



Association of Metropolitan School Districts

Board of Directors Meeting
Friday, September 11, 2020, 7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
Conducted via Zoom

I. Welcome

Chair Curtis Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:32 a.m. Johnson welcomed everyone present. Johnson recognized and congratulated Dr. Kim Heil, Superintendent, Fridley Public Schools, for being this year's recipient of the Richard Green Scholars Program awarded by MASA.

II. Routine Business

A. Approval of Minutes of August 14 Meeting

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the August 14 meeting. The motion was approved.

III. Executive Director's Report

Chair Johnson asked Executive Director Scott Croonquist to give his report. Croonquist reported that another special session will convene today, the fourth since the regular session adjourned in May. The primary item on the agenda will be a debate about the Governor's extension of the peacetime emergency and it is not anticipated that any education-related legislation will be considered. Hope is waning that the federal government will provide further Coronavirus relief following the Senate's failure to advance a scaled down relief measure. Croonquist reported that Minnesota Management and Budget released the August revenue update and general fund revenues were \$202 million over projections with year to date receipts \$380 million more than projected. Croonquist provided an update on the School Finance Working Group. The Working Group is nearing completion of a comprehensive report. Superintendent Christine Tucci Osorio, co-chair of the School Finance Working Group, recognized several other AMSD members that have been involved in the process. Croonquist reminded members that the 2020 Election Issues Guide is available and encouraged everyone to use it to engage legislative candidates. Croonquist announced that the AMSD Legislative Committee has chosen the recipients of this year's Friend of Public Education Award -- Dr. Nicola Alexander and Dr. Michael Rodriguez from the University of Minnesota. The awards will be presented at the October 2 Board of Directors meeting. Croonquist shared that the October 2 meeting will be transitioning to a hybrid event, with both an in-person and remote option. Further details will be shared as we get closer to the date.

IV. Guest Speaker

Chair Johnson introduced Peter Leatherman of The Morris Leatherman Company. Mr. Leatherman shared results from their recent survey which was conducted August 31 – September 8. The sample size of the survey was 1,100 people statewide, with a confidence interval of plus or minus three percent. Leatherman noted that with all of the bad things happening in the world, public education seems insulated with people generally having positive thoughts about public education. Following his presentation, Leatherman engaged in a question & answer session with AMSD members.

V. Breakout Groups to Discuss Platform Priorities

Due to time constraints, there was not time to conduct breakout sessions to discuss the results of the legislative platform survey. Executive Director Croonquist asked members to review the results of the survey and send any comments to him, Chair Johnson, or another member of the Legislative Committee.

VI. 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 9:06 a.m.