



Association of Metropolitan School Districts

2 Pine Tree Drive, Suite 380, Arden Hills, MN 55112 • 612-430-7750 • www.amsd.org

AMSD Legislative Committee Meeting

Friday, September 25, 2020, 7:30 am – 9:00 am

Conducted via Zoom

Members Present: Lisa Anderson Renee Corneille Andrea Cuene
Kelsey Dawson Walton Pat Driscoll
Zuki Ellis Kim Hiel Curtis Johnson
David Law Astein Osei Mike Redmond
John Stroebel

Staff Present: Scott Croonquist Troy Melhus Kimberly Jansa

Guests Present: Kris Amundson Josh Downham Mary Dougherty
Lori Grivna

I. Approval of Minutes of August 28 Meeting

Chair Curtis Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:33 a.m. Chair Johnson asked members to review the minutes from the August 28 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 provided an update on the fourth special session of the summer which occurred on September 11. No significant legislation was approved during the special session but the Senate voted to remove Commerce Commissioner Steve Kelley from his position. The Governor will likely be calling another special session in October to renew the peacetime emergency. Croonquist shared that the Minnesota House of Representatives Select Committee on Racial Justice held its first meeting earlier this week. The 13 member bipartisan panel was formed to explore why Minnesota has some of the worst racial disparities in the country in the areas of education, health, housing and public safety. The committee is scheduled to meet for the next several Tuesdays and will develop proposals for consideration in the 2021 legislative session. Croonquist reported that AMSD Consultant Kris Amundson was able to schedule a meeting with representatives from the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) to discuss the spike in unemployment insurance claims that school districts are experiencing. MSBA and MASPA also joined the meeting. The spike in claims is directly related to the COVID-19 pandemic and the Governor's Executive Order directing the DEED to process claims expeditiously.

Croonquist shared that AMSD superintendents are meeting regularly via Zoom to communicate challenges and share best practices. The superintendents have asked AMSD to survey member districts on what metrics are being used to transition between learning models.

Croonquist also noted that PELSB has developed draft legislative proposals which include changes to the Tier 1 and Tier 2 licensure law and proposes to increase the number of teachers on the PELSB Board by two.

III. Review Timeline and Process to Update AMSD Strategic Plan

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. Last month, committee members Lisa Anderson and Christine Tucci Osorio volunteered to draft a timeline and process for updating the strategic plan. The last comprehensive review of the plan was done in 2014. A few amendments were adopted last year to reflect the work of Reimagine Minnesota. Upon further reflection, Anderson, Tucci Osorio and Croonquist agreed that a comprehensive review of the plan is needed in light of Reimagine Minnesota and other initiatives undertaken by AMSD since the last update. After a brief discussion, committee members agreed that the best course of action would be to conduct a comprehensive review and update of the strategic plan following the 2021 legislative session.

IV. Update on School Finance Working Group Recommendations

Executive Director Croonquist reported that the School Finance Working Group met last night and is nearing completion. Croonquist noted that the working group reviewed recommendations related to racial equity aid, trauma incentive aid, additional student support personnel and new teacher candidate scholarships. The working group is meeting again next Thursday evening to review a draft of the recommendations and will be sending a ballot to its members to identify priorities. Croonquist shared that Tom Melcher will be presenting the draft recommendations at the AMSD Board of Directors meeting on October 2.

V. Approval of AMSD Position Papers

Executive Director Croonquist provided some context for committee members related to position papers. AMSD has thirteen standing position papers that are reviewed every year. The papers are updated to reflect current demographic data, new research, and to reflect pertinent legislative action from the last session. Croonquist noted that the papers on Assessment, School Employee Health Insurance, Guns on School Property and Local Control and Mandate Reduction were on the agenda today.

Assessment – Members discussed a variety of issues related to assessment. Superintendent Renee Corneille volunteered to work on updating the position paper.

Croonquist reported that no changes were needed to the remaining papers. A motion was made and seconded to approve the position papers on Guns on School Property, School Employee Health Insurance, and Mandate Reduction and Local Control. The position papers were approved.

VI. Discussion of DRAFT 2021 Legislative Platform Outline

Executive Director Croonquist drew members' attention to the outline of the issues that had been identified in the survey of AMSD board members. The timeline would be to come back next month with a draft platform which would be brought before the AMSD Board of Directors in November for review. The Legislative Committee would then review and update as necessary for final Board approval at the December meeting. There was a discussion regarding whether the platform should identify and/or support the School Finance Working Group recommendations. Also, the committee discussed the proposed constitutional amendment and whether AMSD should develop proposed changes to the amendment.

VII. Adjourn

Chair Johnson adjourned the meeting at 9:00 a.m.