

April 2018  
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## Students Shaping Success in White Bear Lake Area Schools

**April 13, 2018**

**Board of Directors Meeting**

7:00 a.m.  
Grand Hall,  
TIES Conference Center  
St. Paul

**April 27, 2018**

**Executive/Legislative Committee Meeting**

7:30 a.m.  
Lexington Room,  
TIES Conference Center  
St. Paul

**May 4, 2018**

**Board of Directors Meeting**

7:00 a.m.  
Grand Hall,  
TIES Conference Center  
St. Paul

**May 11, 2018**

**Executive/Legislative Committee Meeting**

7:30 a.m.  
Lexington Room,  
TIES Conference Center  
St. Paul

### AMSD's Mission

To advocate for state education policy that enables metropolitan school districts to improve student learning.



Association of  
Metropolitan School Districts

While it's important to pinpoint initiatives adult staff members are spearheading to increase student achievement and accomplishments, it is also important to highlight the fact that the students themselves are holding the reigns of their success. They are helping the school district find success as well.

This idea plays out in various ways. Student-led service projects abound at our schools and programs. Examples include the White Bear Lake Area High School Student Council students, who have annually collected food shelf donations during their long-standing "Trick or Can" experience each October, a group of middle school students who recently spearheaded a food shelf donation to take the place of ticket sales at a home basketball game, and elementary students who participate in quarterly Hug-A-Heart projects to serve the broader community. Through their service actions, students at all levels earned the opportunity to participate in WE Day last fall. Gathering with other students from throughout the state, the students learned how to turn their thoughts into concrete actions on their journey to support charitable organizations or causes they choose.



*Hug-A-Heart Project*



*School Board Student Liaisons with Senator Chuck Wiger*

Our School Board relies on insights provided from our School Board Student Liaisons, two White Bear Lake Area High School - South Campus students who sit at the Board table for both regular and work-study meetings. The liaisons have provided powerful student perspective on topics including student mental well-being, the school calendar and bullying. The students have also represented the district in conversations with community leaders and legislators, at the Capitol, in the district and at meetings throughout the

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### From the Chair

A perennial plank on AMSD's Legislative Platform is a plea to legislators to reduce mandates and enhance local control. Unfortunately, it appears that message is not being heard during the 2018 legislative session. A review of the omnibus education policy bills moving forward at the Capitol finds numerous new mandates being proposed. The new mandates range from new required academic standards, to curriculum requirements, to staff training, to publishing requirements and more. I encourage AMSD members to **contact your local legislators** during the spring recess to urge them to refrain from enacting any new, unfunded mandates. With many school districts facing considerable budget challenges, now is not the time for state policymakers to be imposing costly new mandates on our school districts.

*Steve Adams, school board member from Hopkins Public Schools, is chair of AMSD.*

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community. They, along with a larger group of representative students from the district, also played a role in adding to the student voice in Reimagine Minnesota, a statewide initiative committed to creating lasting equity and excellence in education for all students.



Periodically throughout the school year, I am honored to meet with groups of students from our middle school and high schools through the superintendent's student advisory committee. These students represent their fellow classmates well and have provided student viewpoint on issues that range from bullying, course selection and registration processes, school start times, and more recently school safety and security. The topics aren't all work and no play, though. Their favorite session each year seems to have been taste testing options our Nutrition Services Department brings forward before offering new products in the breakfast and lunch lines. They also enjoyed posing for a pre-emptive "Snow Day" photo (pictured left) that ended up coming in handy on two occasions this winter!

Moving forward, student voice will become an even more powerful driver of change, as evidenced by the actions and advocacy of students in White Bear and throughout the state and nation in recent months. Our middle school and high school students have engaged in important, respectful conversations with district and city leaders, showcasing their desire to be at the table as we work together to create safe school environments.

Students are taking charge of their academics as well. Many of our middle school and high school students opt to participate in the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program. Students apply, write an essay, and are interviewed before being enrolled in the rigorous program, which also stipulates that students enroll in an honors, enriched or Advanced Placement class each year they are involved in the program. The hard work of these students, many of whom are first-generation college students, is paying off. Last year's 2017 AVID graduates, a total of 22 students, earned scholarships with a combined value of \$750,000.

Student empowerment will gain momentum in White Bear Lake Area Schools, with student voice being a significant driver of our strategic plan and an upcoming comprehensive facilities plan.

One of the strategies of our district's new strategic plan, which is scheduled to be acted upon in April, is "We will ensure that each student is the primary agent in their learning." With so much evidence of students taking responsibility for their own learning, it is safe to say that specific tenet will be an exciting one to watch as it is implemented.



AVID Program



WE Day

*This month's member spotlight was submitted by Dr. Wayne A. Kazmierczak, superintendent, White Bear Lake Area Schools.*



## Governor Dayton Proposes Investments in E-12 Education

Governor Mark Dayton's supplemental budget recommendations include new investments in special education, school safety and early learning. The Governor's recommendations followed the release of the February state budget forecast, which projected a surplus of \$329 million for the 2018-19 biennium and \$313 million for the 2020-21 biennium. The Governor freed up additional revenue for his proposal by rolling back some of the tax breaks that were enacted in the 2017 Omnibus Tax Bill.

Table 1 below highlights some of the Governor's proposed education investments, while a complete list of his education recommendations can be found here: [supplemental education budget proposal](#). MN Department of Education Commissioner Brenda Cassellius outlined the Governor's proposal during a [presentation](#) to the House and Senate Education Finance Committees.

**Table 1: Governor's 2018 Supplemental Budget Education Investments**

Issue Area	Description
Safe and Secure Schools	Provides \$18 per pupil in Safe Schools Aid in FY19 and equalizes the Safe Schools Levy going forward beginning in FY20. Increases funding for school-linked mental health grants by \$5 million.
Special Education	Increases State Special Education Aid to reduce the special education cross-subsidy. Increases funding for special education by almost \$17 million in FY19 and more than \$43 million over the FY20-21 biennium.
Voluntary Pre-K and School Readiness	The one-time funding approved last session for Pre-K is scheduled to sunset at the end of FY19. The governor proposes to continue the funding for Pre-K and School Readiness Plus in the FY20-21 biennium and beyond and expands the number of seats by 5 percent each year beginning in FY20.
Pension Stability	Includes \$10.8 million in FY19, \$23.8 million in FY20 and \$35.3 million in FY21 to cover the increases in employer contributions.
Stable Housing	Includes \$4 million for the Homework Starts with Home Program to help find stable housing for Minnesota's families and students.

Source: Governor's 2018 Supplemental Budget Education Investments

The Governor's proposal addresses several priorities included on [AMSD's 2018 Legislative Platform](#) including:

- Increasing special education funding to reduce the state share of the special education cross-subsidy;
- Reforming and stabilizing the Teachers Retirement Association Fund and St. Paul Teachers Retirement Fund; and
- Increasing the Safe Schools Levy.

The Governor's proposal is the first step in the supplemental budget development process. Legislative leaders will establish budget targets for the various finance committees when they return from the spring recess on April 9. The deadline for the omnibus finance bills, including the Omnibus E-12 Education Finance Bill, is April 20.

AMSD Chair Steve Adams thanks Governor Dayton for his unwavering support of public education and urges legislators to match the level of investment proposed by the Governor. "We applaud the Governor's proposed investment in special education, which would provide some relief from the growing cross-subsidy. In addition, we greatly appreciate the Governor's proposals to address school safety and to stabilize and reform the state pension funds."

Further information about the special education cross-subsidy is available on the AMSD website: <http://www.amsd.org/specialeducation/>

**AMSD Members:** Anoka-Hennepin School District, Bloomington Public Schools, Board of School Administrators (Associate Member), Brooklyn Center Community Schools, Burnsville-Eagan-Savage, Columbia Heights Public Schools, Eastern Carver County Schools, Eden Prairie Schools, Edina Public Schools, Elk River Area School District, Equity Alliance MN (Associate Member), Farmington Area Public Schools, Fridley Public Schools, Hopkins Public Schools, Intermediate School District 287, Intermediate School District 917 (Associate Member), Inver Grove Heights Schools, Lakeville Area Public Schools, Mahtomedi Public Schools, Metro ECSU (Associate Member), Minneapolis Public Schools, Minnetonka Public Schools, Monticello Public School District; Mounds View Public Schools, North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale School District, Northeast Metro Intermediate School District 916, Northwest Suburban Integration District (Associate Member), Orono Schools, Osseo Area Schools, Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools, Richfield Public Schools, Robbinsdale Area Schools, Rochester Public Schools; Rockford Area Schools, Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan Public Schools, Roseville Area Schools, Shakopee Public Schools, South St. Paul Public Schools, South Washington County Schools, SouthWest Metro Intermediate District (Associate Member), Spring Lake Park Schools, St. Anthony-New Brighton Independent School District, St. Cloud Area Schools, St. Louis Park Public Schools, St. Paul Public Schools, Stillwater Area Public Schools, TIES (Associate Member), Wayzata Public Schools, West Metro Education Program, West St. Paul-Mendota Heights-Eagan Area Schools and White Bear Lake Area Schools.