, Advanced Behavior Instruction Paraeducator, Tech High School, effective February 26, 2026.

Laura Saavedra Daza, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Westwood Elementary School, effective March 27, 2026.

Naima Haji, Bilingual Communications Support Specialist, District Services Building, effective April 1, 2026. Ms. Haji was previously on a leave of absence.

Retirement

Brenda Kippley, Kitchen Helper, Discovery Community School, effective March 30, 2026, after 4 years of service in District 742. Ms. Kippley was previously on a leave of absence.

Approve the Monthly Financial Report for February 2026.

Approve the Monthly Treasurer’s Report for February 2026.

Approve Proposed Revised Board Policy 208 – Development, Adoption, and Implementation of Policies (*Third Reading*).

Approve Resolution Establishing Dates for Filing Affidavits of Candidacy.

Approve Contingent Resolution Relating to Choosing Nominees for Election to the School Board and Calling the School District Primary Election

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

III. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Technology and Information Systems – Future Systems Transitions Update

Katie Herrboldt, Executive Director of Innovation and Technology Services, provided an overview of the upcoming Future Systems Transitions in the district in order to simplify technology and amplify results which will occur during the 2026-2027 school year.

Our purpose and vision in why we are changing is to enhance operational efficiency and data integrity, modernizing user interfaces for staff and families, and reducing redundant environments by streamlining support and reducing confusion. Our goal is to have a more integrated, intuitive, and sustainable tech ecosystem.

Enterprise Resource Planning will migrate from Skyward School Management System to Qmlativ and Student Information System will migrate to Infinite Campus.

The district will move from a dual environment (Google and Microsoft) to a unified Google environment to reduce confusion on where to store files and simply communication channels. It is also a more responsible use of district funds as we will no longer be paying for multiple licenses. We will use Proserva for professional growth in a centralized platform bringing multiple processes under one roof.

IV. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS

A. (ACTION ITEM) – Approval of 2026-2027 Compensatory Revenue Plan

Amy Skaalerud, Executive Director of Finance and Business Services, presented the 2026-2027 Compensatory Revenue Plan.

In accordance with Minnesota Statutes 126C.15, the district may allocate up to 20% of the amount of compensatory revenue that the District receives to school sites based on a plan approved by the School Board. The District is proposing allocating 20% of the compensatory revenue that it receives (excluding compensatory revenue allocated to special education facilities) as shown below.

2026-2027 Building Compensatory Allocation:	\$ 24,270,598
Less Hold Harmless Reserve	\$ (2,000,000)
Adjusted 2026-2027 Building Compensatory Allocation:	\$ 22,270,598
20% Holdback	\$ 4,454,120

There is currently uncertainty around the calculation for compensatory revenue for 2026-27. The current formula would result in an increase of approximately \$4 million for the district, however many districts see large decreases in revenue under the current formula. Bills have been introduced during the legislative session for a hold harmless calculation and since a hold harmless calculation was approved last legislative session, it is likely that one will be approved again which would likely result in a significant decrease in revenue for our district.

To be conservative, we have reduced the amount that will be initially allocated to staffing and included in the budget by \$2 million. If we receive less compensatory revenue than what has been allocated above, we will spend the basic skills fund balance which has a current balance of \$1,699,204. This is slightly less than the amount of increased spending, however we anticipate some increase in revenue even with a hold harmless calculation due to increased enrollment.

The 20% holdback shown above after the \$2 million reduction will fund 43 FTEs. The 2026-27 compensatory revenue plan includes the same funding priorities as the 2025-26 plan.

Moved by Andreasen, seconded by Dorholt to approve the 2026-2027 Compensatory Revenue Plan.

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

B. (DISCUSSION ITEM) – 2026-2027 FTE Projections Based on Enrollments and Registrations

Amy Skaalerud, Executive Director of Finance and Business Services, presented the 2026-2027 FTE Projections based on Enrollments and Registrations.

C. (ACTION ITEM) – Approval of Date for District 742 Retiree Recognition

Tami DeLand, Director of Community Engagement and Communications, presented information about this year's District 742 Retiree Recognition to be held on Wednesday, May 20, 2026, from 5:45 to 6:15 p.m. preceding the board meeting that night.

Moved by Copeland, seconded by Andreasen to approve the date for the District 742 Retiree Recognition on Wednesday, May 20, 2026 at 5:45 p.m.

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

D. (DISCUSSION ITEM) – Communications Update

Tami DeLand, Director of Community Engagement and Communications, provided an overview of communications with District 742. The Communications Team are storytellers of the district and committed to the district's mission, core values, and strategic priorities. They deliver clear and timely information about the business of schools, operate strategically and collaboratively to engage families, staff, and community partners in the important work of our schools, create marketing plans to promote schools and the district, and support communications and engagement of district and school staff.

There are a number of internal and external communication channels which include the district website and social media. We use analytics to evaluate how we are progressing toward our goals, which informs our decision-making moving forward.

E. (DISCUSSION ITEM) – 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.

V. REPORTS

A. Board of Education Standing Committee Reports

1. Zach Dorholt, Chair of the Development, Policy and Governance Committee, noted the committee met on March 25th, 2026, and reviewed updates of several district policies. The committee recommended all three reviewed policies: Policy 599 (In-District Transfer), Policy 533 (Wellness), and Policy 510 (School Activities) for a first reading at the April 1, 2026 board meeting.

VI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Board Chair Haws noted April 15, 2026 Regular Board Meeting topics will include:

- Local Education and Activities Foundation (LEAF) Update
- Summer Projects Update
- Resolution Proposing Named Staff for Non-Renewal
- Approval of Tentative Agreements (if any)
- Remuneration for Board Members (Tabled from January 5, 2026 Reorganization Meeting)
- Assessment Plan Update
- Policy Readings

VII. ADJOURNMENT OF BOARD MEETING

Moved by Andreasen, seconded by Copeland to adjourn the Board meeting. All Board members stated “aye”. The Board meeting concluded at 7:46 p.m.

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

VIII. BOARD OF EDUCATION WORK SESSION

A. Transportation Protocol Update

Shannon Avenson, Executive Director of Community Education and Community Partnerships, and Matthew Boucher, Executive Director of Operations, provided an overview of a shift in our transportation bus stop assignment protocol for the new school year. Each day approximately 9,000 students are transported by District 742 traveling over 1.6 million miles per year on more than one hundred different bus routes. District transportation ensures the arrival and departure of students to and from school each day.

As we are preparing for next year with that data in mind, our department is moving towards a more structured framework for assigning AM and PM bus stops. This is built on three core pillars of safety, predictability, and consistency. Currently our system allows variable schedules which create significant challenges for our drivers, particularly our substitute drivers, with varying and inconsistent schedules which can increase the risk of error; for example, having a student dropped off at the wrong place or missing a bus.

To eliminate the risk, we are moving to a standardized five-day consistency rule, in which most districts in the State of Minnesota have very similar practices. Starting next year, each family will have one designated AM stop and one designated PM stop for Monday through Friday. What is going away is the opportunity to have split AM and PM options. This change will provide consistency, which is healthy and best for everyone involved.

Ms. Avenson noted that with this new protocol, we recognize that some of our families navigate court-ordered split custodial arrangements and to support them we are introducing a new split custody transportation waiver process. Families may apply for a waiver to allow for two different stop locations provided they meet the following criteria. The district must receive a copy of the court-ordered parenting plan, and both addresses must fall within the student’s assigned school attendance boundary. The bus must already travel past the second location as we will not be re-routing buses or adding new stops to accommodate the second location. Even with an approved waiver, the schedule must remain predictable, such as a consistent week on and week off. Currently, we have less than 50 families in the district who will be affected by this change, and their current schedules will need to be adjusted to fit the new safety protocol unless they meet the waiver requirement. To support families through this transition, we will be sending a letter to each of the impacted households within the next week or so to explain how the protocol specifically affects their current routing. We will provide them with the necessary steps to align with the new standards for the upcoming school year, and we will also have an updated version of this information on our website.

B. Proposed Revised Board Policy 533 – Wellness (First Reading)

Sarah Motl, Nutritional Services Supervisor, and Matthew Boucher, Executive Director of Operations, reviewed Proposed Revised Board Policy 533 – Wellness. There were no suggested changes. This proposed revised policy will be on the April 15, 2026 Board of Education Meeting agenda for a second reading.

C. Proposed Revised Board Policy 510 – School Activities (First Reading)

Shannon Avenson, Executive Director of Community Education and Community Partnerships, reviewed Proposed Revised Board Policy 510 – School Activities. There were suggested changes. This proposed revised policy will be on the April 15, 2026 Board of Education Meeting agenda for a second reading.

D. Proposed Revised Board Policy 599 – In-District Transfer Policy (First Reading)

Shannon Avenson, Executive Director of Community Education and Community Partnerships, reviewed Proposed Revised Board Policy 599 – In-District Transfer Policy. There were suggested changes. This proposed revised policy will be on the April 15, 2026 Board of Education Meeting agenda for a second reading.

IX. ADJOURNMENT OF THE WORK SESSION

Moved by Copeland, seconded by Andreasen to adjourn the Work Session at 8:03 p.m. All Board members stated “aye”.

Heather Weems, Clerk

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