

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
St. Cloud Area School District 742
St. Cloud, Minnesota
April 15, 2026

A meeting of the Board of Education of St. Cloud Area School District 742 was held on Wednesday, April 15, 2026 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: Gina Acevedo, Natalie Copeland (Ringsmuth), Zach Dorholt, Diana Fenton, Shannon Haws, Heather Weems. Absent: Scott Andreasen

I. APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Moved by Fenton, seconded by Copeland to approve the Board Meeting agenda.

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

II. CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Board member Copeland to remove Item D - Acceptance of Grant Awards and Donations from the Consent Agenda and she will recuse herself from the vote.

Moved by Fenton, seconded by Copeland to approve Consent Agenda Items A-C and E-F:

Approve Board Meeting minutes from March 11, 2026 and March 18, 2026.

Approve Bills and other Financial Transactions in the grand total amount of \$3,376,298.56.

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

Brianna Perez-Cervantes, Tier 1 Grade 2 Spanish Immersion Teacher, Clearview Elementary School, effective for the 2025-2026 school year, Lane BA, Pay Level 2 (160 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$42,500.32.

Lincoln Benson, Tier 3 Long Call Substitute Physical Education Teacher, Tech High School, effective April 20, 2026 through May 29, 2026, Lane BA, Pay Level 2 (31 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$8,399.16.

Kima Booker, Tier 1 Long Call Substitute SPED Teacher, Talahi Community School, effective April 9, 2026 through May 29, 2026, Lane BA, Pay Level 2 (38 days of a .6 FTE contract) with a salary of \$6,177.44.

Rehire

Richard Bartos, Tier 2 SPED EBD Teacher, North Junior High School, effective for the 2025-2026 school year, Lane MA, Pay Level 3 (185 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$61,807.

Moises Perez Alfaro, Tier 2 Grade 1 Spanish Immersion Teacher, Clearview Elementary School, effective for the 2025-2026 school year, Lane MA, Pay Level 2 (185 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$59,497.

Krisi Lain, Tier 4 Long Call Substitute Social Worker, Quarryview Education Center, effective April 9, 2026 through June 1, 2026, Lane MA+20, Pay Level 9 (38.5 days of a full-time contract) with a salary of \$13,243.50. Ms. Lain is returning for this assignment after retirement.

Extended Contracts

Sara Lien, SPED Early Childhood Teacher, Quarryview Education Center, effective March 18, 2026 through June 1, 2026, Lane MA+10, Pay Level 7 (.2 FTE of a full-time contract). Ms. Lien's salary for this assignment will be \$4,166.69.

Aimee Baumann, Occupational Therapist, Quarryview Education Center, effective March 18, 2025 through June 1, 2026, Lane MA+40, Pay Level 10 (.2 FTE of a full-time contract). Ms. Baumann's salary for this assignment will be \$5,069.94.

Kali Walton, SPED Early Childhood Teacher, Quarryview Education Center, effective March 18, 2026 through June 1, 2026, Lane BA, Pay Level 2 (.2 FTE of a full-time contract). Ms. Walton's salary for this assignment will be \$2,842.20.

Kristen Ernster, SPED Early Childhood Teacher, Quarryview Education Center, effective March 18, 2026 through June 1, 2026, Lane BA, Pay Level 11 (.2 FTE of a full-time contract). Ms. Ernster's salary for this assignment will be \$3,164.88.

Kathleen Clingman, SPED Early Childhood Teacher, Quarryview Education Center, effective March 18, 2026 through June 1, 2026, Lane BA+40, Pay Level 8 (.2 FTE of a full-time contract). Ms. Clingman's salary for this assignment will be \$3,975.88.

Leave of Absence

Robert Balfany, Science Teacher, South Junior High School, effective March 25, 2026, extended through April 21, 2026.

Jeremy Romness, SPED Early Childhood Teacher, Quarryview Education Center, effective March 30, 2026 through April 10, 2026.

Autumn Heitzman, Social Studies Teacher, South Junior High School, effective April 6, 2026 through August 23, 2026.

Resignation

Kaia Swenson, SPED Early Childhood Teacher, Quarryview Education Center, effective June 1, 2026. Ms. Swenson was previously on a leave of absence.

Joanna Rogness, Mathematics Teacher and Assistant Volleyball Coach, Tech High School, effective June 1, 2026.

Brianna Perez-Cervantes, Grade 2 Spanish Immersion Teacher, Clearview Elementary School, effective June 1, 2026.

Anne Dummer, Grade 2 Teacher, Discovery Community School, effective June 1, 2026.

Alexis Shoberg, Mathematics Teacher, North Junior High School, effective June 1, 2026.

Zamzam Abukar, Grade 1 Teacher, Talahi Community School, effective June 1, 2026. Ms. Abukar was previously on a leave of absence.

Warda Mahmoud, Grade 1 Teacher, Talahi Community School, effective June 1, 2026. Ms. Mahmoud was previously on a leave of absence.

Abigail Peichel, Grade 2 Teacher, Talahi Community School, effective June 1, 2026.

Kristina Klatt, SPED Developmental Disability Teacher, Discovery Community School, effective June 1, 2026.

Abdirashid Saney, Assistant Principal, Tech High School, effective June 30, 2026.

Melissa Jongeward, Elementary Grade Level Lead, (Westwood Elementary School, Discovery Community School, and Katherine Johnson Education Center), effective June 1, 2026.

Alana Achterkirch, Physical Education Teacher, Lincoln Elementary School, effective June 1, 2026.

Noorayn Muhumed, EL Teacher, Talahi Community School, effective June 3, 2021. Ms. Muhumed was previously on a leave of absence.

Sofia Villalobos, SPED Speech/Language Pathologist, Quarryview Education Center, effective June 1, 2026.

Retirement

Marlene Miller, Media Specialist, Clearview Elementary School and Lincoln Elementary School, effective June 3, 2026, after 11 years of service in District 742.

NON-LICENSED STAFF

New Hire

Najma Osman, Level 4 Advanced SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Roosevelt Education Center/Journey, effective March 26, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$20.75.

Kenya Morrow, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Oak Hill Community School, effective March 26, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$18.75.

Rehire

Washo Abubaker, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, South Junior High School, effective April 8, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$18.75.

Reassignment

Andrew Abrego, Second Cook, Westwood Elementary School, effective April 13, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$20.31.

Leave of Absence

Vicki Simon, Kitchen Helper, Kennedy Community School, effective March 23, 2026 through May 17, 2026.

Maria Acevedo, Spanish Family Advocate, Talahi Community School, effective March 13, 2026, through May 3, 2026.

Resignation

Tanya Williamson, Clerical Class III (12-Month), North Junior High School, effective April 6, 2026.

Brian Douvier, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, North Junior High School, effective March 30, 2026.

Sarah Kvas, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Clara's House, effective May 29, 2026.

Sarah Ware, College and Career Readiness Coordinator, District Administrative Office, effective June 4, 2026.

Madina Ibrahim, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Apollo High School, effective March 19, 2026.

Jupree Rogers, Level 4 Advanced SPED Instructional Paraeducator, InStep, effective May 1, 2026.

Misra Jama, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Discovery Community School, effective January 29, 2026.

Latoya Maciazka, Level IV Advanced SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Roosevelt Education Center, effective March 19, 2026.

Retirement

Pamela Hansen, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Apollo High School, effective May 29, 2026, after 4 years of service in District 742. Ms. Hansen was previously on a leave of absence.

Sydney Kelley, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, SCSU C02 Program, effective May 29, 2026, after 19 years of service in District 742.

Termination

Kevin Moko, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Clearview Elementary School, effective March 30, 2026.

Toya Williams, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Talahi Community School, effective March 27, 2026.

Rebecca Owens, Behavior Instruction Paraeducator, South Junior High School, effective March 23, 2026.

Approve Quarterly Expenditures for Board Members from January 1, 2026 through March 31, 2026.

Authorize a Call for Bids for the Apollo Renovations and Additions Bid Package 2 to be opened on Tuesday, May 12, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. Central Time.

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

Moved by Dorholt, seconded Weems to approve Consent Agenda Item D (Acceptance of Grant Awards and Donations).

Board member Copeland recused herself from this agenda item.

Approve acceptance of the following grant awards and donations:

1. Donations to Apollo High School:
 - \$500 from Jenny Tran on behalf of the Mozzarella Foundation Scholarship
 - \$50 from Wagner Properties St. Cloud LLC for Crush Softball
 - \$500 from Rotaract Club of St. Cloud on behalf of the 2026 St. Cloud Rotaract Leadership Scholarship
 - \$1,000 from Veterans of Foreign Wars East Side Post 4847 for Students in the Business-Finance Class for Travel Expenses to London
 - \$420 from Wayne and Juli Schluchter for Activities Concessions
 - \$500 from MM Basketball Training on behalf of MM Basketball Training Ryan Hollins Memorial Scholarship
 - \$10,000 from Minnesota Vikings Football LLC for the Girls’ Flag Football Program
2. Donation to Katherine Johnson Education Center:
 - \$1,098 from PAL Enterprises LLC for the InStep Plant Fund
3. Donation to McKinley-ALC:
 - \$300 from District 742 LEAF for student books for the Language Arts department
4. Donations to North Junior High School:
 - \$250 from Nonprofit Banking Solutions Stearns Bank for VEX Robotics Conference
 - \$1,000 from Nonprofit Banking Solutions Stearns Bank for Northside Robotics Booster Club
5. Donations to South Junior High School:
 - \$1,000 from Central MN Noon Optimist Club for a 3D Printer for Tech Ed Class
 - \$450 from District 742 LEAF for WEB Crew
 - \$3,000 from District 742 LEAF for new football uniforms
 - \$1,369.75 from District 742 LEAF to purchase uniforms for sports teams

6. Donation to Talahi Community School:
 - \$500 from St. Cloud Lions Inc. for student yearbooks

7. Donations to Tech High School:
 - \$75 from Shanti Yoga Center for Theater Program Ad
 - \$240 from Joseph and Kimberly Pack for the Theater Program
 - \$1,000 from Courtney Paulson on behalf of the Paulson Family Knowledge Bowl Scholarship
 - \$1,500 from Kopp Family Foundation on behalf of the Kopp Family Foundation Scholarship
 - \$2,500 from J.A. Wedum Foundation for an additional coach/mentor for the Speech Team

8. Donation to District 742:
 - Scrapbooking supplies and Cricut machine from Sarah Frank for Project Challenge

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

III. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Local Education and Activities Foundation (LEAF) Update

Charlie Eisenreich, 2026 LEAF President, provided an overview of the 2025 Annual Report. LEAF is the educational foundation for District 742, raising funds through donations and grants to increase student access to vital opportunities in academics, activities, arts, and athletics. Our dedicated LEAF board members bring diverse expertise and passionate commitment to advancing educational opportunities in District 742. Our vision for the future demonstrates our commitment to helping students in District 742 have access to enriching experiences that spark curiosity, build confidence, and unlock potential.

Highlights include:

- No Middle School Activity Fees in 2025-2027!
- LEAF financial impact of \$2.8 million with academic and activities legacy funds.
- 2025 grants totaled \$283,625 which directly supports District 742.
- 2025 financial revenue comes from events, public support, and investments totaling \$749,409.68.
- 2025 expenses include program services, fundraising, and management and general totaling \$431,314.21.
- Grants provided after school activities support, academics classroom support, Adopt a Classroom, PAKRAT/PACKAT, language immersion, homeless student services, scholarships, Music Matters, activities participation, and feeding 742 kids.

LEAF seeks to grow our impact to reach more students with life-changing programs, innovate and adapt to respond to emerging student needs with agility, and deepen community ties by building lasting relationships with supporters and donors.

IV. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS

A. (ACTION ITEM) – Resolution Proposing Named Staff for Non-Renewal

Tracy Flynn Bowe, Executive Director of Human Resources and General Counsel, presented a list of 14 named probationary teachers to the Board members.

Board Member Copeland and Chair of the Personnel Committee, introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE TERMINATION AND NON-RENEWAL OF THE TEACHING CONTRACT OF NAMED PROBATIONARY TEACHER

WHEREAS, **Wayne Guzy, Katherine McGill, Jeremy Karnik, Madison Kessel, Samantha Froelich, Peter Smorynski, Kelly Meyer, Robert Balfany, Cody O'Neil, Ariana Schurman, Nichole Albert, Kay Guelfi, Sarah Erickson, David Wilke**, are probationary teachers employed by Independent School District No. 742.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 742, that the probationary teaching contract of Named Probationary Teachers are hereby terminated effective at the close of the 2025-2026 school year pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 122A.40, subd. 5.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that written notice be sent to the teachers regarding the termination and non-renewal of his or her probationary teaching contract as provided by law, and that said notice shall be in substantially the following form:

NOTICE OF TERMINATION AND NON-RENEWAL

Dear Named Probationary Teacher:

It is with great regret that we find it necessary to inform you that at a meeting of the School Board of Independent School District No. 742 held on April 15, 2026, a resolution was adopted by a majority roll call vote of the School Board to terminate your contract pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 122A.40, Subd.5, effective at the end of the current school year and to not renew your contract for the 2026-2027 school year.

You may officially request that the school board give its reasons for the non-renewal of your teaching contract.

Yours very truly,

Clerk of the School Board

SCHOOL BOARD OF
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 742

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was moved by Copeland, duly seconded by Fenton, and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Copeland, Dorholt, Acevedo, Fenton, Haws, Weems; and the following voted against the same: None. The following members were absent: Andreason.

Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

B. (ACTION ITEM) – Review and Approval of Tentative Contract Agreements

Tracy Flynn Bowe, Executive Director of Human Resources and General Counsel, reviewed the details of the following tentative agreements.

1. Clerical Unit of School District 742 for 2025-2027. The total two-year cost is 7.58%, which is within the budgeting parameters established by the School Board for settlement with this employee group.

Moved by Fenton, seconded by Weems to approve the agreement between the Clerical Unit and St. Cloud Area School District 742 for 2025-2027.

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

2. Ms. Flynn Bowe also noted that our newest organized bargaining unit, the St. Cloud Educational Support Professionals, which is a small group of mental health professionals and chemical dependency counselors, will be coming to complete our contract negotiations.

C. (ACTION ITEM) – Remuneration for Board Members (Tabled from January 5, 2026 Reorganization Meeting)

Moved by Copeland, seconded by Fenton to increase the 2026 monthly compensation which is the average amount of the increases for all bargaining groups by 2.45%.

The monthly compensation shall be \$903.59 for the Board of Education Chair and \$786.26 for all other members of the Board of Education.

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

D. (DISCUSSION ITEM) – Assessment Plan Update

Donna Roper, Director of Research, Assessments, and AI Integration, presented the Districtwide Biennial Assessment Plan Update for PK-12 by outlining proposed changes to the district’s assessment system for the 2026-2027 school year.

This biennial review focuses on three guiding principles: maintaining alignment with the Minnesota READ Act and all state requirements; reducing redundant assessments that do not directly inform classroom instruction; and preserving tools that help identify students who may need additional reading, math, or language support.

E. (DISCUSSION ITEM) - Proposed Revised Board Policy 533 – Wellness (Second Reading)

Matthew Boucher, Executive Director of Operations, reviewed Proposed Revised Board Policy 533 – Wellness. There were no suggested changes. This policy will be on the consent agenda at the May 6, 2026 Board of Education Meeting for a third and final reading with a request for approval.

F. (DISCUSSION ITEM) - Proposed Revised Board Policy 510 – School Activities (Second Reading)

Nikki Hansen, Assistant Superintendent of E-5 Learning, reviewed Proposed Revised Board Policy 510 – School Activities. There were no suggested changes. This policy will be on the consent agenda at the May 6, 2026 Board of Education Meeting for a third and final reading with a request for approval.

G. (DISCUSSION ITEM) - Proposed Revised Board Policy 599 – In-District Transfer Policy (Second Reading)

Nikki Hansen, Assistant Superintendent of E-5 Learning, reviewed Proposed Revised Board Policy 599 – In-District Transfer Policy. There were no suggested changes. This policy will be on the consent agenda at the May 6, 2026 Board of Education Meeting for a third and final reading with a request for approval.

V. **REPORTS**

A. Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Laurie Putnam provided an update on the situation at Westwood on March 31, 2026.

Westwood Community Support

In the wake of the recent fire at Westwood Elementary School, our local partners moved with incredible speed to ensure our students remained safe, engaged, and supported. While our educators transitioned to remote learning, the community stepped in to bridge the gap for childcare, nutrition, and physical activity.

Immediate Crisis Response & Reunification

The moments following the incident required a high level of coordination and emotional support. We would like to extend a sincere thank you to **District Administration Office (DAO) staff, Community ED staff, Apollo High School counselors, Westwood staff, District staff, True's Pizza**, along with **St. Cloud Fire Department** and **St. Cloud Police Department**. Their immediate response to **Westwood Community Church** right after the fire was vital in facilitating a smooth and supportive parent-student reunification process during a chaotic time.

Learning Access and Academic Continuity Initial Response and E-Learning

During the first two days of the closure (Wednesday, April 1 and Thursday, April 2), students maintained academic momentum through E-Learning Choice Boards. These boards, prepared in advance for school closures (initially intended for winter weather-related events), allowed students to engage in curriculum-aligned activities independently from home.

Follow up Response

Following the initial e-learning period, we transitioned to daily instructional support from April 8–10. Monday and Tuesday (April 6 and 7) were used for planning and materials distribution. Learning access was provided through both digital opportunities and physical materials to extend learning.

Digital Learning

- **Asynchronous Lessons:** Daily video-recorded lessons were shared via mobile-friendly links, ensuring families could access instruction from any device.
- **Consistency:** New lesson links were sent each morning to provide ongoing, predictable access to instruction.

Engagement with the digital learning opportunities was very high, with some of the video lessons receiving over 100 views.

Physical Resource Distribution

To bridge the digital divide and support hands-on learning, physical materials were made available for pickup at the **District Welcome Center** and Westwood Community Church. Materials were also distributed to the **Boys & Girls Club** to reach additional students. These resources included activity packets, supplemental books, and hands-on learning supplies.

Community engagement with these materials was strong:

- 40 families accessed resources at the District Welcome Center
- 3 families accessed resources at Westwood Community Church

Emergency Childcare and Learning Access

The **Roosevelt Boys & Girls Club** served as a critical anchor for our working families, providing free, emergency childcare for **94 Westwood students**. We were able to send some of our support staff to the Boys & Girls Club to support this work. To ensure academic continuity at these sites, the district provided the Club with extended learning activities to support students throughout the day.

Student Enrichment and Wellness

The **Great River Children's Museum (GRCM)** provided an extraordinary experience for our students, offering joy through hands-on interactive exhibits that encouraged creative problem-solving.

- **Participation:** GRCM welcomed **132 Westwood students** over three days. Additionally, **84 Westwood families** were granted free access, and **34 staff members** served as chaperones.
- **Continued Support:** We are lining up a free field trip for **Westwood Pre-K students** (morning and afternoon programs) on **Thursday, May 21st**.
- **Facilitation:** Activity support was provided by **Kristine Hollingsworth** and dedicated GRCM staff.
- **Museum**
- "It was fun! Playing outside and playing with the water was awesome!" - 1st Grader
- "The boat racing with the water part was a lot of fun." - 5th Grader
- "I liked the climbing and cloud area because I really like climbing." - 4th Grader

Nutrition and Resource Logistics

Food security remained a top priority. In addition to breakfasts provided by our nutritional services department, lunches for the museum trips were made possible through the generosity of **The Park Event Center, Jet's Pizza, Custom Catering, and Costco**.

Supplies for student activities were provided by **SCRAPS (St. Cloud Recycled Art Project Shop)**, managed by Jennifer Pentzkover) and various private donors. **Westwood Community Church** also served as a satellite distribution point for food boxes, supported by **Trobecs** and the **Initiative Foundation**.

The **St. Cloud Area YMCA** generously opened its doors to our community, providing free access to open swim and open gym basketball. This provided a much-needed physical outlet and a sense of normalcy for our students; we are thrilled to report that **166 families** took advantage of this opportunity to stay active and connected during the transition.

Community Volunteerism & Financial Backing

The success of these programs relied heavily on local hands and hearts:

- Volunteer Support: Special thanks to Gina Acevedo, Diana Maetzold, Glen Palm, Becky Coborn, Clara Court, Susan Farag, and Greg Reigstad.
- **The St. Cloud Rotary:** The Rotary has put forward a **\$1,000 challenge match** to spur further community donations.

Closing Appreciation

The resilience of the Westwood community has been bolstered by the overwhelming generosity of our partners. Because of their immediate intervention, we were able to serve hundreds of individuals, ensuring that the physical and emotional needs of our students were met while we navigated the logistics of the fire recovery.

B. 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) recently published 2025 graduation rate data and (2) the Assessment Plan update on tonight's agenda.
2. Heather Weems, Chair of the Board Finance Committee, noted the committee met on April 6, 2026, and discussed (1) Board Finance Committee's community member, and (2) cashless ticketing for events.
3. Natalie Copeland, Chair of the Personnel and Negotiations Committee, noted the committee met on April 14, 2026, and discussed (1) option for up to five days of extended pay for Principal Justin Skaalerud for 25-26, 26-27, and 27-28 school years to support his leadership of the Apollo renovations and APEX construction project, (2) licensed staff non-renewal process and recommendations, (3) upcoming administrative hires for Assistant Principals and Coordinator positions, and (4) Superintendent Putnam's evaluation survey results.

VI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Haws noted May 6, 2026 Board Meeting/Work Session topics will include:

- Community Partnership Update
- Summer Projects Update
- Approval of Tentative Agreements (if any)
- Policy Readings
- Schools Update

VII. ADJOURNMENT OF BOARD MEETING

Moved by Weems, seconded by Copeland to adjourn the Board Meeting at 7:22 p.m. All Board members stated "aye".

Heather Weems, Clerk

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