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, August 1, 2025, 7:30 – 9 a.m.
Quora Education Center, 70 West County B2, Little Canada, MN
Hybrid Meeting – In person and via Zoom

Members Present: Twenty-seven members attended the meeting in person and 48 participated virtually.

I. Welcome and Introductions

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

II. Routine Business

A. Approval of Minutes of May 23 Meeting

Chair Oksnevad asked members to review the minutes from the May 23 meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved.

III. Executive Committee Report

A. Approval of Perpich Center for Arts Education as AMSD Associate Member

Chair Oksnevad reported that the Executive Committee has approved the request of Perpich Center for Arts Education to join AMSD as an associate member. Oksnevad asked for a motion to approve associate membership for Perpich Center for the Arts.

A motion was made and seconded to approve Perpich Center for Arts Education as an AMSD associate member. There being no further discussion, the motion was approved.

B. Election of New Executive and Legislative Committee Members

Chair Oksnevad reported that the Executive Committee had nominated the following AMSD board members to serve on the Executive Committee for 3-year terms:

Wendy Lundsgaard, School Board Member, Orono Schools
Alison Sherman, School Board Member, Stillwater Area Public Schools
Julie Nielsen, Superintendent, South Washington County Schools

A motion was made and seconded to approve the nominees. The motion was approved.

Chair Oksnevad reported that the Executive Committee had nominated the following AMSD board member to serve on the Legislative Committee for a 3-year term:

Scott Thielman, Superintendent, Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose Schools

A motion was made and seconded to approve the nominee. The motion was approved.

C. Election of Officers

Chair Oksnevad reported that the Executive Committee had nominated the following AMSD board members to serve as officers for 2025-2026:

Chair:	Jim DeMay, School Board Member, Mounds View Public Schools
Vice Chair:	Alison Sherman, School Board Member, Stillwater Area Public Schools
Treasurer:	Jenny Loeck, Superintendent, Roseville Area Schools

A motion was made and seconded to approve the nominees. The motion was approved.

IV. Recognition of Outgoing AMSD Chair

New AMSD Chair Jim DeMay thanked Laura Oksnevad for her leadership as AMSD Chair over the past year. DeMay presented Oksnevad a $100 donation to the St. Anthony-New Brighton Endowment Foundation in appreciation of her service. Former Chair Oksnevad expressed her thanks to the AMSD board members and staff for the opportunity to serve as chair over the past year.

V. Executive Director's Report

Chair DeMay invited Executive Director Scott Croonquist to give his report. Croonquist began by thanking all outgoing committee members and outgoing Chair Laura Oksnevad for their dedicated service to AMSD. Croonquist also thanked Supt. Jenny Loeck for her support of AMSD and continuing to serve as AMSD Treasurer.

Croonquist noted that since the last board meeting the political landscape has experienced upheaval and tragedy including the assassination of Speaker Emerita Melissa Hortman and her husband and shooting of Sen. John Hoffman and his wife who miraculously survived. In addition, Sen. Nicole Mitchell resigned her seat after being convicted of burglary charges and Sen. Bruce Anderson died unexpectedly. As a result, there will be three special elections this fall. Croonquist shared that those elections could be followed by another one if a current House Member is elected to an open Senate seat.

Croonquist also noted that federal title funds had finally been released after being frozen for several weeks and that the federal Department of Education staff has been drastically reduced.

Croonquist reported on the status of two working groups/task forces that were established in the last session. The Compensatory Revenue Task Force appointees are expected to be named today, with its first meeting scheduled for September 3. Applications to serve on the Blue-Ribbon Commission on Special Education are open until August 13. This commission is charged with identifying $250 million in cost savings beginning in the 2028-29 biennium. A Seclusion Working Group and a Developmental Delay Age Limit Working Group will also be appointed.

Croonquist shared that the 2025-2026 Board of Directors meeting calendar can be found in today's meeting materials on the AMSD website. Also included in the meeting materials is a link to the annual legislative platform survey. Croonquist noted that this is the first step in developing the platform for next session and he encouraged board members to complete the survey.

Croonquist noted that Morris Leatherman will be presenting recent polling data at the September 5 meeting and State Demographer Susan Brower will be the guest speaker on October 3.

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VI. Guest Speakers

Chair DeMay introduced the guest speakers from Good Trouble, co-founders Jose Perez and Julian Spencer along with Director of Movement Organizing Haben Ghebregergish. The three speakers shared an inspiring presentation on sparking motivation in young people. Following their presentation, the speakers took questions from board members.

VII. Adjourn

Chair DeMay thanked everyone for their attendance and wished everyone a great beginning to the school year. DeMay adjourned the meeting at 8:43 a.m.