



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, January 29, 2021, 7:30 am – 9:00 am

Conducted via Zoom

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

Staff Present: Scott Croonquist Troy Melhus Kimberly Jansa

Guests Present: Kris Amundson Mary Dougherty Josh Downham
Lori Grivna

I. Approval of Minutes of December 18 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 began with a debrief of the Session Preview which was held virtually on January 8. There were over 220 participants, including approximately 40 legislators. Croonquist thanked Superintendents Tucci Osorio, Hiel & Redmond for their phenomenal job highlighting the AMSD platform.

Croonquist reported that the legislature is in full swing and it has been a busy week. On Monday, the Governor released his Due North Education Plan. The plan includes work from the Governor's Education Roundtable with many parallels to the Reimagine Minnesota plan. Croonquist shared that the Reimagine work is valued as it is showing up in many ways. Croonquist noted that the Governor released his budget proposal on Tuesday, and he would provide more detail later in the agenda. Croonquist reported the House Education Policy Committee heard HF217, the Increase Teachers of Color Act this week. The bill includes provisions that would provide more than \$40 million in funding for various grants including to expand Grow-Your-Own grants, educators of color collaboration and mentoring grants, teacher recruitment marketing and more. Croonquist also reported the House Education Finance Committee heard testimony in support of HF4, a COVID-19 recovery bill addressing the pandemic related enrollment decline, more flexibility with extended-time programming and social/emotional issues. Croonquist shared that many AMSD members have testified this week including Supt. Osei, Supt. Burrage, Supt. Kermes, Supt. Unowsky and School Board Member Lucy Payne.

Croonquist reported that several organizations – MASA, MSBA, MASBO and MREA – are working together on a statewide budget survey. The invitation to respond to the survey will be sent this morning from MASBO. Croonquist asked superintendents to encourage their business managers to respond to the survey.

Croonquist noted that vaccines are a hot topic. The pilot project held at the Xcel Energy Center this weekend will not be held again. Instead, there will be a new plan for vaccinations going forward.

III. Review and Discussion of Governor’s Budget Proposal

Executive Director Croonquist reviewed the Governor’s budget proposal, which was better than anticipated in light of the projected budget shortfall. The Governor proposes an increased investment of more than \$662 million for education for the 2022-23 biennium. The Governor also proposes an additional \$150 million in one-time funding in the current fiscal year, half of which would come from federal stimulus funds, to address enrollment decline related to COVID-19 and expanded summer learning opportunities. Croonquist noted many of AMSD’s legislative platform priorities were included in the Governor’s proposal including special education funding, English learner funding and referendum equalization.

Croonquist reported that the next step in the budget process will be the February Budget and Economic Forecast which is due out at the end of February.

IV. Discussion of Proposed Constitutional Amendment

Chair Curtis Johnson introduced Rep. Rena Moran, the Chair of the House Ways & Means Committee, asking her to share her thoughts on the proposed constitutional amendment and the House’s education priorities. Rep. Moran shared her dedication to education, noting that it is the pathway out of poverty and onto the American dream. Rep. Moran and committee members engaged in dialogue about the amendment and other education issues. Chair Johnson thanked Rep. Moran for spending time with the legislative committee.

V. Adjourn

With no further business before the committee, Chair Johnson adjourned the meeting at 9:02 a.m.