



Association of Metropolitan School Districts

Board of Directors Meeting
Friday, May 1, 2020, 7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
Conducted via Zoom

I. Welcome

Chair Andrea Cuene called the meeting to order at 7:31 a.m. Cuene welcomed everyone present and shared some protocols for the first AMSD virtual board of directors meeting.

II. Routine Business

A. Approval of Minutes of March 6 Meeting

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the March 6 meeting. The motion was approved.

III. Guest Speaker

Chair Cuene introduced the guest speaker, Deputy Commissioner Dr. Heather Mueller, of the Minnesota Department of Education. After thanking everyone for all of their work during this time of distance learning, Dr. Mueller talked about the current focus areas for MDE including technology and internet access, school age care, graduation and summer programming. Dr. Mueller noted that while many aspects of distance learning have gone well, there are many inequities and disparities that must be addressed, especially related to access to the technology necessary to engage in distance learning. Following her presentation, Dr. Mueller answered questions from board members.

IV. Executive Committee Report

A. Approval of 2020-21 AMSD Budget & Membership Dues

Chair Cuene thanked the members of the budget subcommittee, Stephanie Levine and Curtis Johnson. Cuene noted that the budget approved by the executive committee reflects the desire to keep the AMSD budget and overall membership dues flat while including a 2 percent cost of living adjustment for AMSD staff and legislative consultants. Cuene noted that the budget includes a one-time expenditure to update the AMSD strategic plan but there were no other significant changes proposed to the budget. A motion was made and seconded to approve the budget and membership dues. The motion was approved.

V. Legislative Update

Executive Director Croonquist reported that Minnesota Management and Budget plans to provide an updated budget projection next week and possibly an updated forecast before November. Referring to the economic outlook, Croonquist noted that the general fund revenues in April were \$103 million below the February projection. The legislature has put fiscal decisions on hold until after the upcoming budget projection. Croonquist shared an overview of the COVID-19 relief package moving through the House and Senate. Croonquist also reported that the MDE has received a confirmation of the level of funding the State will receive from the CARES Act. There will be two funding streams coming to

Minnesota - \$140 million under the Elementary and Secondary Education School Relief (ESSER) Fund and \$43 million through the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund. Croonquist reported that 90 percent of the ESSER funding is to be provided directly to school districts and will be allocated based on each district's proportionate share of the state's Title 1, Part A allocation. Croonquist reminded members that May 18 is the constitutional date for adjournment.

VI. Education Reimagined – A Facilitated Discussion

Chair Andrea Cuene welcomed Paula Forbes to the meeting as our facilitator and asked her to introduce the process by which members will take part in the discussion. Forbes explained the purpose of today's conversation is to discuss Reimagine Minnesota as it pertains to the changes Minnesota school districts have experienced with the implementation of Distance Learning. Forbes shared that with the support of the Minneapolis Foundation, there will be a virtual conference held on June 17 for school board members and administrators to come together, share their experiences, and cross pollinate ideas around how to provide access and opportunity for all children in this new era of education. Forbes gave directions on how all members would be placed in Zoom breakout rooms and have the opportunity to share their experiences with distance learning. Director of Communications and Advocacy Troy Melhus shared a Google Doc with members that included discussion questions and asked that each group record notes from their breakout group. Forbes explained that the information gathered today will help to shape the direction of the conference in June. Members convened into breakout rooms for discussions and then reconvened as a full group for a short debrief. The conversations between board members were rich and thought-provoking. Forbes thanked everyone for sharing their notes and explained that more details about the June conference would be shared soon.

VII. Adjourn

Chair Cuene thanked everyone for their attendance and patience as we convened virtually for the first time in AMSD history. Cuene reminded members of the upcoming meetings and adjourned the meeting at 9:02 a.m.