



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, March 26, 2021, 7:30 am – 9:00 am Conducted via Zoom

Members Present: Lisa Anderson Renee Corneille Andrea Cuene
Kelsey Dawson Walton Pat Driscoll
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 February 26 Meeting

Chair Curtis Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:52 a.m. Johnson asked members to review the minutes from the February 26 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 update. Croonquist reported that it has been a busy week at the Capitol, with today being the last day before the legislature begins its spring recess. The legislature is scheduled to return on April 6 and the deadline for the omnibus finance bills is April 9.

Croonquist noted that Gov. Walz released his supplemental budget recommendations, which brings his proposed total E-12 Education investment to \$745 million. Alternatively, the House is recommending a \$771 million increase over base and the Senate is proposing a \$152 million increase. Croonquist noted that it will be a challenging conference committee to reconcile the House and Senate bills. Croonquist reported that AMSD is aggressively advocating for the COVID recovery package which includes funding for summer school and a one-time enhancement to the declining enrollment formula to mitigate the pandemic related enrollment decline.

Croonquist shared that the U.S. Department of Education is not issuing blanket waivers of standardized testing this year - the MCAs. MDE has instructed districts that the tests

are still required and must be administered in person but that the results will not be used for accountability purposes.

Croonquist reported that the Governor's proposal for round two of the federal funds (ESSER 2 and GEER2) have been approved by the Legislative Advisory Commission. MDE is awaiting further guidance on the ESSER 3 funds.

Croonquist asked the committee members to review the draft 2021-2022 AMSD meeting schedule and let him know of any potential conflicts. He also asked committee members for their thoughts about returning to in person meetings. Committee members agreed that it would be a good goal to return to holding in person meetings in August with an option for participants to attend via Zoom.

III. Review Status of 2021 Legislative Priorities

Executive Director Croonquist reviewed the 2021 AMSD Legislative Priorities and provided the committee members with an update of where the priority issues stand in the legislative process.

IV. Discussion of Federal Stimulus Funds and Legislative Strategy

Executive Director Croonquist shared that MDE has requested AMSD's input on priorities for the 9.5% of the federal funding that the state will have some discretion over. Committee members agreed that one priority should be to encourage the State to provide assistance to both districts and intermediate districts that received either no or very little assistance through the 90% allocation provided directly to school districts.

V. Adjourn

Chair Johnson, a member of the Social Studies Standards Review Committee, gave a brief update on the committee's work. The committee is reviewing a large amount of feedback and working on an updated version to be released by June 1. With no further business before the committee, Chair Johnson adjourned the meeting at 9:03 a.m.