



Association of Metropolitan School Districts

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AMSD Legislative Committee Meeting

Friday, August 28, 2020, 7:30 am – 9:00 am

Conducted via Zoom

Members Present:	Lisa Anderson Kelsey Dawson Walton Zuki Ellis David Law Mike Redmond	Renee Corneille Kim Hiel Astein Osei John Stroebel	Andrea Cuene Pat Driscoll Curtis Johnson Christine Osorio
Staff Present:	Scott Croonquist	Troy Melhus	Kimberly Jansa
Guests Present:	Kris Amundson Lori Grivna	Josh Downham	Mary Dougherty

I. Approval of Minutes of July 17 Meeting

Chair Curtis Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:47 a.m. Chair Johnson asked members to review the minutes from the July 17 meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved.

II. Executive Director's Report

Chair Johnson asked Executive Director Scott Croonquist to share his report. Croonquist noted that it has been a summer of special sessions, with not much new to report regarding education. The Governor will likely be calling another special session in September when he renews the peacetime emergency. Croonquist reported that the Coronavirus Relief Funds have been officially approved by the Legislative Advisory Council, with approximately \$245 million allocated directly to districts. He reminded everyone that these funds must be expended by December 31, 2020. Croonquist shared that there is some, albeit fading, hope that there might be some additional resources approved by Congress. Croonquist reported that he, along with AMSD Consultant Kris Amundson, are working to schedule a meeting with representatives from the Department of Employment and Economic Development to discuss the spike in unemployment insurance claims that districts are experiencing.

The Education Finance Working Group continues to meet and is making progress on a comprehensive proposal. Superintendent Christine Osorio, a co-chair of the working group, provided some context and insight on the group's dynamics.

Croonquist announced that the 2020 Election Issues Guide has been published and encouraged members to share it with their community and use it to engage legislative candidates. Croonquist also noted that a survey had been conducted to determine each AMSD member's opening learning model and the results were available in summary document. In

addition, AMSD is working to identify the equity policies or statements adopted by each AMSD member and a summary of that work is also available for review.

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

Chair Johnson gave a brief history of the award. Croonquist reminded members that the committee had discussed potential state policymakers during the June meeting but that there were not any obvious candidates given that education received little attention during the session. After a thoughtful discussion, the committee determined that Dr. Nicola Alexander and Dr. Michael Rodriguez from the University of Minnesota be awarded this year's Friend of Public Education Award. A motion was made and seconded to approve the nominations. The nominations were approved unanimously.

IV. Review Results of Legislative Platform Survey

Executive Director Croonquist asked for feedback from members on the results of the legislative platform survey. He noted that the survey is just the first step in the development of the legislative platform and is used to identify priority issues for AMSD members. Members discussed the survey results and noted that the resources necessary to conduct distance and hybrid learning are of a high priority. Croonquist noted that the report from the School Finance Working Group would likely be public by the time of the next legislative committee meeting and suggested that at the committee might want to review those recommendations and determine whether AMSD should endorse the recommendations. Croonquist asked members to contact him directly with any additional issues they would like to see added to the platform.

V. Discussion of AMSD Strategic Plan Update

Executive Director Croonquist reminded members that the committee had decided to delay a decision on updating the strategic plan at the June meeting given how busy everyone was dealing with the pandemic and the difficulty of meeting in person. A question had also been raised at the June meeting about whether it is necessary to hire a consultant to facilitate the review of the strategic plan or if AMSD could use the expertise of committee members to review the plan and make any updates. After a discussion, Committee Members Lisa Anderson and Christine Osorio volunteered to coordinate updating the strategic plan. David Law also offered that his research and evaluation staff could provide some assistance. Lisa Anderson will draft a plan and timeline for review at the September committee meeting.

VI. Adjourn

Executive Director Croonquist shared that Bill Morris and Peter Leatherman will present a summary of their latest polling information at the next AMSD Board of Directors meeting scheduled for September 11. Chair Johnson adjourned the meeting at 9:02 a.m.