



Association of Metropolitan School Districts

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AMSD Legislative Committee Meeting

Friday, May 8, 2020, 7:30 am – 9:00 am

Conducted via Zoom

Members Present:	Lisa Anderson Kim Hiel Stephanie Levine Mike Redmond	Andrea Cuene 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 April 24 Meeting

Chair Andrea Cuene called the meeting to order at 7:36 a.m. Chair Cuene asked members to review the minutes from the April 24 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 reported that Minnesota Management and Budget released an interim budget projection this week showing the state facing a nearly \$2.4 billion deficit for the current biennium. This represents almost a \$4 billion change from the \$1.5 billion surplus that was projected 10 weeks ago. Croonquist noted that the positive news is that Minnesota's budget reserve of \$2.359 billion. Also, the state has received \$1.87 billion from the federal CARES Act to help with pandemic-related costs. Croonquist provided information on the Elementary and Secondary School Education Relief Fund (ESSER Fund) - \$140 million will be allocated to Minnesota, with 90% of those funds directly passed to districts. Education leaders will have a great deal of flexibility with how to direct these funds to meet the needs of their students. In addition, the state will receive about \$43 through the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER) to provide grants to school districts, post-secondary institutions and other education-related entities.

Croonquist thanked all of the superintendents for their quick response to AMSD's COVID-19 relief survey to identify the priorities of our member districts for the CARES Act funding. The results of the survey were shared with the Governor, legislator and the MDE commissioner and staff. Croonquist thanked Director of Communications and Advocacy Troy Melhus for his work in pulling the survey results together in a comprehensive and cohesive survey.

Croonquist noted that the session must adjourn on May 18, with at least one special session likely. The governor's peacetime emergency expires on May 13 and will likely be extended 30 days. Croonquist noted that a lot of bills, including many education proposals, are likely not going to move forward with legislators focused on the pandemic and budget issues. The House

has two bills of note moving forward including legislation focused on requiring school districts to retain and compensate hourly workers as well as an omnibus education policy bill.

Croonquist shared that the Save the Date flyer for the Reimagine Minnesota virtual conference has been distributed to AMSD members. The conference will be held the morning of June 17 and further details will be forthcoming.

III. Discussion of Topic and Timing for AMSD Annual Conference

Executive Director Croonquist shared the list of annual policy conference topics, dating back to 2001. Croonquist noted that AMSD will be hosting the virtual conference on June 17 and that it might make sense to see how that conference goes and then determine if and how we want to proceed with another conference later this summer or fall. Given the ongoing pandemic, we would likely need to plan for another virtual conference. Committee members agreed that it makes sense to wait to see what issues rise to the top during the June virtual conference and that a fall conference would most likely need to be conducted remotely.

IV. Adjourn

Chair Cuene reminded the committee that the Board of Directors meeting scheduled for May 22 will be conducted via Zoom. Croonquist noted that Dr. Tom Melcher and Adosh Unni would be sharing an overview of legislation passed during the 2020 session at the meeting. He also asked that the legislative committee members plan to attend the two committee meetings scheduled over the summer – June 12 and July 17 – as those meetings will likely be used for strategic planning activities. Cuene adjourned the meeting at 8:47 a.m.