

# AMSD

# CONNECTIONS

News and Updates from the Association of Metropolitan School Districts

January 2012  
vol 9 ♦ no 4

## AMSD Calendar

**January 17, 2012**

**AMSD Winter Conference**

7:30 AM—1:30 PM  
TIES Building, St. Paul

**January 27, 2012**

**Executive/Legislative Committee Meeting**

7:30 a.m., TIES Building, St. Paul

**February 3, 2012**

**Board of Directors Meeting**, 7:00 a.m., TIES Building, St. Paul

**February 24, 2012**

**Executive/Legislative Committee Meeting**

7:30 a.m., TIES Building, St. Paul

**March 2, 2012**

**Board of Directors Meeting**, 7:00 a.m., TIES Building, St. Paul

## From the Chair

**H**appy New Year! The year has certainly gotten off to an exciting start at AMSD. Last Friday's Session Preview was attended by 150 people including about 40 of our metro area legislators. AMSD Superintendents Sandy Lewandowski, Corey Lunn and Randy Clegg gave excellent presentations on important AMSD legislative initiatives. We also heard informative updates from Kevin McHenry, director of government relations at the Minnesota Department of Education and from a legislative panel consisting of Senator Gen Olson, Senator Terri Bonoff, Representative Pat Garofalo and Representative Mindy Greiling.



As we approach the beginning of the 2012 legislative session, it is important that all AMSD board members build on the momentum from the session preview. Please continue to communicate with your local legislators via in person meetings, personal phone calls, or email. You can refer to the AMSD legislative platform and position papers on our website for specific information on issues pertinent to our member districts. During the session,

## AMSD's Mission

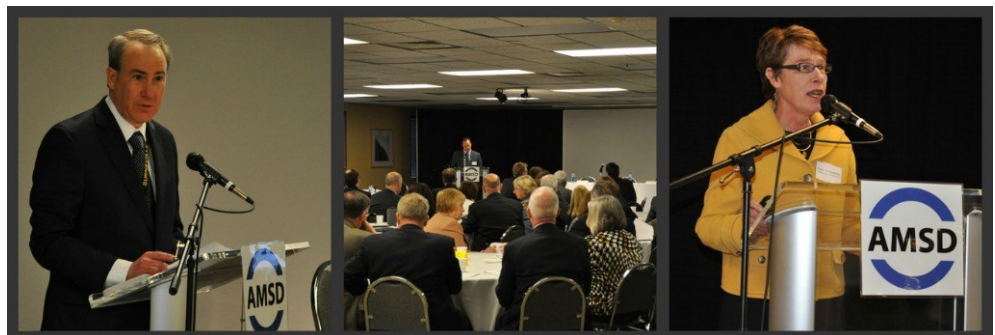
*To advocate for state education policy that enables metropolitan school districts to improve student learning.*

AMSD members can stay informed about the action at the Capitol through the new AMSD web site and also through the AMSD Blog, Twitter and Facebook. The governor and legislators will be addressing a number of important issues and we need your help to make sure the needs of our students are addressed. Thanks in advance for your time and commitment.

*Pam Langseth, school board member from Minnetonka Public Schools, is chair of AMSD.*



Association of  
Metropolitan School Districts



# Forward Thinking + Mobile Technology = Innovation in Inver Grove Heights

It is sometimes difficult to keep up with technology changes in the classroom and determine the impact that those changes have on teaching and learning. During the past couple of years, teachers in Inver Grove Heights Community Schools (District 199) have developed action-research projects to investigate the relationship between technology integration and student engagement and academic achievement.



In one study, a school staff member visited two Inver Grove Heights first-grade classrooms that were using iPads and recorded the time-on-task of students who were identified as typical first-grade students. Data supported the theory that technology integration can increase student engagement. Students were on task 60-65% when iPads were not being used as a complimentary learning tool. However, when iPads were in the mix, students' time-on-task increased to 80-85%. As evidenced, students are more motivated and receptive to learning when technology is present.

Furthermore, data collected from various action-research projects in District 199 pointed to a direct relationship between technology use and increased academic achievement. One such project aimed to examine whether or not technology integration could increase reading fluency. Elementary students used iPods to record a baseline reading, listen to both a self-recording and a reading from a professional, critique their work and then re-record to compare fluency time. The project tracked the increase in words read per minute in both a control and experimental group in grades one, four and five. In each case, the experimental group had an average increase of at least seven words per minute more than the control group; another positive sign supporting the integration of technology in the classroom.

Connecting, collaborating and going mobile with technology can motivate students and drive them to reach their full potential, while preparing them for the challenges they will encounter both in the classroom and in life. Inver Grove teachers conducting action-research projects recognized that technology not only engaged their students, but it also empowered them. This observation inspired an innovative idea within District 199.

Superintendent Wells encouraged staff to select students to participate in a technology conference for adults, led by the students. This concept offered students the opportunity to share their technological expertise with adults in the community so that all could benefit from the experience. It would connect the community to the district and put students' talents on display. The conference gave residents an inside look at a 21<sup>st</sup> century classroom. To most, this was far different from the classroom where they had grown up.

The inaugural Inver Grove Heights Community Schools' Student Led Technology Conference was a success with approximately 40 students in grades K-12 teaching adults how to accomplish tasks, manage and produce content in the cloud, and produce multi-media projects using iPads, iPods and other devices and software programs.

The Student Led Technology Conference attracted national attention. The Consortium of School Networking (CoSN) invited District 199 to participate in a cadre comprised of leading-edge school districts. Inver Grove Heights Community Schools was one of 13 districts throughout the nation selected to share practices being used to



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# AMSD Presents Rep. Doepke and Sen. Olson with Friend of Public Education Award

The Association of Metropolitan School Districts (AMSD) presented Senator Gen Olson and Representative Connie Doepke with 2011 Friend of Education Awards at the Minnetonka School Board meeting on January 5. The AMSD Friend of Education Award is given annually to Minnesota leaders who demonstrate support and advocacy of public education and AMSD legislative platform initiatives.

Senator Olson and Rep. Doepke were selected in recognition of their ability to work in a bipartisan and cooperative manner on important education issues. Doepke and Olson sponsored key AMSD initiatives including mandate relief, fund transfer flexibility, simplification of the required ballot language for renewal of a capital project levy, and legislation creating an alternative pathway for teacher licensure. Senator Olson also led the effort to create a new, innovative literacy program that will provide new funding for all school districts.

Governor Dayton also received the Friend of Education Award and was recognized last month.



Pictured from left are Lori Grivna, AMSD legislative consultant, Scott Croonquist, AMSD executive director, Senator Gen Olson, Representative Connie Doepke, Pam Langseth, AMSD board chair and Minnetonka School Board member, and Dennis Peterson, superintendent, Minnetonka Public Schools.

## Inver Grove Heights Goes Mobile in the Classroom

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promote innovation and collaboration within the organization. Digital media has been at the forefront of many district objectives during the last few years. In these tough economic times, District 199 has focused on finding resources to provide students with technology tools and access to programs that will allow them to develop their 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills.

In times when students are able to participate by collaborating with classrooms in China via videoconference or students in Australia on the cloud, it is of increasing importance to equip young learners with resources that will support their ability to become successful individuals in a global society.

But what does the future of education and the future of our world look like? According to Tina Barseghian, editor of NPR's *MindShift*, the way that students receive their education will drastically change by 2020. She hypothesizes that differentiated instruction will be the norm as students and parents require more personalized learning programs, customized to meet the needs of each learner. Recently, education has seen an expansion in the utilization of mobile technology. Students learn on the go and on *their* time, and mobile devices provide a platform that is available to students 24/7.

As educators look to the future, the focus must remain on what will be best for students, and developing a plan to obtain resources that will keep children engaged and maximize opportunities to connect, collaborate and go mobile in a society of heightened expectations.

*This month's member spotlight was submitted by Johnny Germscheid, Communications Coordinator, Inver Grove Heights Community Schools.*



## Task Forces Tackling Important Education Issues

The Omnibus Education Finance Bill enacted during the 2011 special session established four different task forces/working groups to study and develop recommendations on several important education issues. The groups identified below are composed of education leaders, parents, business representatives and policy makers from across the state. Some of the groups have already held multiple meetings and have heard testimony from state and national experts. Several AMSD board members are serving on these working groups and AMSD staff is closely monitoring the progress.

To access meeting materials, the meeting schedule and membership rosters, visit the link identified for each group.

### **Integration Revenue Replacement Task Force**

The Integration Task Force is composed of 12 members whose charge is to “create and sustain opportunities for students to achieve improved educational outcomes.” The Task Force must submit a report to the Legislature by February 15, 2012. Under the 2011 special session education bill, integration revenue is currently set to expire after the 2013 allocation.

Website: <http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/Welcome/AdvBCT/IntegRevReplaceTaskForce/index.html>

### **Principal Evaluation Work Group**

The Principal Evaluation Work Group is composed of 28 members and four ex-officio, legislative members. The work group is charged with developing “a performance-based system model for annually evaluating school principals.” The group must submit a report to the Legislature by February 1, 2012. Principal evaluations under this system will begin during the 2013-2014 school year.

Website: <http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/Welcome/AdvBCT/PrincEvalWorkGroup/index.html>

### **Teacher Evaluation Work Group**

The Teacher Evaluation Work Group is composed of 35 members and four ex-officio, legislative members. The work group will create and publish a teacher evaluation and review process that must be used “if a school board and the exclusive representative of the teachers do not agree to an annual teacher evaluation and peer review process.” Teacher evaluations and reviews under this system will begin during the 2014-2015 school year.

Website: <http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/Welcome/AdvBCT/TeacEvalWorkGrp/index.html>

### **Tiered Licensure Advisory Task Force**

The Tiered Licensure Task Force is composed of 20 members and four ex-officio, legislative members. The task force is charged with developing “recommendations for a tiered licensure system” in Minnesota. The task force must submit a report to the Legislature by February 15, 2012.

Website: <http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/Welcome/AdvBCT/TierLicAdvTaskForce/index.html>

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**AMSD Members:** Anoka-Hennepin, Bloomington, Brooklyn Center, Burnsville-Eagan-Savage, Columbia Heights, East Metro Integration District 6067, Eastern Carver County Schools, Eden Prairie, Edina, Elk River, Fridley, Hopkins, Intermediate District 287, Intermediate District 917 (Associate Member), Inver Grove Heights, Lakeville Area, Mahtomedi, Minneapolis, MSU Mankato Center for Engaged Leadership (Associate Member), Minnetonka, Mounds View, North St. Paul/Maplewood/Oakdale, Northeast Metro District 916 (Associate Member), Northwest Suburban Integration District (Associate Member), Orono, Osseo Area Schools, Richfield, Robbinsdale, Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan, Roseville, Shakopee, South St. Paul, South Washington County, Spring Lake Park, St. Anthony/New Brighton, St. Cloud Area, St. Louis Park, St. Paul, Stillwater, TIES (Associate Member), Wayzata, West Metro Education Program, West St. Paul and White Bear Lake.