



## **Association of Metropolitan School Districts**

Board of Directors Meeting  
Friday, May 22, 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 virtual protocols for the meeting.

### **II. Routine Business**

#### **A. Approval of Minutes of May 1 Meeting**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the May 1 meeting. The motion was approved.

### **III. Guest Speakers**

Chair Cuene introduced the first guest speaker, Deputy Commissioner Dr. Heather Mueller of the Minnesota Department of Education. Dr. Mueller shared her appreciation for the ongoing partnership with AMSD and the opportunity to come back to engage with this group. Dr. Mueller talked about the two options for summer programming: the hybrid model and continued distance learning. Dr. Mueller shared that per Minnesota Department of Health guidance, there will not be an ACT exam administered in June. She also highlighted three different options for reopening school in the fall: distance learning, a hybrid model, and a return to in person instruction. She noted that whichever option is decided upon, we want to be sure to have the strategies and structures in place to support it. A decision on fall reopening will be made by July 31. Dr. Mueller reported that a work group has also been formed to develop recommendations related to youth sports. Lastly, Dr. Muller reiterated the difficulty of the graduation decision and thanked members for finding so many thoughtful ways to celebrate students. Following her presentation, Dr. Mueller answered a few questions from board members.

Chair Cuene next introduced Dr. Tom Melcher, former director of the Program Finance Division at the Minnesota Department of Education. Dr. Melcher shared a presentation highlighting the finance provisions of the E-12 Finance Bill, which includes several COVID-19 related formula adjustments. Director of Government Relations Adosh Unni then discussed the policy provisions in the bill, including the waivers related to MCA testing, truancy referrals and the required number of instructional days for probationary teachers. Mr. Unni also shared an overview of the Omnibus Education Policy Bill, HF163, which did not pass. Mr. Unni concluded by reviewing the four Executive Orders that related to education.

Andre Prah, agency finance director, provided a presentation on the federal CARES funding coming to Minnesota. This includes the Governor's Emergency Education Relief fund (GEER), Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief fund (ESSER), as well as grant funds available through an RFP

process. Ms. Prah1 detailed the allowable uses for the funds, with the highest priorities being technology and summer school programming.

Chair Cuene introduced the next guest speaker, PELSB Executive Director Alex Liuzzi, who shared that PELB's focus is to ensure that the COVID-19 related issues will not negatively impact teachers in their work in the fall. These include student teaching waivers, conditional tier 3 licenses, fingerprint cards, and expediting the processing of teacher licenses.

Chair Cuene welcomed Dr. Anthony Kinkel, executive director of the Minnesota Board of School Administrators. Dr. Kinkel recognized the terrific job that administrators and school board members have done the past few months. Dr. Kinkel shared a few updates but noted that the end of the meeting time had come and he suggested reconvening a future meeting with superintendents to allow more time. Executive Director Croonquist said he would schedule another meeting with Dr. Kinkel and superintendents to allow Dr. Kinkel to provide a detailed overview of the changes to the administrative licensure rule.

#### **IV. Executive Director's Report**

Chair Cuene asked Executive Director Scott Croonquist to provide his report. Croonquist thanked all of the presenters for the informative updates. Croonquist also thanked AMSD lobbying consultants, Kris Amundson and Lori Grivna for their stellar work this session. Croonquist reminded members of the upcoming virtual conference scheduled for June 17. Registration information for the conference will be sent within the next week. Croonquist announced there are a few openings on the AMSD committees. The executive committee has one superintendent and one school board member opening and the legislative committee has an opening for one school board member. Members interested in serving should contact Croonquist or Chair Cuene. Finally, Croonquist thanked superintendents for their quick response to the survey regarding the CARES funding priorities, which was shared with staff in the Governor's office, MDE staff and legislators. The summary of the survey can be found on the AMSD website.

#### **V. Adjourn**

Chair Cuene thanked everyone for their attendance and reminded members of the upcoming committee meetings. There being no further business, Chair Cuene adjourned the meeting at 9:06 a.m.