Association of Metropolitan School Districts

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Board of Directors Meeting
Friday, March 6, 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: Nineteen members attended the meeting in person and 78 participated virtually.

I. Welcome and Introductions

AMSD Vice Chair Alison Sherman called the meeting to order at 7:31 a.m. Sherman welcomed everyone in person and online.

II. Routine Business

A. Approval of Minutes of January 9 Meeting

Vice Chair Sherman asked members to review the minutes from the January 9 meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved.

III. Executive Director's Report

Vice Chair Sherman invited Executive Director Scott Croonquist to give his report. Croonquist began by sharing that, as expected, it has been challenging start to the legislative session due to the evenly divided legislature, a tough political climate and upcoming elections. The fiscal outlook, however, has improved. Croonquist reported that the February Budget Forecast was released last week. The FY26-27 projected balance is $3.7 billion and the projected general fund balance for the FY28-29 biennium is now $377 million. Croonquist noted that E-12 education spending is forecast to be $111 million higher than forecast largely due to higher estimates for special education. The Blue Ribbon Commission on Special Education is tasked with identifying $250 million in reductions. Croonquist shared that we are now waiting for the supplemental budget recommendations from the Governor.

Croonquist noted that the policy bill deadline is three weeks from today, March 27. The legislature will then take a week off for spring recess. The fiscal deadline is April 17.

Croonquist reminded members that the bill tracker that is available on our website and encouraged board members to utilize it and the other resources on the website.

Croonquist reminded board members about upcoming Days at the Capitol – MSBA/MASA is on Monday, March 9 and AMSD/MASA Region 9 is April 13. Croonquist shared that leaders of the House and Senate Education Finance Committees – Sen. Kunesh, Sen. Kreun, Rep. Youakim and Rep. Bakeberg – will be joining us in the morning. He noted that the main purpose of the day is for members to meet with their local legislators to advocate for our legislative priorities.

Croonquist reported that the results of our recent budget survey were released yesterday and are posted with the meeting materials.

IV. Guest Speaker

Vice Chair Sherman introduced MDE Director of School Finance Cathy Erickson who presented an update on compensatory revenue, the 15-Day Drop related to funding, and relevant budget tools from MDE. Following her presentation, Erickson answered some questions from board members.

V. Guest Speakers

Vice Chair Sherman invited Jimmy Adams, Executive Director, National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification to present on the Educator Identification Clearinghouse. Mr. Adams also fielded questions from board members.

Vice Chair Sherman then introduced guest speakers from the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board (PELSB) – Board Chair Dr. Lucy Payne and Executive Director Dr. Yelena Bailey. Dr. Payne and Dr. Bailey presented updates on several topics including streamlining teacher licensure, literacy work, and educator retention. Following their presentation, Drs. Payne and Bailey answered questions from board members.

VI. Adjourn

Vice Chair Sherman reminded board members of upcoming meetings and adjourned the meeting at 8:52 a.m.