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, August 28, 2026, 7:30 – 9 a.m.
Hybrid meeting – In person and via Zoom

Members Present:	Colin Cox	Latanya Daniels	Jim DeMay
	Marcy Doud	Heidi Kader	Wendy Lundsgaard
	Julie Nielsen	Kent Pekel	Alison Sherman
	Zena Stenvik	Scott Thielman	Kita Yang
	Nick Zitek		
Staff Present:	Scott Croonquist	Kimberly Jansa	Troy Melhus
Guests Present:	Kris Amundson	Josh Downham	Jim Grathwol
	Lori Grivna		

I. Approval of Minutes of July 31 Meeting

AMSD Chair Alison Sherman called the meeting to order at 7:51 a.m. Sherman asked members to review the minutes from the July 31 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 well into campaign season. Croonquist invited Kris Amundson and Lori Grivna from Amundson Strategies to give a political update. Amundson and Grivna shared they have interacted with many legislative candidates as well as the candidates for statewide office. They have invited gubernatorial candidates Amy Klobuchar and Lisa Demuth to speak at our October 2 Board of Directors meeting and are working with campaign scheduling staff. No commitments have been made at this time.

Croonquist reported that the Department of Revenue (DOR) is holding roundtable discussions around rising property taxes. In addition to the public input, DOR staff is reviewing previous task force reports and will develop potential proposals for the incoming administration. Information on these sessions can be found in our weekly email updates.

Croonquist shared that the Office of the Legislative Auditor will be conducting program evaluations of PSEO, beginning this fall, and the MN Paid Leave program beginning next spring.

Croonquist shared that St. Louis Park's referendum passed in the August primary election. Croonquist invited committee members to review the list of AMSD November 2026 referendums. Nine AMSD districts will have a referendum on the ballot this fall. Croonquist noted that MSBA has not yet published statewide referendum information.

Croonquist also shared a list of AMSD members with Legislative Action Committees along with contact information. He asked members to let him know of any needed edits or missing information.

Croonquist reminded committee members about the conference scheduled for Nov. 10, with Dr. Tommy Watson as our keynote speaker. Croonquist shared that proposals for breakout presenters are being accepted and encouraged committee members to consider submitting a proposal and sharing the RFP with others in their district.

Croonquist shared that the Minnesota Kids Rise effort has been building momentum all summer, with an official launch scheduled for Sept. 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. MSBA's website is serving as the hub for the informational effort with support from AMSD and other education organizations. The advocacy effort will officially launch at a press conference scheduled for Sept. 1 at the State Capitol.

Croonquist noted that final reports are being drafted by the Blue Ribbon Commission on Special Education and the Compensatory Revenue Task Force.

III. Review and Discuss Results of Legislative Platform Survey

Executive Director Croonquist reviewed the results of the 2027 legislative platform survey. There were 27 responses received. Croonquist noted that the survey results are the first step in the platform development process. Committee members shared thoughts about the responses to the survey and highlighted several issues. Croonquist said he would bring a draft outline of a platform to the September meeting.

IV. Adjournment

There being no other business, Chair Sherman adjourned the meeting at 9:06 a.m.