



## **Association of Metropolitan School Districts**

Board of Directors Meeting  
Friday, November 6, 2020, 7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.  
Conducted via Zoom

### **I. Welcome**

Chair Curtis Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:31 a.m. and welcomed everyone. Johnson also congratulated all of the school board members who won reelection.

### **II. Routine Business**

#### **A. Approval of Minutes of October 2 Meeting**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the October 2 meeting. The motion was approved.

### **III. Guest Speakers**

Chair Johnson introduced AMS D consultants Kris Amundson and Lori Grivna from Amundson Strategies. Amundson provided a thorough review of Minnesota's general election results, as well as highlighted some of the key factors that impacted this year's historic election. Griva provided an overview of legislative caucus organization, the state budget and opportunities and challenges heading into the 2021 legislative session. Following their presentation, Amundson and Grivna took some questions from board members.

### **IV. Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director Scott Croonquist noted that it was not a great night for school referendum elections. Specifically, he reported that three AMS D member districts had questions on the ballot and Fridley's referendum was successful but Orono and Shakopee's referendums came up short. Croonquist next reported that the AMS D audit for the fiscal year 2020 was recently completed with a clean opinion. He noted that the audit report and management letters were posted on the website for board members to review and asked board members to contact him with any questions. Croonquist shared that the School Finance Working Group's final report was approved last night. Croonquist thanked the AMS D members who served on the working group or the various task forces. Croonquist invited Superintendent Christine Tucci Osorio, co-chair of the group, to provide an update. Osorio also thanked all of the members who participated in the process and noted that the report was very comprehensive and addressed a multitude of pressing education funding issues. She noted that the state budget climate will present a challenge to implementing the recommendations but that it offers a roadmap for the future when the state budget situation improves. Croonquist let members know that the final report will be shared in today's AMS D update. Croonquist reported that the Legislative Session Preview will take place on January 8 via Zoom. Croonquist also reported that Governor Walz issued a new Executive Order (20-95) which clarifies that the timeline to implement the requirement to offer an additional 30 minutes of prep time per day for teacher will be delayed until no later than November 30.

## **V. Legislative Committee Report**

### **A. Review and Approval of Position Papers on Assessment, Guns on School Property, School Employee Health Insurance, Mandate Reduction and Local Control, Charter Schools, Tiered Teacher Licensure and Taxpayer Subsidies for Private K-12 Education**

Executive Director Croonquist reminded board members that every year, all 13 AMSD position papers are reviewed and updated to reflect new demographic data, research or actions taken during the previous legislative session. He reported that the Legislative Committee had approved updates to the position papers on Assessment, Guns on School Property, School Employee Health Insurance, Mandate Reduction and Local Control, Charter Schools, Tiered Teacher Licensure and Taxpayer Subsidies for Private K-12 Education. Croonquist thanked Superintendent Renee Corneille and Dr. Silvy Un Lafayette, director of assessment, research and evaluation for St. Louis Park Public Schools for their work in revising the position paper on Assessment. Croonquist noted that no changes are being recommended to the underlying position statements. Chair Johnson asked if there was any discussion or questions about the revised papers. A motion was made and seconded to approve the position papers on Assessment, Guns on School Property, Employee Health Insurance, Mandate Reduction and Local Control, Charter Schools, Tiered Teacher Licensure and Taxpayer Subsidies for Private K-12 Education. The motion was approved.

Croonquist reported that a subcommittee has been formed and is working on a brief on the proposed constitutional amendment. There was a strong consensus among the subcommittee members that AMSD should engage in the conversation and offer alternatives and improvements to the proposal.

### **B. Breakout Sessions to Review and Discuss DRAFT 2021 Legislative Platform**

Executive Director Croonquist shared the latest draft of the 2021 Legislative Platform. Board members broke into small Zoom breakout rooms to discuss the draft platform and share feedback. A few of the groups shared feedback from their group and others were asked to save their chat and send it to Croonquist. At their November 20 meeting, the Legislative Committee will approve an updated draft of the platform which will be presented to the Board of Directors for final approval in December.

## **VI. Adjourn**

Chair Johnson thanked everyone for their attendance. There being no further business, Chair Johnson adjourned the meeting at 9:02 a.m.