



## **Association of Metropolitan School Districts**

Board of Directors Meeting  
Friday, April 9, 2021, 7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.  
Conducted via Zoom

### **I. Welcome**

Chair Curtis Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:33 a.m. and welcomed everyone.

### **II. Routine Business**

#### **Approval of Minutes of March 5 Meeting**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the March 5 meeting. The motion was approved.

### **III. Guest Speakers**

Chair Johnson introduced and welcomed Rep. Lisa Demuth and Rep. Cedrick Frazier. Reps. Demuth and Frazier shared an overview of the bills they are currently working on, specifically related to tiered teacher licensure and increasing teachers of color. Following their overviews, Rep. Demuth and Rep. Frazier answered several questions from AMSD board members on a variety of issues. Chair Johnson and Executive Director Croonquist thanked them for speaking to AMSD board members and for their work on important education issues.

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

Executive Director Croonquist reported that it is a very busy time at the Capitol with today being the deadline for the omnibus budget bills to pass out of their respective committees. The House and Senate unveiled their omnibus E-12 Education Budget bills this week. Croonquist encouraged board members to review the summaries available on the AMSD website as well as information highlighted in the latest AMSD newsletter. After the budget bills clear the floor, conference committees will negotiate the differences in the bills. Croonquist noted that May 17 is the constitutionally mandated date of adjournment of the 2021 legislative session.

Croonquist shared that the ESSER II district allocations have been released, while the ESSER III funds have been submitted to the LAC for approval. Croonquist noted that the federal funds will add a layer of complexity to the end of the session negotiations.

### **V. Guest Speaker**

Executive Director Croonquist introduced Peter Leatherman of The Morris Leatherman Company. Mr. Leatherman shared results from their recent public opinion survey which was conducted last month in conjunction with Rapp Strategies. The sample size of the survey was 800 people statewide. The survey covered a wide range of topics including the state's actions on COVID-19, distance/hybrid learning,

vaccine distribution and student safety and mental health. Following his presentation, Leatherman engaged in a question & answer session with AMSD board members.

## **VII. Adjourn**

Executive Director Croonquist invited members to share any introductions and several were made. Croonquist welcomed Duluth Public Schools as the newest AMSD member. Croonquist also encouraged board members to advocate for AMSD's key priorities over the next few weeks and to share their budget challenges with their local legislators. Croonquist and Chair Johnson thanked everyone for their attendance. There being no further business, Chair Johnson adjourned the meeting at 8:58 a.m.