

April 2019
vol 16 ♦ no 7

April 12, 2019

Board of Directors Meeting

7 a.m.
Quora Education Center
NE Metro 916
Little Canada
<https://goo.gl/maps/EG2bcsS9zuK2>

April 26, 2019

Executive/Legislative Committee Meeting

7:30 a.m.
Room 304
Anderson Center
Bethel University
Arden Hills

May 3, 2019

Board of Directors Meeting

7 a.m.
Quora Education Center
NE Metro 916
Little Canada
<https://goo.gl/maps/EG2bcsS9zuK2>

May 10, 2019

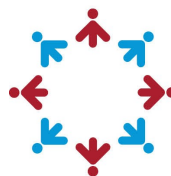
Executive/Legislative Committee Meeting

7:30 a.m.
Room 304
Anderson Center
Bethel University
Arden Hills

Lakeville Area Schools

Maintaining Safe, Secure and Welcoming Schools

Lakeville Area Schools is committed to providing learning environments that are safe, secure and welcoming for our students and staff. In a world where school safety measures are at the forefront of public and community discussion, it has been, and will continue to be a critical duty of everyone in communities across the state and country to help keep schools safe.



Lakeville
AREA SCHOOLS

Over the last four years, the District has established and created a Security and Emergency Management (SEM) work group to discuss, review and implement security strategies across our schools and buildings. The SEM work group provided environment-specific feedback and included representatives of our elementary, middle and high schools, key program staff, and local law enforcement to ensure a multi-tiered safety and security plan.

“When the SEM work group first convened, the focus was around the need for active-shooter training for staff in partnership with Lakeville Police Department,” said Lisa Holien, the District’s student support services coordinator. “Since that time, the work group’s effort has developed into a continuum of prevention and early intervention strategies, in-school supports and response protocols.”

The SEM work group’s Safety and Security Long-Range Plan is a framework for implementing procedures and security measures District-wide.

From Emergency Action Procedures (EAP), to active-shooter training for staff, to the establishment of crisis teams and enhanced mental health supports for our students, our schools are safer than ever before. The District’s 2015 referendum funded the Access Control Systems (ACS) for increased visitor management, and additional security enhancements including cameras, door locks and security staff to enhance security infrastructure.

Continued on page 2

AMSD’s Mission

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



Association of
Metropolitan School Districts

From the Chair

I want to commend Congresswoman Angie Craig and Congressman Pete Stauber for their bipartisan push to have the federal government live up to its pledge to fund 40 percent of local school districts’ additional cost of providing special education services. A recent [Star Tribune editorial](#) rightfully noted that the special education funding shortfall hurts everyone – students receiving special education services and general education students. The shortfall also increases the reliance on local operating referendums to make up the difference. It is important to note, however, that proper funding for special education needs to be a federal and state partnership. Even if the federal government were providing its promised 40 percent of funding in the current school year, Minnesota schools would face a \$253 million shortfall. The budget proposals put forth by Governor Walz and the MN House of Representatives would make progress toward addressing that shortfall. We must hold all of our elected officials accountable for their promises to fully fund special education and your advocacy on behalf of our kids is critical at this time at both the state and federal level!

Stephanie Levine, school board member from West St. Paul-Mendota Heights-Eagan, is chair of AMSD.

Sustaining Safe Schools an Ongoing Commitment in Lakeville

Continued from page 1

School resource officers build trust

Since 1996, the District and the Lakeville Area Police Department have operated a School Resource Officer (SRO) program to support safety and crime prevention in our schools. The officers, led by Lieutenant Jim Puncochar, who oversees the SRO program, work with our school administrators in an effort to create safer environments.

“The best part of the SRO program is the relationships they build with students,” said Puncochar. “Our schools are micro-communities, and the students learn to trust our officers because they are with them all day.”

“The SEM work group is important because it brings different perspectives to the table from our SROs, to administrators to school officials,” said Puncochar. “As public safety officers, our SROs bring (to the group) the threat assessment and emergency response which is critical to a strong safety and security response plan.”



Officer Greg Jensen, Lt. Jim Puncochar and Officer Mike Lamm, Lakeville Police.

Safety and security coordinator hired

While the District is proud of the essential work completed to date to ensure safer and secure schools, this work never ends.

To help lead it, the District recently hired Safety and Security Coordinator Damien Nelson, who brings over 20 years of security management experience to Lakeville Area Schools. Under his leadership, and over the next year, the SEM work group will continue to evaluate and prioritize secured levy spending dollars to model security industry best practices.

“The work for this winter and spring includes reviewing and enhancing our Emergency Action Procedures, and deploying site-specific support teams to help us better identify and support safety-related initiatives and training in our schools,” said Nelson. “Furthermore, the development of threat assessment teams, aligned with the District’s commitment to Social-Emotional Learning, will help identify, address and deter emerging risks,” Nelson added.

District receives \$285,800 grant

In October, the Lakeville Area Schools was one of 90 districts across the state to receive a school safety grant from the Minnesota Department of Education for \$285,800 for safety improvements at Kenwood Trail Middle School. The grant funding will go towards a secure site entry, improved emergency notification and detection systems, site lockdown capabilities and digital communication equipment.

The District will continue to enhance its response protocols to maintain a secure and welcoming environment for students and stakeholders. From strengthened entries, to better detection tools and improved internal communication systems, the work continues. Future needs require enhanced technology and infrastructure which are key and essential elements of sustaining safe schools and further protecting students and staff.



A grant will pay for safety improvements at Kenwood Trail Middle School.

This month’s member spotlight was submitted by Stephanie Kass, communications/PR director, Lakeville Area Schools.

Major Differences in House/Senate E-12 Funding Proposals

With the release of the Senate Omnibus E-12 Bill this week, the E-12 Education budget plans from the House, Senate and Governor are all on the table leaving major differences to resolve before the May 20 adjournment. A summary of the status of AMSD's legislative priorities is shown in Figure 1 (page 4).

The proposals from the House and Governor have many similarities, including proposed increases to the basic funding formula of 3 percent for the 2019-20 school year and an additional 2 percent increase for the 2020-21 school year. In addition, the Governor and House propose new investments to address the growing special education cross-subsidy and funding to retain the current slots in the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) and School Readiness Plus programs.

The Senate bill provides just a 0.5 percent increase to the formula each year and does not address the special education cross-subsidy or provide the funding necessary to retain the 4,000 Voluntary Prekindergarten/School Readiness slots. The bulk of the \$228 million Senate bill, beyond the 0.5 percent formula funding, is dedicated to school safety. The Senate proposes a little over \$37 million per year for Safe Schools Aid and \$2.5 million per year for school-linked mental health grants.











A recent survey of AMSD member school districts shows that a 1 percent formula increase would leave nearly two-thirds of AMSD districts with budget shortfalls, totaling almost \$164 million over the biennium. The survey asked



AMSD member districts to project their budget outlook under a 1 percent, 2 percent and 3 percent formula increase. The survey results make it clear that absent a 3 percent formula increase and progress toward addressing the special education cross-subsidy, many school districts will face budget shortfalls. The budget survey results are available [here](#).

The Legislature embarks on an Easter/Passover recess beginning April 13 and will resume activity on Tuesday, April 23. When they return from the recess, legislators will have less than one month to resolve their differences and adopt the biennial budget that will establish the level of funding for our schools for the next two years.

See page 4 for figure 1

	House: HF 2400: Davnie	Governor's Proposal: HF 2207	Senate: SF 7: Nelson
 BUDGET TARGETS	\$900 million	\$719 million	\$228 million
 FORMULA INCREASE	3 percent the first year and 2 percent the second year. <i>The formula allowance for fiscal year 2020 is increased from \$6,312 to \$6,501. The formula allowance for fiscal year 2021 and later is increased to \$6,631.</i>	3 percent the first year and 2 percent the second year. <i>The formula allowance for fiscal year 2020 is increased from \$6,312 to \$6,501. The formula allowance for fiscal year 2021 and later is increased to \$6,631.</i>	0.5 percent the first year and 0.5 percent the second year. <i>The formula allowance for fiscal year 2020 is increased from \$6,312 to \$6,343. The formula allowance for fiscal year 2021 and later is increased to \$6,375.</i>
 SPECIAL EDUCATION	Funding increased by \$117.8 million over the biennium. Establishes cross-subsidy reduction aid, removes the aid growth cap in FY 2020, includes tuition billing reforms and paperwork reduction proposals.	Funding increased by \$90.6 million over the biennium. Establishes cross-subsidy reduction aid, removes the aid growth cap in FY 2021 and also includes tuition billing reforms.	Not included.
 ENGLISH LEARNER REVENUE	English learner funding increased by \$4.484 million in FY 2020-21 and \$4.720 million in FY 2022-23. (Increases basic EL revenue from \$704 to \$740 per English learner.)	Not included	Not included.
 LOCAL OPTIONAL REVENUE / EQUALIZATION	Moves the \$300 of board approved referendum authority to Local Optional Revenue so Local Optional Revenue would be \$724 per pupil. The first \$300 of LOR is equalized at \$880,000 of referendum market value per pupil and the remaining \$424 is equalized at \$510,000 referendum market value. Increases Operating Referendum Equalization: • FY20-21: \$22.5 million • FY22-23: \$50 million	Moves the \$300 of board approved referendum authority to Local Optional Revenue so Local Optional Revenue would be \$724 per pupil. The first \$300 of Local Optional Revenue is equalized at \$880,000 of referendum market value per pupil and the remaining \$424 is equalized at \$510,000 referendum market value.	Moves the \$300 of board approved referendum authority to Local Optional Revenue so Local Optional Revenue would be \$724 per pupil. The first \$300 of Local Optional Revenue is equalized at \$880,000 of referendum market value per pupil and the remaining \$424 is equalized at \$510,000 referendum market value.
 TEACHER SHORTAGE / DIVERSITY	Includes: • \$7 million increase for expanded Grow Your Own programs (\$5 million per year). (\$2 million of this amount per year is for nonconventional teacher residency programs). • \$3 million per year for teacher of color recruitment and retention (\$1.5 million per year) • \$1.2 million increase for American Indian Teacher Preparation Grants (\$1 million per year) • \$2.1 million for Come Teach in Minnesota Program for hiring bonuses to recruit teachers (\$1.05 million per year)	Includes: • Increases Concurrent Enrollment Intro to Teaching grants by \$183,000 per year • \$4 million for Teacher Mentor & Retention Incentive Program (\$2 million per year) • \$1.817 million per year for Student Teacher Grants	Includes: • \$1 million for Alternative Teacher Preparation Grants in FY 2020
 REFERENDUM RENEWALS	Allow school boards to renew an operating referendum prospectively - for referendums approved after July 1, 2019, and requires the ballot language to state that the referendum may be approved by board action and establishing a reverse referendum.	Allow school boards to renew an operating referendum prospectively — for referendums approved after July 1, 2019, and requires the ballot language to state that the referendum may be approved by board action and establishing a reverse referendum.	Not included.
 SAFE SCHOOLS	House proposes \$5.8 million in aid for FY2020 and \$18.6 million for 2021 for a total of just under \$24.4 million. Revenue increased to \$45 per pupil for FY 2020 (\$18.75 for intermediate districts) and \$54 per pupil for 2021 (\$22.50 for intermediate districts). House also includes \$5.4 million in mental health grants.	Governor proposes \$5.8 million for FY20 and \$11.5 million for 2021 for a total of \$17.3 million.	The Senate proposes a little over \$37 million per year for the 2020-21 biennium only for Safe Schools Aid. The Senate also provides \$2.5 million per year for school-linked mental health grants.
 EARLY LEARNING / PRE-K	Sets the combined count of participants for VPK and School Readiness Plus at 7,160 annually on an ongoing basis. (Under current law, the total number of participants is set to drop (from 7,160 in fiscal year 2019) to 3,160 participants starting in fiscal year 2020). • FY20-21: \$41.35 million • FY22-23: \$51.28 million	Sets the combined count of participants for VPK and School Readiness Plus at 7,160 annually on an ongoing basis. • FY20-21: \$41.35 million • FY22-23: \$51.28 million	VPK and School Readiness Plus seats allowed to drop back to 3,160. Funding for Early Learning Scholarships is increased by \$44.5 million for the 2020-21 biennium only. The Commissioner is directed to give scholarship priority to applicants in school districts with temporary VPK and School Readiness Plus seats.
 PRE-LABOR DAY START	School districts could start the 2020-21 and 2021-22 school years prior to Labor Day.	Not included	Not included.