Association of Metropolitan School Districts

2 Pine Tree Drive, Suite 380, Arden Hills, MN 55112 • 612-430-7750 • www.amsd.org

Legislative Committee Meeting
Friday, October 31, 2025, 7:30 – 9 a.m.
Hybrid meeting – In person and via Zoom

Members Present:	Sally Browne	Colin Cox	Jim DeMay
	Marcy Doud	Jeff Holmberg	Wendy Lundsgaard
	Julie Nielsen	Laura Oksnevad	Kent Pekel
	Alison Sherman	Scott Thielman	Michael Thomas
	Kita Yang		
Staff Present:	Scott Croonquist	Kimberly Jansa	Troy Melhus
Guests Present:	Kris Amundson	Josh Downham	Jim Grathwol

I. Approval of Minutes of September 26 Meeting

AMSD Chair Jim DeMay called the meeting to order at 7:37 a.m. DeMay asked members to review the minutes from the September 26 meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved.

II. Executive Director's Report

Chair DeMay invited Executive Director Scott Croonquist to share his report. Croonquist asked committee members to review the draft 2026-2027 AMSD meeting calendar and to let us know if there are any significant conflicts. Croonquist reported that he had received a request to compile a list of AMSD districts with an active legislative action committee (LAC). A survey was distributed to the superintendents to gather the information and a list of member districts with a LAC is included in the meeting materials. Croonquist requested any updates to the list be sent to him.

Croonquist reminded committee members that our annual conference is coming up on November 11, and registration closes on Monday, November 3. He asked committee members to encourage staff and board members in their district to register and attend.

Croonquist noted that there are 15 AMSD member districts with 21 questions on the November 4 ballot. He wished good luck to all. Croonquist noted there will also be 2 Senate special elections that day that will determine control of the Senate.

Croonquist reported that Gov. Walz and legislative leaders have not been able to agree on an agenda and it appears a special session is very unlikely at this point.

Croonquist shared an update on some of the working groups/task forces that are currently meeting.

III. Review and Discussion of Draft Legislative Platform

Executive Director Croonquist invited committee members to review the draft legislative platform. This was developed after the discussion of the outline at last month's meeting. Committee members provided additional feedback and suggestions. An updated version of the platform will be brought to next month's meeting for approval.

IV. Discussion of Proposed Mandatory Statewide Health Insurance Pool

Croonquist reported that a bill (HF2904) was introduced last session that would create a mandatory statewide health insurance pool for all school employees. AMSD has historically opposed this legislation, but it has not been discussed at the Capitol in recent years. Croonquist asked members to discuss the proposal with their colleagues in their district to determine if our position has changed. Several members indicated that they remain very opposed to the proposal. Members will gather feedback, and we will review this proposal again at an upcoming meeting.

V. Review and Approval of Updates to Standing Position Papers

Executive Director Croonquist noted that the papers for review today are the positions on Charter Schools, School and Student Safety, Taxpayer Subsidies for Nonpublic K-12 Education, Mandate Reduction and Local Control, Special Education, State Accountability Assessments, Compensatory Revenue and English Learner Funding.

The papers on Charter Schools, School and Student Safety, Taxpayer Subsidies for Nonpublic K-12 Education, Mandate Reduction and Local Control and Special Education were reviewed last month and have been edited to reflect the feedback at that meeting and are being brought forward for approval. The committee decided to amend the position statement at the top of the paper on School and Student Safety.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the updated position papers on Charter Schools, School and Student Safety (as amended), Taxpayer Subsidies for Nonpublic K-12 Education, Mandate Reduction and Local Control and Special Education. The position papers were approved. These papers will be brought to the October Board of Directors meeting for final approval.

The papers on State Accountability Assessments, Compensatory Revenue and English Learner Funding will be held over for review next month.

VI. Adjournment

Executive Director Croonquist shared that Rep. Nathan Coulter and Rep. Andrew Myers will be joining us at the November Board of Directors meeting to provide an overview of the 2026 session and share tips on advocacy. He encouraged committee members to invite local LAC members or other interested colleagues to attend the meeting. There being no other business, Chair DeMay adjourned the meeting at 9:05 a.m.