Association of Metropolitan School Districts

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Legislative Committee Meeting
Friday, September 25, 2026, 7:30 – 9 a.m.
Hybrid meeting – In person and via Zoom

Members Present:	Colin Cox	Latanya Daniels	Marcy Doud
	Heidi Kader	Wendy Lundsgaard	Julie Nielsen
	Kent Pekel	Alison Sherman	Tara Thukral (alt.)
	Kita Yang	Nick Zitek	
Staff Present:	Scott Croonquist	Kimberly Jansa	Troy Melhus
Guests Present:	Kris Amundson	Josh Downham	Jim Grathwol
	Lori Grivna		

I. Approval of Minutes of August 28 Meeting

AMSD Chair Alison Sherman called the meeting to order at 7:45 a.m. Sherman asked members to review the minutes from the August 28 meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved.

II. Executive Director's Report

Chair Sherman invited Executive Director Scott Croonquist to share his report. Croonquist began by sharing that the two major party gubernatorial candidates — Speaker Lisa Demuth and Sen. Amy Klobuchar — will be speaking at the Board of Directors meeting next week. He noted that the meeting will not be recorded, and questions will not be accepted from the audience per agreement with the campaigns.

Croonquist reported that MDE Commissioner Willie Jett has announced a new task force charged with reviewing Minnesota's standardized testing and assessment framework. Some members of the task force have already been named, and four students and four parents will also be identified through an application process. Croonquist noted that the task force plans to begin meeting in October.

Croonquist invited Supt. Kent Pekel to provide an update on the Compensatory Revenue Task Force. Pekel shared that the task force is working to finalize its final report to the legislature. The task force previously approved several recommendations that carry a significant cost and is discussing whether they should also include a lower cost option or rank the recommendations.

Croonquist asked Supt. Mary Doud to share an update on the Blue Ribbon Commission on Special Education. Doud noted that the final report is being reviewed by MDE will be released soon.

Croonquist reported that the Permanent School Fund Constitutional Amendment Vote Yes campaign plans to release digital ads next week.

Croonquist shared that registration for the annual conference opens today. Croonquist noted that the conference is scheduled for Nov. 10, with Dr. Tommy Watson as the keynote speaker. The title of the keynote *is Leading Through the Storm: A Systems Approach to Resilient Leadership*. Croonquist encouraged committee members to spread the word to others in their districts, inviting them to register.

Croonquist shared that after a successful public launch at Minnesota State Fair, the Minnesota Kids Rise effort is going to lay low until after the November election.

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 2027 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 Position Papers

Executive Director Croonquist explained that AMSD has 14 standing position papers that are reviewed annually. He noted that the format of the papers has been refreshed and simplified. Croonquist thanked committee member Colin Cox for his work with Communications Director Troy Melhus on the refresh. The papers for review today are the positions on Charter Schools, Early Childhood Education, English Learner Funding, Facilities Funding, Mandate Reduction and Local Control, and Student-Centered State Accountability Assessments. The papers are updated to reflect current demographic data, new research, and legislative action from the last session.

There was discussion among committee members about each of the papers, including suggestions for revisions. These papers will be revised and brought back to the committee for review next month.

V. Adjournment

There being no other business, Chair Sherman adjourned the meeting at 8:42 a.m.