



Association of Metropolitan School Districts

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AMSD Legislative Committee Meeting

Friday, April 24, 2020, 7:30 am – 9:00 am

Conducted via Zoom

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

I. Approval of Minutes of March 27 Meeting

Chair Andrea Cuene called the meeting to order at 7:47 a.m. Chair Cuene asked members to review the minutes from the March 27 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 spoke about the Governor's announcement yesterday that distance learning will continue for the remainder of the academic year. Croonquist noted a few items included in Executive Order 20-41 including the expansion of in-school provisions of additional activities and programming, home visits by school staff, professional development days on May 1 and May 4, waiving the civics exam for the 2019-20 school year, and additional flexibility for fund transfers. Croonquist noted that except as explicitly modified by Executive Order 20-41, Executive Order 20-19 remains in full effect.

Croonquist provided a broader legislative update, specifically regarding the state's economic outlook. He noted that Minnesota Management and Budget plans to provide an updated budget projection in early May and possibly an updated forecast before November. Croonquist shared an overview of the COVID-19 relief package moving through the House and Senate. The flashpoint in this bill is the issue of requiring school districts to retain and compensate hourly staff. The MDE has issued guidance on this issue clarifying that school districts are allowed to implement budget-based layoffs in programs that do not have a dedicated funding stream. The Senate bill defers to this guidance while the House bill does not allow for this exception. Croonquist also reported that the MDE did get confirmation on the level of funding the State will receive from the CARES Act. There is a lot of flexibility provided to the state on how to distribute the funds. Croonquist reminded members that the Legislature must adjourn by May 18.

Croonquist asked Superintendent Christine Tucci Osorio, co-chair of the School Finance Working Group, to share an update. Osorio shared that there was a check-in yesterday to see

how districts have been impacted by distance learning. She noted that she urged the Commissioner to have the meeting focus on priorities and issues that have arisen during the distance learning period including the budget implications.

Croonquist asked for feedback from the committee on the top priorities for the federal funds coming through the CARES Act. Several suggestions were discussed including technology funding, personalized learning, special education cross-subsidy, enrollment disruptions, decreased rigor and the perpetuating of the opportunity and achievement gaps.

Croonquist reported that plans are taking shape for a conference in June targeted at school board members to build awareness around Reimagine Minnesota. Paula Forbes and Dario Otero have been working with the Minneapolis Foundation, which has agreed to fund the conference. The conference will take place virtually during the latter half of June.

III. Discussion of Update to AMSD Strategic Plan

Chair Cuene drew members' attention to the AMSD Strategic Roadmap, last updated in October of 2019. Executive Director Croonquist noted that the last comprehensive review of the strategic plan was in 2014. Croonquist asked members to share recommendations for facilitators that could help AMSD with the strategic plan review this summer.

IV. Adjourn

Chair Cuene reminded the committee that the Board of Directors meeting scheduled for May 1 will be conducted via Zoom. Cuene adjourned the meeting at 8:54 a.m.