Association of Metropolitan School Districts

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Legislative Committee Meeting
Friday, September 26, 2025, 7:30 – 9 a.m.
Hybrid meeting – In person and via Zoom

Members Present:	Sally Browne	Colin Cox	Jim DeMay
	Marcy Doud	Jeff Holmberg	Wendy Lundsgaard
	Julie Nielsen	Laura Oksnevad	Kent Pekel
	Alison Sherman	Michael Thomas	Kita Yang
Staff Present:	Scott Croonquist	Kimberly Jansa	Troy Melhus
Guests Present:	Kris Amundson	Josh Downham	Jim Grathwol
	Lori Grivna		

I. Approval of Minutes of August 22 Meeting

AMSD Chair Jim DeMay called the meeting to order at 7:42 a.m. DeMay asked members to review the minutes from the August 22 meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved.

II. Executive Director's Report

Chair DeMay invited Executive Director Scott Croonquist to share his report. Croonquist reported that Democrat Xp Lee won the special election to fill the seat of the late Melissa Hortman; returning the House to a 67-67 tie. Croonquist noted that there will be at least two more special elections, with possible additional special elections to follow based on results of the November election. In other news from the Capitol, Croonquist noted that Gov. Walz has announced that he is running for reelection. Also, after 40 years in the Legislature, Sen. Ann Rest has announced that she will not seek reelection.

Croonquist noted that although Gov. Walz has indicated he would call a special session, Democrats and Republicans are at a stalemate regarding gun control measures. Republicans want the special session to be focused on school security, including funding for private schools, and mental health, while the Democrats have proposed several gun measures including a ban on assault weapons, high-capacity magazines, and ghost guns.

Croonquist shared an update on some of the working groups/task forces that were established in the last session. The Compensatory Revenue Task Force has held its first meeting and plans to meet again on Oct. 6. Supt. Kent Pekel shared some thoughts on the initial meeting. The appointees to the Blue Ribbon Commission on Special Education have not yet been named. The group's first meeting is scheduled for Oct. 8. The Seclusion Working Group has now met twice, with the most recent meeting including a presentation from Intermediate 917 and NE Metro Intermediate 916. The Developmental Delay Age Limit Working Group had its first meeting on Tuesday.

Croonquist reported that registration for the Nov. 11 AMSD/BrightWorks conference, “Sharper Focus, Stronger Outcomes” opens today! We look forward to our keynote speaker Dylan Wiliam. In addition, Croonquist noted that Alyssa Parr and Mengchen Su from CAREI at the University of Minnesota will share a presentation on student mental health in Minnesota and there will also be compelling breakout sessions offered by AMSD members.

III. Review and Discussion of Legislative Platform Outline

Executive Director Croonquist reviewed the legislative platform outline, which is the first step in creation of the 2026 Legislative Platform. He noted that the outline includes the issues most frequently identified in the survey responses from AMSD members. Committee members provided some feedback on the outline, including suggestions for edits and additions. Croonquist said a first draft of the platform will be prepared for review at next month’s committee meeting. Croonquist asked members to share any additional thoughts or ideas with him.

IV. Review and Approval of Updates to Standing Position Papers

Executive Director Croonquist explained that AMSD has thirteen standing position papers that are reviewed every year. The papers for review today are the positions on Charter Schools, Early Childhood Education, Facilities Funding, Mandate Reduction and Local Control, School and Student Safety, Special Education, Student-Centered Learning and Taxpayer Subsidies for Nonpublic K-12 Education. The papers are updated to reflect current demographic data, new research, and legislative action from the last session.

There was some robust discussion among committee members about additional revisions to the papers on School and Student Safety, Taxpayer Subsidies for Nonpublic K-12 Education, Charter Schools, Mandate Reduction and Local Control, and Special Education. These papers will be revised and brought back to the committee for review next month.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the updated position papers on Early Childhood Education, Facilities Funding, and Student-Centered Learning. The position papers were approved. These papers will be brought to the October Board of Directors meeting for final approval.

V. Adjournment

There being no other business, Chair DeMay adjourned the meeting at 9:08 a.m.