

**MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
St. Cloud Area School District 742
St. Cloud, Minnesota
March 18, 2026**

A meeting of the Board of Education of St. Cloud Area School District 742 was held on Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at the District Administration Office, 1201 South 2nd Street, Waite Park, Minnesota.

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Chair Shannon Haws (*following Community Input*) 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 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 Board Meeting minutes from February 4, 2026 and February 18, 2026.

Approve Bills and other Financial Transactions in the grand total amount of \$3,269,422.10.

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

Kylie Starren, Tier 2 Long Call Substitute Speech/Language Pathologist, Madison Elementary School, effective March 16, 2026 through the 2025-2026 school year, Lane BA, Pay Level 2 (55.5 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$14,742.30.

Emily Swanson, Tier 1 Long Call Substitute Social Studies Teacher, Tech High School, effective March 23, 2026 through the 2025-2026 school year, Lane BA, Pay Level 2 (51.5 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$13,679.79.

Rehire

Lynn Johnson, Tier 4 Long Call Substitute Language Arts Teacher, Apollo High School, effective March 9, 2026 through April 10, 2026, Lane MA+40, Pay Level 9 (23 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$10,561.60. Ms. Johnson is returning for this assignment after retirement.

Nimo Warfa, Tier 4 ABE ESL Teacher, Community Ed, effective February 24, 2026 through the 2025-2026 school year, Lane BA, Pay Level 2 (64.5 days of a .70 FTE contract) with a salary of \$11,993.06.

Tanner Armstrong, Tier 1 SPED EBD Teacher, Tech High 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.

Joshua Gable, Tier 2 Long Call Substitute SPED DD Teacher, Oak Hill Community School, effective January 5, 2026 through February 27, 2026, Lane BA, Pay Level 3 (40 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$10,625.08.

Joshua Gable, Tier 2 Long Call Substitute SPED Teacher, Oak Hill Community School, effective March 9, 2026 through March 27, 2026, Lane BA, Pay Level 3 (14 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$3,839.86

Extended Contracts

Ann Lemke, Family and Consumer Science Teacher, Tech High School, effective August 25, 2025 through November 25, 2025, Lane MA, Pay level 5 (.02 FTE of a full-time contract). Ms. Lemke's salary for this assignment will be \$4,667.84.

Tyson Zitzow, SPED Psychologist, District Wide, effective for the 2025-2026 school year, Lane MA+40, Pay Level 11 (.1 FTE of a full-time contract). Mr. Zitzow's salary for this assignment will be \$9,036.20.

Christine Benson, Family & Consumer Science Teacher, Central Minnesota Virtual Academy, effective August 25, 2025 through November 25, 2025, Lane MA+10, Pay Level 7 (.2 FTE of a full-time contract). Ms. Benson's salary for this assignment will be \$5,062.34.

Maria Maleska, Social Worker, District Wide, effective August 25, 2025 through October 27, 2025, Lane MA, Pay Level 2 (.2 FTE of a full-time contract). Ms. Maleska's salary for this assignment will be \$2,765.80.

Curtis Washington, SPED Social Worker, Apollo High School, effective August 25, 2025 through October 27, 2025, Lane BA+10, Pay Level 10 (.2 FTE of a full-time contract). Mr. Washington's salary for this assignment will be \$2,652.98.

Susan Iverson, Family and Consumer Science Teacher, Central Minnesota Virtual Academy, effective March 1, 2026 through June 1, 2026, Lane MA, Pay Level 8 (.2 FTE of a full-time contract). Ms. Iverson's salary for this assignment will be \$4,647.14.

Extended Contract Correction

Samuel Nordby, Counselor, McKinley-ALC, effective January 5, 2026 through February 27, 2026, Lane MA+40, Pay Level 11 (.2 of a full-time contract). Mr. Nordby's salary for this assignment will be \$3,809.85. This is a correction to the February 18, 2026 Board action on the consent agenda where this item was listed with an assignment end date of February 13, 2026 and a salary of \$2,832.97.

Leave of Absence

Maria Greaves, SPED Social Worker, South Junior High School, effective March 9, 2026 through March 19, 2026.

Stephanie Reynolds, Kindergarten Teacher, Westwood Elementary School, effective March 9, 2026 through August 23, 2026.

Hannah Royce, SPED EBD Teacher, South Junior High School, effective May 18, 2026 through November 23, 2026.

Retirement

Lisa Rist, SPED DD Teacher, Talahi Community School, effective June 1, 2026, after 37 years of service in District 742. Ms. Rist was previously on a leave of absence.

Joy Palmquist, Grade 4 Teacher, Oak Hill Community School, effective June 1, 2026, after 31 years of service in District 742.

Rescind Retirement

Kathleen Clingman, Early Childhood Special Education Teacher, Quarryview Education Center, effective June 1, 2026, after 8 years of service in District 742. Rescind Board action from March 11, 2026. Ms. Clingman is rescinding her retirement notice.

NON-LICENSED STAFF

New Hire

Ashley Koltres, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Madison Elementary School, effective March 16, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$18.75.

Latoya Maciazka, Level IV Advanced SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Roosevelt Education Center/Journey, effective March 16, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$20.75.

Megan Willenbring, Swim Coach, Apollo High School, effective March 9, 2026, with an annual stipend of \$2,011.

Zeinab Abdi, Student Support Paraeducator, Talahi Community School, effective March 9, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$16.75.

Masuda Nazari, Student Support Paraeducator, Westwood Elementary School, effective March 9, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$16.75.

Amino Aden, Kitchen Helper, Discovery Community School, effective March 10, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$16.49.

Tracy Zapzalka, Student Support Paraeducator, Westwood Elementary School, effective March 9, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$16.75.

Fatha Hassan, Kitchen Helper, Tech High School, effective March 11, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$16.49.

Darcell Kindred, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Discovery Community School, effective March 12, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$18.75.

Washo Abubaker, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Westwood Elementary School, effective February 26, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$18.75.

Angela Omlid, Substitute Kitchen Helper, District Wide, effective March 17, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$16.49.

Terrence Copeland, Kitchen Helper, Oak Hill Community School, effective February 26, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$16.49.

Chelsea Schmitz, Advanced Behavior Instruction Paraeducator, Tech High School, effective March 9, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$20.75.

Brian Douvier, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, North Junior High School, effective March 9, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$18.75.

Leave of Absence

Sire Traore, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Madison Elementary School, effective April 1, 2026 through September 1, 2026.

Chuya Silva Mendoza, Bilingual Communications Support Specialist, Madison Elementary School, effective May 19, 2026 through November 30, 2026.

Annabel Anderson, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Oak Hill Community School, effective October 13, 2025, extended to March 22, 2026.

Resignation

Grecia Lopez Lockwood, Early Childhood Instructional Paraeducator, Lincoln Elementary School, effective March 13, 2026.

Felicia Erickson, Second Cook, Westwood Elementary School, effective March 31, 2026.

Evan Vos, Clerical Class II (12-Month), District Administration Office, effective March 13, 2026.

Annabel Anderson, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Oak Hill Community School, effective March 19, 2026. Ms. Anderson was previously on a leave of absence.

Mohamed Ali, Van Driver, District Services Building, effective February 27, 2026.

Stephanie Lopez Rodriguez, Kitchen Helper, Kennedy Community School, effective February 27, 2026.

Washo Abubaker, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Westwood Elementary School, effective February 26, 2026.

Ashley Woods, Human Resources Supervisor, District Administration Office, effective March 6, 2026.

Sarah Klinefelter, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Oak Hill Community School, effective March 20, 2026.

Retirement

Marsha Bible, Clerical Class I (10-Month), Apollo High School, effective June 5, 2026, after 3 years of service in District 742.

Termination

Jishari Tureaud, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, South Junior High School, effective March 10, 2026.

Kate Legg, Level 4 Advanced SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Roosevelt Education Center, effective February 27, 2026.

Melanie Robinson, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Oak Hill Community School, effective March 10, 2026.

Approve acceptance of the following grant awards and donations:

1. Donation to Katherine Johnson Education Center:
 - \$1,205 from the Granite City Lumberjacks for students needs
2. Donation to Tech High School:
 - \$3,000 from Clearwater Lions Club on behalf of the Clearwater Lions Scholarship
3. Donation to District 742:
 - \$500 from St. Cloud VFW for the Crush Wrestling Program

Approve entering into a contract with Fisher Tracks under the Cooperative Purchasing Connection Contract for the South Track Resurfacing project in the amount of \$259,391.

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

III. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Apollo Building Project Update

David Leapaldt and Whitney Loughheed with JLG Architects, along with Apollo High School Principal Justin Skaalerud, provided an update on the Apollo Building Project additions and remodeling. We continue to complete construction documents for the remainder of the building with no major scope changes being identified. Construction phasing is a continuous two-year process with multiple phases through the school year required to complete the work. Certain spaces can only be completed during summer months, while others can be completed during the school year. Coordination with the design team and construction manager to complete the work in the allotted timeline of August 2026 to August 2028. There will also be coordination with school administration to not disrupt student learning and maintain safety and security.

Principal Skaalerud noted that the goal behind this building project always remains in context with Future Ready Learning. Our Instructional Vision:

- Student-Centered Learning – Focusing on individual student strengths, needs, and interests with an emphasis on rigorous academics learned through flexible time and space opportunities.
- Future-Ready Learners – Preparing students with the knowledge, skills, and character needed for a complex, ever-changing world.

- Authentic Assessment – Shifting towards competency-based and performance-based evaluations to measure progress and academic outcomes.

B. Immersion Program Update

Anna Willhite, Director of E-12 Education and Kathryn Simacek, K-5 Curriculum, Instruction and Immersion Lead, provided a review of Immersion programming in the district. Language immersion is an instructional model where students learn grade-level academic content in a target language (Spanish or Mandarin Chinese) developing bilingualism and biliteracy. English literacy develops alongside the partner language using an 80/20 model in elementary.

The district’s Immersion pathways include:

- Spanish Immersion: South side (Clearview, South and Tech)
- Spanish Immersion: North side (Westwood and Kennedy)
- Chinese Immersion: District Wide (Madison, North and Apollo)

Information provided included proven benefits, enrollment numbers, and Northside Spanish Immersion program transition. This year, we collaborated with Minnetonka Public Schools to strengthen our Chinese Immersion program with site visits, professional exchanges, and networking with immersion leaders. We also established communication with potential sister schools in China, laying the groundwork for future cultural exchange opportunities.

We focused on refining literacy and assessment systems and measuring language proficiency and strengthened our programs through intern partnerships with Amity Institute and St. Cloud State University. This year we also engaged parents in an advisory committee to provide an opportunity to share input about key immersion issues. Topics included strengthening enrollment, reviewing systems, and improving program advertising.

Internal collaboration improvements include establishing monthly immersion team meetings, cross-school alignment conversations, and a goal of increased strategic planning. Key strategic initiatives for 2026-2027 include: (1) curriculum review, (2) sister school development, (3) biliteracy professional development, (4) continue with J-1 interns from SCSU, and (5) enrollment monitoring.

IV. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS

A. (DISCUSSION ITEM) – Appoint Board Members to Award Diplomas at Apollo and Tech Commencements

Chair Shannon Haws announced the Apollo and Tech High School Commencements will be on Saturday, May 30, 2026, at the Rivers Edge Convention Center. Board members Scott Andreasen and Zach Dorholt will cover Apollo, and Heather Weems

and Gina Acevedo will cover Tech. Other Board members will be a backup as needed.

B. (DISCUSSION ITEM) – Graduation Plans Update

Dr. Jason Harris, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education, provided an update on graduation as our families are getting notices and students are checking their credits and requirements. We have a few changes regarding the graduation ceremony this year including (1) additional St. Cloud Police officers inside the venue for safety and logistics management, (2) please plan to arrive early as parking can take thirty minutes or longer, (3) doors will close 5 minutes after the ceremony begins with an alternative viewing area for late arrivals, and (4) we will have a bag policy with clear plastic bags only (5“ x 9”) with exception of diaper or medical bags, subject to search, which is similar to going to a big event that has the same requirements. We appreciate everyone’s cooperation to ensure a safe and memorable ceremony for our graduates and their families and friends. We will be sharing more details at a May board meeting which will include our secondary principals.

C. (DISCUSSION ITEM) - Proposed Revised Board Policy 208 – Development, Adoption, and Implementation of Policies (Second Reading)

Shannon Avenson, Executive Director of Community Education and Community Partnerships, reviewed Proposed Revised Board Policy 208 - Development, Adoption, and Implementation of Policies. There were no suggested changes. This policy will be on the consent agenda at the April 1, 2026 Board of Education Meeting for a third and final reading with a request for approval.

V. **REPORTS**

A. Board of Education Standing Committee Reports

1. Diana Fenton, Chair of the Achievement, Integration and Equity Committee, noted the committee met today and reviewed (1) Immersion Program Update and (2) Draft of the yearly NAPAC Board response letter coming forward at a future Board meeting.

VI. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Chair Haws noted the April 1, 2026 Board Meeting/Work Session topics will include:

- Technology and Information Systems – Future Systems Transitions Update
- Approval of 2026-2027 Compensatory Revenue Plan
- 2026-2027 FTE Projections Based on Enrollments and Registrations
- Approval of Tentative Agreements (if any)
- NAPAC Board Response Letter
- Communications Update

- Policy Readings

VII. ADJOURNMENT OF BOARD MEETING

Moved by Copeland, seconded by Weems to adjourn the Board Meeting at 7:42 p.m. All Board members stated “aye”.

Heather Weems, Clerk

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