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## St. Cloud Area School Board Chooses New Superintendent

2021 Superintendent Search Public Report  
District 742 - St. Cloud Area School District

The St. Cloud Area School District has been honored to have Willie Jett as our Superintendent for the last eight school years. Year after year, Superintendent Jett has proved himself as an invaluable asset to our students, families, employees, and our community at large. With the news of Superintendent Jett not seeking another contract, we see clear evidence that he has set District 742 up for success, even though he will not be at the helm next school year.

At a meeting this morning, Board members voted unanimously to select Dr. Laurie Putnam as the next Superintendent, and she readily accepted the position, pending contract negotiations. The Board of Education works closely with all members of the Superintendent's cabinet, so we know their skill sets and have seen their leadership in action. Dr. Putnam has proved herself to be a leader of integrity, strength, and vision during her time in our district at South Jr. High, Kennedy Community School, and district-wide as Assistant Superintendent. Our community, staff, and students have had the opportunity to see her calmly and courageously lead through unprecedented times and plan for the future as the leader for the District Strategic Plan. We know that she is well-prepared to lead our ever-changing district as a voice of reason who deeply understands our district's unique strengths and opportunities.

"Dr. Putnam has experience at all levels; she has courage to make hard decisions and understands the issues. Most importantly, she knows the community, has a good administrative team in place, knows where we have been, where we are now and where we need to go. Dr. Putnam is a rising star that is a great educational leader now and will prove to be an even more exceptional leader in the future," said Dr. Leslie R. Green, 742 Board Member and Personnel Committee Chair.

The Board looks forward to working with both Superintendent Jett and Dr. Putnam to ensure a smooth transition of leadership which will maintain the direction of our district to engage, inspire, educate, prepare, and empower all learners to be successful in today's and tomorrow's society. #742Together

Shannon Haws, Board Chair



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## About St. Cloud Area School District 742

The mission of the St. Cloud Area School District is to create a safe and caring climate and culture in which we prepare, engage, educate, empower and inspire all learners in partnership with their community to be successful in today's and tomorrow's society. Our caring and committed staff members deliver learning for a lifetime to a diverse population of students in nine St. Cloud area communities. District 742 is the largest school district in Central Minnesota, proudly sharing the gift of education with over 10,000 students each school day.

Located 70 miles northwest of Minneapolis-St. Paul, we bring the world's ideas into every schoolroom. Our licensed staff, nearly 70 percent of whom have advanced degrees, teach challenging classes that use the latest technology as well as tried-and-true instructional methods. District 742 has eight elementary schools, three middle level schools (6-8), two high schools (9-12), three alternative learning schools, an early childhood center and a community education center. The high schools offer an array of AP courses and other opportunities to prepare students for post-secondary education. Students are encouraged to participate in their choice of athletic, scholarly and fine arts activities.

