



Association of Metropolitan School Districts

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AMSD Legislative Committee Meeting
Friday, March 27, 2020, 7:30 am – 9:00 am
Conducted via Zoom

Members Present:	Lisa Anderson Pat Driscoll David Law Christine Osorio John Stroebel	Andrea Cuene Kim Hiel Stephanie Levine Mike Redmond	Zach Dorholt Curtis Johnson Astein Osei Teri Staloch
Staff Present:	Scott Croonquist	Troy Melhus	Kimberly Jansa
Guests Present:	Kris Amundson Mary Gilbert Dougherty	Josh Downham	Lori Grivna

I. Approval of Minutes of February 28 Meeting

Chair Andrea Cuene called the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m. Chair Cuene asked members to review the minutes from the February 28 meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved.

II. Executive Director's Report

Chair Cuene asked Executive Director Scott Croonquist to share his report. Croonquist expressed his appreciation for the amazing work all of the districts have done in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Croonquist shared that Director of Communications and Advocacy Troy Melhus has created a comprehensive COVID-19 page on the AMSD website that includes distance learning resources, recent communications from the Governor, MDE, MDH and the CDC, as well as links to AMSD legislators' contact information. Croonquist reported the House and Senate convened yesterday and approved a \$330 million package to deal with COVID-19 issues including child care centers, food shelves and assistance to homeless citizens. Funding to replace lost school fee revenue was not included in the package. The Legislature is adjourned until April 14, or the call of the House and Senate leadership. The Capitol and other state office buildings are currently closed to the public. The Governor recently clarified that the distance learning period will go through April 30. May 1 and 4 are scheduled as days for teachers to prepare for students' return.

Committee members shared how their district is handling things during this time, including transportation, food service, child care, compensation for spring coaches and fee-based hourly employees. A suggestion was made to survey AMSD member districts to compile information about how they are dealing with a variety of issues related to implementing distance learning, providing meals for students and providing child care. Croonquist and Melhus, with the help of some of the member superintendents, will work to create and distribute the survey within the next few days.

Croonquist asked Superintendent Christine Tucci Osorio, co-chair of the School Finance Working Group, to share an update. Osorio reported the last meeting was canceled and all conference calls are currently on hold.

Croonquist reported that the superintendent panel that is providing feedback to the Cruz-Guzman mediators met recently. The panel heard a presentation from the lead prosecutor in the case who outlined some of the potential initiatives and programs that could be included in a settlement. Superintendent Law and Superintendent Tucci Osorio shared that the presentation was very respectful and included many ideas that would be consistent with the goals in the Reimagine Minnesota plan. Croonquist reported that discussions are still underway between Paula Forbes and the Minneapolis Foundation about a conference for school board members to build awareness around Reimagine Minnesota. The conference may take place virtually.

III. Appointment of Budget Subcommittee

Chair Cuene asked members to consider the appointment of a budget subcommittee. This subcommittee has historically consisted of the chair, past chair and vice chair to provide guidance to the AMSD executive director and staff in the development of the annual budget. A motion was made and seconded to approve the budget subcommittee of Stephanie Levine, Andrea Cuene and Curtis Johnson. The motion was approved.

IV. Discussion and Approval of 2020 Session Priorities

Chair Cuene asked members to review the proposed 2020 Legislative Session Priorities. Executive Director Croonquist noted that AMSD has historically approved an abbreviated version of the legislative platform for the final weeks of the legislative session. Croonquist noted that the COVID-19 pandemic and its ramifications is now dominating the discussion at the Capitol and the proposed Session Priorities document reflects that reality. Following a brief discussion, a motion was made and seconded to approve the 2020 Session Priorities as presented. The motion was approved.

V. Adjourn

Chair Cuene reminded the committee that the Board of Directors meeting scheduled for April 3 has been canceled. There was a suggestion made about potentially holding the May board meetings via Zoom. Croonquist reported that staff is exploring that option. Cuene adjourned the meeting at 9:00 a.m.