



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, December 18, 2020, 7:30 am – 9:00 am

Conducted via Zoom

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

I. Approval of Minutes of November 20 Meeting

Chair Curtis Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:34 a.m. Johnson asked members to review the minutes from the December 18 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 reported that in the December special session, a relief package of \$242 million was approved to help small businesses who have been impacted by COVID-19. The relief package included a provision to extend the deadline for families to complete applications for the free and reduced-price lunch program to January 4. Croonquist thanked Superintendent David Law for testifying on this issue, as well as Mary Dougherty Gilbert for her advocacy work in support of the extension.

Croonquist reported that the House and Senate have released their respective committee structures as well as the committee chairs. In the House, Rep. Jim Davnie will continue as chair of the Education Finance Committee, Rep. Dave Pinto will chair the Early Childhood Finance & Policy Committee, Rep. Ruth Richardson will chair the Education Policy Committee and Rep. Gene Pelowski will chair the new Industrial Education & Economic Development Finance & Policy Committee. In the Senate, Sen. Roger Chamberlain will be the new chair of the Education Finance & Policy Committee. Croonquist noted that the House is planning to operate remotely until the Centers for Disease Control and the MN Department of Health deem it safe to operate in person. The Senate is planning to transition to a hybrid model after opening in a remote model for the first few weeks of the session.

Croonquist shared that Supt. Kim Hiel is representing AMSD on an Equity Centered MTSS Task Force convened by MDE. Superintendent Hiel noted that there are several different

organizations participating on the task force that is planning to meet every other week to develop recommendations. Croonquist thanked Supt. Hiel for serving on the task force.

III. Discussion and Approval of Session Brief on Constitutional Amendment

Executive Director Croonquist noted that the breakout groups that met during the last Board of Directors meeting expressed support for the session brief on the proposed constitutional amendment. Committee members agreed that the brief positions AMSD well to be a part of the conversation during the legislative session. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Session Brief on the Constitutional Amendment. The brief was approved.

IV. Review of Session Preview Program

Chair Curtis Johnson asked the committee to review the agenda for the Session Preview scheduled for January 8. Executive Director Croonquist reported that 41 legislators have indicated they will attend. In addition, Governor Walz, Lt. Governor Flanagan and Commissioner Ricker will speak at the Preview and House and Senate leaders will participate in a panel discussion. The AMSD Legislative Platform will be presented by Superintendents Kim Hiel, Christine Tucci Osorio and Mike Redmond.

V. Discussion of Issues Likely to Surface in the 2021 Session

Executive Director Croonquist highlighted some issues that will likely come up in the 2021 Legislative Session: accounting shifts, cameras on school bus stop arms, civics instruction, and legislation to increase the number of teachers of color.

Croonquist noted that accounting shifts have been used to help solve state budget shortfalls in the past. While shifts are certainly not ideal, AMSD's position in the past has been that a shift is preferable to direct cuts. Croonquist also reported that AMSD is working with MASA, MASBO and MREA on a statewide budget survey.

Croonquist reported that legislation requiring cameras on school bus stop arms will be introduced this session. The legislation should not have a financial impact on school districts as the cameras will be funded by the state. Committee members were pleased that there would not be a financial impact but a few superintendents said they will check with their transportation directors to see if they have any concerns

Croonquist reminded committee members that legislation has been introduced the past few sessions that would mandate a civics credit in 11th or 12th grade. It is anticipated that the bill will be introduced again this session.

Croonquist shared the PELSB Draft 2021 Legislative Proposal. Many of the provisions are technical and not controversial. A significant change in the proposal is the expansion of the PELSB Board by 2 members, both of whom would be teachers.

Croonquist shared an overview of the Teacher of Color Act that will be introduced in the 2021 session. The bill will include many provisions that were included in last year's legislation. Croonquist reminded members that AMSD is a member of the coalition supporting the bill.

VI. Adjourn

With no further business before the committee, Chair Johnson adjourned the meeting at 8:59 a.m.