



Association of Metropolitan School Districts

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AMSD Legislative Committee Meeting

Friday, July 17, 2020, 7:30 am – 9:00 am

Conducted via Zoom

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

I. Approval of Minutes of June 12 Meeting

Chair Andrea Cuene called the meeting to order at 7:36 a.m. Chair Cuene asked members to review the minutes from the June 12 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 Hastings Public Schools has inquired about AMSD membership. He also noted that the second special session of the summer convened earlier this week. The special session was necessitated when the Governor extended the peacetime emergency order for an additional 30 days. The Senate voted to terminate the peacetime emergency but the House is not expected to follow suit so the order will continue. There has been no agreement reached on a bonding bill. Negotiations continue on a criminal justice and police accountability bill. Croonquist reported that Minnesota Management and Budget's most recent economic update showed that net general fund receipts are expected to be \$168 million higher than projected.

Croonquist noted that Minneapolis Federal Reserve President Neel Kashkari and Former Supreme Court Justice Alan Page are continuing to advocate for their proposed constitutional amendment and plan to bring it forward again next session. Croonquist asked for feedback from the committee members about how AMSD should engage in this effort. Members agreed that it is important for AMSD to continue to engage in the discussion regarding the proposal.

Croonquist reported that work has begun on updating the AMSD Election Issues Guide and asked members to provide feedback. Committee members were sent the 2018 guide as a point of reference. Croonquist noted that a section providing an overview of Reimagine Minnesota will be added to the Guide.

Finally, Croonquist reported that the Education Finance Working Group continues to meet and that Dr. Nicola Alexander shared a presentation on geographic cost differentials at the most recent meeting.

III. Discussion/Selection of AMSD Friend of Education Award Winner(s)

Executive Director Croonquist asked members to review the history of the Friend of Public Education Award. Croonquist reported that he had conferred with AMSD's lobbying consultants and they agreed that there were not any obvious candidates for the award given the lack of significant education-related legislation approved during the 2020 session. He suggested that it might make sense to delay a decision until after the coming special sessions and school reopening plans are announced. After a brief discussion, committee members agreed to revisit this topic at a later date.

IV. Discussion of Location/Platform for Upcoming Meetings

Executive Director Croonquist asked for feedback from members on how best to conduct future meetings – in person or remotely. Committee members agreed that it would be appropriate to follow the models that member school districts implement.

V. Recognition of Outgoing Committee Members

Chair Cuene expressed her sincere thanks to our outgoing committee members, Zach Dorholt, Stephanie Levine and Teri Staloch, for their hard work and contributions to AMSD. When we are able to meet in person again, the outgoing members will receive an appreciation gift.

VI. Discussion with Education Advisors to U.S. Senator Tina Smith

Amy Johnson Korba, Brenna Barber, Erin Kurers and Andrew Bremer from U.S. Senator Tina Smith's office joined the meeting. Committee members were provided with an update on federal legislation and Sen. Smith's education priorities. The guests asked members to share what their district's biggest challenges are related to opening school in the fall. Several members provided feedback. The themes that emerged were the need for additional funding, providing a safe learning environment and addressing mental health concerns.

VII. Adjourn

Chair Cuene reminded members of upcoming meetings and adjourned the meeting at 9:11 a.m.