



Association of Metropolitan School Districts

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AMSD Legislative Committee Meeting

Friday, June 12, 2020, 7:30 am – 9:00 am

Conducted via Zoom

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

I. Approval of Minutes of May 8 Meeting

Chair Andrea Cuene called the meeting to order at 7:36 a.m. Chair Cuene asked members to review the minutes from the May 8 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 the special session convenes at noon today. The special session was triggered due to the intention of the Governor to renew the peacetime emergency order which was scheduled to expire. Following the death of George Floyd and the subsequent civil unrest, a primary focus of the session will be criminal justice reform. There are several other potential issues on the agenda including a bonding bill, a tax bill, and the Education Policy Bill that had been agreed to but did not pass during the regular session. Croonquist noted that each bill must be re-introduced in the special session.

Croonquist reported that Minnesota Management and Budget's most recent economic updated showed that revenue was \$20 million less than was forecasted in early May. Croonquist reported the CARES Act allocations, related to the Elementary and Secondary School Education Relief (ESSER) Fund and the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund, are posted on the department's website. Districts need to apply for the available grant funds.

There is a great deal of interest in how districts will be directed to deliver instruction in the fall. Croonquist reported that AMSD is working with other organizations including MSBA and MASA to be involved in the process. Superintendent David Law shared some information about a committee he is involved with appointed by the Department of Education. Final guidance for the fall reopening will not be released until the week of July 27. Committee members had an engaging conversation about distance learning and how imperative it is to reduce disparities, differentiate teaching and personalize learning.

Croonquist shared that the Reimagine Minnesota virtual conference scheduled for June 17 is coming together nicely. There are currently 260 registrants for the event, which will include a superintendent panel, equity director panel and school board panel. The keynote speaker will be Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan.

III. Review Strategic Planning Proposals

Chair Cuene and Executive Director Croonquist recently met with two consultants regarding the AMSD strategic planning process. The first proposal was provided by TeamWorks, International. TeamWorks was the consultant AMSD used in the last major revision of the strategic plan in 2014. Cuene and Croonquist also met with INspiring SIGHT who provided a proposal for the strategic planning work. Committee Member Lisa Anderson stated that she has worked professionally with Mary Kay Delvo, the owner of Inspiring Sight, so she would be excusing herself from the discussion.

The committee reviewed both proposals in detail. Committee members agreed that it is important to focus on including diverse perspectives and going “back to better” rather than back to normal. There were also members who questioned whether an organization outside of AMSD was needed to do this work. A few committee members noted that superintendents and board members are extremely busy planning for the fall reopening and that it might be wise to delay the strategic planning decision until after things calm down. After a thoughtful and engaging conversation, committee decided to table a decision about updating the strategic plan until a later meeting.

IV. Executive Director’s Performance Evaluation

AMSD staff and consultants were excused from the meeting so the committee members could discuss Executive Director Croonquist’s annual performance review. Chair Cuene reported that 37 AMSD board members had completed the performance evaluation and she reviewed the results with committee members. Following the discussion, a motion was made and seconded to grant the executive director a one-time 2% performance bonus. The motion was approved.