



Association of Metropolitan School Districts

Board of Directors Meeting
Friday, August 14, 2020, 7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
Conducted via Zoom

I. Welcome

Chair Andrea Cuene called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. Cuene welcomed everyone present and a few introductions were made.

II. Routine Business

A. Approval of Minutes of May 22 Meeting

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the May 22 meeting. The motion was approved.

III. Guest Speakers

Chair Cuene introduced the first guest speakers, Minnesota Department of Education Commissioner Mary Cathryn Ricker and Deputy Commissioner Dr. Heather Mueller. Both shared their appreciation for the difficult work this group continues to do. Dr. Mueller shared an overview of the regional support teams being developed to help support district leaders. The teams will include representation from the Minnesota Department of Health, the Minnesota Department of Education, local public health officials, and a testing coordinator. The regional support teams will help with contact tracing, ensuring a seamless transition between learning models and providing updates and information. Commissioner Ricker acknowledged the challenge of the requirement to provide child care for essential workers and she encouraged districts to partner with community organizations, redeploy staff and reach out to MDE for assistance. Dr. Mueller provided an overview of the Coronavirus Relief Fund application process and emphasized the requirement to spend the CRF money first as it must be expended by December 31. Following their presentation, Commissioner Ricker and Dr. Mueller answered a few questions.

Chair Cuene next introduced Minnesota Secretary of State Steve Simon. Secretary Simon reported that the recent primary election went well. Secretary Simon stressed that we have to view elections through a public health lens. He highlighted two important requests for everyone to consider – voting from home and becoming an election judge/poll worker. The upcoming election on November 3 is expected to have 3 million voters at over 3,000 voting places across the state. Secretary Simon informed the group that absentee voting begins on September 18. More information can be found at mnvotes.org.

IV. Executive Committee Report

A. Election of New Executive and Legislative Committee Members

Chair Cuene reported that the Executive Committee had nominated the following AMSD board members to serve on the Executive Committee for 3 year terms:

Kelsey Dawson Walton, School Board Member, Osseo Area Schools
Renee Corneille, Superintendent, St. Anthony-New Brighton Public Schools

A motion was made and seconded to approve the slate of nominees. The motion was approved

Cuene reported that the Executive Committee had nominated the following AMSD board member to serve on the Legislative Committee for a 3 year term:

Zuki Ellis, School Board Member, Saint Paul Public Schools

A motion was made and seconded to approve the nomination. The motion was approved.

B. Election of AMSD Officers

Chair Cuene reported that the Executive Committee had nominated the following nominees to serve as AMSD officers for 2020-2021:

Chair: Curtis Johnson, School Board Member, Roseville Area Schools
Vice Chair: Kelsey Dawson Walton, School Board Member, Osseo Area Schools
Treasurer: Aldo Sicoli, Superintendent, Roseville Area Schools

A motion was made and seconded to approve the nominations. The motion was approved.

V. Recognition of Outgoing AMSD Chair

New AMSD Chair Curtis Johnson thanked Andrea Cuene for her leadership as AMSD Chair over the past year. Johnson announced that AMSD will make a \$100 donation in honor of Andrea Cuene to the Wayzata Education Foundation. Cuene expressed her gratitude to AMSD members for the opportunity to serve as chair.

VI. Executive Director's Report

Chair Johnson asked Executive Director Croonquist to give his report. Croonquist took a moment to thank outgoing chair Andrea Cuene for her service and outstanding leadership over the past year and congratulated Curtis Johnson on being elected chair. Croonquist also recognized the outgoing committee members – Teri Staloch, Stephanie Levine and Zach Dorholt – and thanked them for their service to AMSD. Croonquist announced that Hastings Public School has joined AMSD and he welcomed Hastings Superintendent Bob McDowell. Croonquist also welcomed several new superintendents joining the AMSD Board of Directors:

Interim Superintendent Malinda Lansfeldt, Stillwater
Assistant Superintendent Jennifer Cherry, Stillwater
Superintendent Zena Stenvik, Columbia Heights
Superintendent Lisa Sayles-Adams, Eastern Carver County
Interim Superintendent Stephanie Burrage, Robbinsdale

Executive Director Croonquist reported on the three special session that have been held this summer. In June's session, the Legislature approved an education policy bill that included several provisions that were on AMSD's legislative platform including allowing referendum notices to be mailed earlier to align with the beginning of early voting, repealing the mandate that a growing share of compensatory revenue be spend on extended time programming and the repeal of two special education mandates. The session in July saw the passage of comprehensive criminal justice/police accountability reform. Croonquist noted that the partisan rancor increased during the recent August session when the Senate voted to oust Department of Labor and Industry Commissioner Nancy Leppink. Croonquist reported that there was not an attempt to pass the bonding bill in the August special session and that passage of a bonding bill is now in doubt. With the current peacetime emergency expiring on September 11, there might be another special session on or before that date. Croonquist reported that AMSD is working with MASPA and MSBA on concerns over the significant increase in unemployment claims that school

districts have experienced since the onset of the pandemic. He also reported that the School Finance Working Group met last night and has several additional meetings scheduled in August and September as they continue to develop recommendations to reform Minnesota's education funding system. Croonquist noted that there continues to be activity around the proposed constitutional amendment brought forward by Former Justice Alan Page and Minneapolis Federal Reserve President Neel Kashkari and that AMSD will continue to stay engaged in the conversation. Croonquist announced that the 2020 Election Issues Guide is nearing completion and will be distributed to all AMSD board members soon. Finally, Croonquist polled the group to determine the level of comfort of moving to in person AMSD meetings in the future. The results were split and Croonquist indicated that he will continue to gather feedback and work with the executive committee on the appropriate platform for upcoming meetings.

V. Adjourn

Chair Johnson thanked everyone for their attendance and reminded members of the upcoming meetings. There being no further business, Chair Johnson adjourned the meeting at 8:55 a.m.