



Association of Metropolitan School Districts

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AMSD Legislative Committee Meeting

Friday, November 20, 2020, 7:30 am – 9:00 am

Conducted via Zoom

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

I. Approval of Minutes of October 30 Meeting

Past Chair Andrea Cuene called the meeting to order at 7:36 a.m. Cuene asked members to review the minutes from the October 30 meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved.

II. Executive Director's Report

Cuene asked Executive Director Scott Croonquist to share his report. Croonquist thanked Kris Amundson and Lori Grivna for their comprehensive election overview at the last board of directors meeting and noted that there have been a few changes since then. Two senators from the Iron Range, Tom Bakk and David Tomassoni, announced their exit from the DFL caucus to start an Independent Caucus. Croonquist explained that it is anticipated that these senators will each chair a committee and align with Republicans on certain votes.

Croonquist reported that there was no legislation passed during the November special session. There were bills introduced in the House and the Senate related to mitigating the impact of the enrollment decline being experienced by school districts but there was no action taken on the bill. AMSD will keep advocating for this legislation in the next special session.

Croonquist reminded everyone of the upcoming Session Preview, which will be held virtually on January 8 from 8-9:30 a.m. The Governor and Commissioner Ricker have been invited to speak at the preview. Also, the four caucus leaders have been invited to serve on a panel to discuss their caucus priorities and issues for the upcoming session. Speaker Hortman and Senate Minority Leader Kent have confirmed their attendance.

Croonquist reported that the mediators in the Cruz-Guzman lawsuit will be meeting with the Superintendent Panel later today. Croonquist also noted that the superintendents had asked him to approach the Governor's office about creating a Superintendent Advisory Panel to help

determine metrics and data points to guide learning model transitions. He reported that the suggestion was well received by staff in the Governor's office.

III. Discussion and Approval of 2021 Legislative Platform

Executive Director Croonquist reviewed the updated draft of the platform, which was revised based on feedback from the discussion at the last legislative committee meeting as well as the board of directors meeting. The most significant changes were related to clarification of support of the School Finance Working Group's recommendations. In addition, language has been re-inserted to advocate for linking the formula to inflation. The members discussed the platform and decided that the category titled "Unleash Creativity by Enhancing Local Control and Reducing Mandates" should be divided into two different categories with an emphasis on the innovation components. Croonquist will make the revisions and send an updated draft to committee members for approval via email. The platform will then be brought to the December 4 board of directors meeting for final approval.

IV. Approval of AMSD Position Papers

Executive Director Croonquist shared an overview of the updates to the position papers on Compensatory Revenue, Facilities Funding, Early Childhood Education, English Learner Funding, School Board Renewal of an Operating Referendum and Special Education. The Compensatory Revenue paper has been updated from feedback received at the last committee meeting. A couple of suggestions were offered to the English Learner Funding position paper. Croonquist indicated that staff will implement the changes.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the position papers on Compensatory Revenue, Facilities Funding, Early Childhood Education, English learner funding, School Board Renewal of an Operating Referendum and Special Education. The position papers were approved.

Croonquist shared the draft Session Brief on the Proposed Constitutional Amendment. Members discussed the brief and agreed it was well laid out and covered the pertinent issues. Croonquist suggested making time at the end of the next board of directors meeting for small group breakouts to review and discuss the brief. Committee members supported this idea.

V. Adjourn

Chair Johnson adjourned the meeting at 8:46 a.m.