Association of Metropolitan School Districts

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Legislative Committee Meeting
Friday, February 27, 2026, 7:30 – 9 a.m.
Hybrid meeting – In person and via Zoom

Members Present:	Sally Browne	Colin Cox	Jim DeMay
	Marcy Doud	Jeff Holmberg	Julie Nielsen
	Cassandra Palmer	Kent Pekel	Alison Sherman
	Scott Thielman	Tim Usset (alt.)	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 January 30 Meeting

AMSD Vice Chair Alison Sherman called the meeting to order at 7:33 a.m. Sherman asked members to review the minutes from the January 30 meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved.

II. Executive Director's Report

Vice Chair Sherman invited Executive Director Scott Croonquist to share his report. Croonquist began with a short debrief from last month's Session Preview. He shared that there were approximately 180 attendees, in person and virtually. Croonquist thanked the superintendents that presented AMSD's legislative platform – Jeff Holmberg, Kent Pekel and Lisa Sayles-Adams. Croonquist noted that he received positive feedback from legislators who attended. Committee members shared their thoughts on the event and discussed the feasibility and pros and cons of finding another location for the event. Staff will explore options.

Croonquist reported that we are now two weeks into the legislative session, and it is indeed going to be challenging with the evenly divided legislature, a difficult political climate, upcoming elections, and the State's fiscal environment. Croonquist noted that there is a press conference later today when the budget forecast will be released. The forecast will come with many uncertainties and likely not include the economic impact of Operation Metro Surge or the federal government shutdown.

Croonquist reminded committee members that the policy bill deadline is one month from today – March 27 – and the fiscal bill deadline is April 17. The mandatory date of adjournment is May 18.

Croonquist noted that there are no substantial updates from the task forces/commissions as they are doing subcommittee work now.

Croonquist invited committee members to review the results of the annual AMSD budget survey, which was recently completed. The vast majority of our member districts are facing projected shortfalls. The

survey results will be sent to all districts one more time to verify accuracy and will be released next week, via our monthly newsletter and a press release.

Croonquist shared that the AMSD/MASA Region 9 Day at the Capitol will be on Monday, April 13. He noted that leaders of the House and Senate Education Finance Committees – Sen. Kunesh, Sen. Kreun, Rep. Youakim and Rep. Bakeberg – will be joining us to share their remarks.

III. Discussion of Significant Education Legislation

Executive Director Croonquist encouraged committee members to utilize the bill tracker that is on the AMSD website. Croonquist reviewed several significant education-related bills, asking committee members for their input. Committee members discussed and provided feedback on legislation related to mandatory statewide health insurance, cell phone prohibitions, and safe schools. Croonquist noted that most of the issues on our platform have been introduced as bills.

IV. Preliminary Discussion of AMSD Session Priorities

Executive Director Croonquist reminded members that our practice is to streamline the legislative platform into a Session Priorities document a few months into the legislative session. Croonquist noted that we would like to have the Session Priorities document ready for our Day at the Capitol on April 13, so we will work on drafting this document for approval at our next committee meeting. Then it will be approved at the April 10 Board of Directors meeting. Vice Chair Sherman asked that any thoughts or feedback be shared with Croonquist.

V. Adjournment

There being no other business, Vice Chair Sherman reminded members of upcoming meetings and adjourned the meeting at 9:08 a.m.