



Association of Metropolitan School Districts

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

I. Welcome

Chair Curtis Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. and welcomed everyone.

II. Routine Business

Approval of Minutes of April 9 Meeting

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the April 9 meeting. The motion was approved.

III. Guest Speaker

Chair Johnson introduced Andre Prahl, Agency Finance Director at the Minnesota Department of Education. Ms. Prahl shared a detailed overview of the federal COVID relief funds to school districts including fund from the recently approved American Rescue Plan. Following her presentation, Ms. Prahl answered questions from AMSD board members. Chair Johnson and Executive Director Croonquist thanked Ms. Prahl for her time and informative presentation.

IV. Guest Speakers

Chair Johnson introduced Dr. David Heistad, Executive Director of Research, Evaluation & Assessment, Bloomington Public Schools. Dr. Heistad shared an overview of a research project conducted in partnership with Dr. Michael Rodriguez, Interim Dean, College of Education and Human Development, University of Minnesota. Dr. Heistad then introduced Dr. Julio Caesar, Research, Evaluation & Assessment Specialist, Bloomington Public Schools and Rik Lamm, University of Minnesota doctoral student. Dr. Caesar and Mr. Lamm shared the results of their research of school start times and the link between start times and academic and health outcomes for students. Following the presentation, Dr. Caesar, Dr. Heistad, Dr. Rodriguez and Mr. Lamm answered questions from AMSD board members.

V. Legislative Committee Report

Chair Johnson asked board members to review the 2021 AMSD Conference Committee Priorities. Johnson explained that the priorities are closely aligned with the previously approved Legislative Session Priorities with a few updates to reflect the House and Senate bills being negotiated in the conference committee. A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2021 AMSD Conference Committee Priorities. The motion was approved.

IV. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Croonquist shared an overview of Governor Walz's announcement loosening restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic. He noted that the Safe Learning Plan will continue to be in full effect until the end of each individual school district's end of the school year. Croonquist noted that masks are no longer required during recess or outdoor activities.

Croonquist reported that legislation has been introduced that reflects a settlement of the Cruz-Guzman lawsuit. An overview of the settlement was shared by Attorney General Keith Ellison and Assistant MDE Commissioner Daron Korte at a recent legislative hearing. The legislation would establish three new programs:

1. Culturally Responsive Teaching, Learning, Integration, and Inclusion Program.
2. Voluntary Metro-wide Interdistrict Integration Program.
3. Diverse Magnet School Program

Croonquist noted that this legislation will likely not advance this year but will be a part of discussions moving forward and could resurface in a special session or in the 2022 session.

Croonquist reported that we are now just 10 days away from the mandated adjournment date of May 17. The thirteen major budget bills are now in conference committee. Croonquist noted that several AMSD board members had provided valuable testimony to the conference committee.

Croonquist introduced AMSD consultants Kris Amundson and Lori Grivna. Ms. Amundson and Ms. Grivna provided an overview on what has been happening with the legislative negotiations and what is anticipated in the coming days. They noted that there are significant obstacles to overcome to reach a budget agreement prior to May 17.

VII. Adjourn

Executive Director Croonquist thanked board members for all of their advocacy efforts this session and encouraged them to actively advocate for AMSD's conference committee priorities. Croonquist and Chair Johnson thanked everyone for their attendance. There being no further business, Chair Johnson adjourned the meeting at 9:02 a.m.