Association of Metropolitan School Districts

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

Board of Directors Meeting
Friday, September 11, 2026, 7:30 – 9 a.m.
Quora Education Center, 70 West County B2, Little Canada, MN
Hybrid Meeting – In person and via Zoom

Members Present: Thirty-seven members attended the meeting in person and 76 participated virtually.

I. Welcome and Introductions

AMSD Chair Alison Sherman called the meeting to order at 7:33 a.m. Sherman welcomed everyone in person and online. A few introductions were made.

II. Routine Business

A. Approval of Minutes of August 7 Meeting

Chair Sherman asked members to review the minutes from the August 7 meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved.

III. Executive Director's Report

Chair Sherman invited Executive Director Scott Croonquist to give his report. Croonquist began by noting that the Blue Ribbon Commission on Special Education and the Compensatory Revenue Task Force are both working to draft final reports. The next Compensatory Revenue Task Force meeting is scheduled for Sept. 16.

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 invited board members to review the AMSD Legislative Platform survey results posted on our website. Croonquist shared that special education, compensatory revenue and mandate relief were the issues cited most frequently in the survey. The Legislative Committee will be working on the platform for the next few months, and there will be opportunities for further review and feedback through the process. Croonquist noted that adoption of the 2027 Legislative Platform is scheduled for December.

Croonquist reported that AMSD's 14 position papers will also be updated and reviewed in the coming months, prior to the beginning of the legislative session.

Croonquist reported there is a report on our website showing the nine AMSD members with a referendum on the November ballot and this was also included in the September issue of Connections. Croonquist shared that MSBA reports that there are 68 districts with either an operating, bond, or capital projects question on the ballot.

Croonquist shared that there is list of AMSD districts with active LACs also available on our website. Croonquist encouraged board members to use this as a reference and to share any updates or edits as needed.

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

Croonquist provided an update on the Permanent School Fund (PSF) Constitutional Amendment. He identified the two separate and parallel efforts – an information/education campaign being led by MSBA with support from AMSD and other education organizations, and the Vote Yes advocacy effort. The advocacy effort was officially launched at a press conference on Sept. 1 at the State Capitol. Supt. Christine Tucci Osorio represented AMSD speaking in support of the amendment, while reminding voters that this in no way mitigates the need for referendums.

Croonquist shared that the Minnesota Kids Rise initiative officially launched during a successful day at the State Fair and thanked the volunteers who participated. He noted that future updates will be included in AMSD's weekly email updates.

IV. Guest Speakers

Chair Sherman introduced guest presenters to share an overview of the upcoming 5th annual Minnesota School Boards Amplifying Student Voice event. Eastern Carver County Schools Supt. Dr. Erin Rathke and Student School Board member Boden Brown, and MSBA Associate Director of Board Development Kristy Cook shared an overview and answered questions from board members.

V. Guest Speaker

Chair Sherman introduced Peter Leatherman of The Morris Leatherman Company. Leatherman shared a fascinating overview of their recent public opinion survey which was conducted at the end of August. The survey sample size was 800 people statewide, with a confidence interval of plus or minus 3.5 percent. Following the presentation, Leatherman answered questions from board members.

VI. Adjourn

Chair Sherman reminded board members of upcoming meetings and adjourned the meeting at 8:59 a.m.