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, July 31, 2026, 7:30 – 9 a.m.
Hybrid meeting – In person and via Zoom

Members Present:	Sally Browne	Colin Cox	Jim DeMay
	Marcy Doud	Sue Linser (alt.)	Wendy Lundsgaard
	Julie Nielsen	Cassandra Palmer	Kent Pekel
	Alison Sherman	Scott Thielman	Michael Thomas
	Kita Yang		
Staff Present:	Scott Croonquist	Kimberly Jansa	Troy Melhus
Guests Present:	Kris Amundson	Josh Downham	Lori Grivna

I. Approval of Minutes of June 12 Meeting

AMSD Chair Alison Sherman called the meeting to order at 7:38 a.m. Sherman asked members to review the minutes from the June 12 meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved.

II. Executive Director's Report

Chair Sherman invited Executive Director Scott Croonquist to share his report. Croonquist noted that we are deep into campaign season with the primary election coming up on August 11. Croonquist also noted that school board filings have now closed. Croonquist reported that there is a possibility of a special session that would begin on August 12. The main agenda items would be to extend the peacetime emergency to authorize the National Guard to assist with battling the fires in Northeastern Minnesota. Croonquist shared that the Department of Revenue is going to host a series of discussions on property taxes with the initial meeting scheduled for August 13. More information will be shared as it becomes available.

Supt. Mary Doud gave a brief update on the Blue Ribbon Commission on Special Education, noting that at the July 15 meeting the members agreed that the recommendations will focus on transportation, ADSIS, hold harmless funding, and tuition billing. The next meeting is scheduled for August 5, with the final report due by October.

Supt. Kent Pekel shared an overview on the Compensatory Revenue Task Force. Pekel reported that the task force met this week and reached agreement on several recommendations. The next step is drafting the report. Pekel noted that more formal, written information will be available in the coming weeks and he will share with Executive Director Croonquist.

Croonquist shared that the Minnesota Kids Rise effort is gaining momentum. The committee watched the first video which was recently released. Croonquist noted that there is a toolkit available on the MSBA website and an official launch scheduled for September 2 at the Minnesota State Fair.

Croonquist provided an update on the Permanent School Fund (PSF) Constitutional Amendment. He noted that there are two parallel efforts: advocacy and education. Croonquist shared that Senior Advisor Jaime Tincher and Campaign Manager Isis Stark will speak at our August 7 Board of Directors meeting to provide a campaign update. The information effort is being led by MSBA, with support from AMSD and other education organizations. The committee watched a PSF information video. Committee members discussed the AMSD contribution to the Permanent School Fund constitutional amendment campaign and the required reporting. Croonquist noted that he is seeking clarification about whether AMSD is required to list member districts on the report. Croonquist noted that the contribution will not be disbursed until this issue is clarified and he will keep committee members apprised.

III. Review 2026 AMSD Election Guide

Executive Director Croonquist reviewed the draft of the 2026 Election Guide and noted that AMSD has produced a guide every election year for about a decade. Croonquist reviewed the contents of the guide, and committee members shared their thoughts and feedback. Chair Sherman asked that any additional feedback be emailed to Croonquist. AMSD staff will produce an updated guide reflecting the feedback from committee members and the guide will be shared at next week's AMSD Board of Directors meeting.

IV. Adjournment

There being no other business, Chair Sherman adjourned the meeting at 8:47 a.m.