



## Association of Metropolitan School Districts

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### AMSD Legislative Committee Meeting

Friday, April 30, 2021, 7:30 am – 9:00 am

Conducted via Zoom

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

#### I. Approval of Minutes of March 26 Meeting

Chair Curtis Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:40 a.m. Johnson asked members to review the minutes from the March 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 we are in the home stretch of the regular legislative session and major budget bills have cleared the House and Senate floors. With significant differences between the bills, conference committees have begun negotiations. Croonquist shared that legislative leaders have set a goal of agreeing to budget targets by May 7, which would give conference committees a little over one week to reach agreement on their respective bills and have them passed by the House and Senate prior to the mandatory May 17 date of adjournment. Croonquist noted there are many complicating factors this session including the logistics related to the pandemic.

Croonquist reported that the House Education Finance Committee held a hearing last week on legislation reflecting 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. 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 shared 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 the federal ESSER 3 funds, the 90 percent allocated directly to school districts, have been approved by the Legislative Advisory Commission. The remaining funds that the state has flexibility in allocating are still on hold.

Croonquist provided an update on the strategic planning process and reminded members that the committee had previously made the decision to postpone the review and updating of the plan because of the pandemic. Croonquist thanked Committee Member Lisa Anderson for generously offering to facilitate a review of the plan this summer. He asked committee members to plan on extending the July 16 meeting to become more of a “strategic planning retreat” from 7:30-10:30am. In the meantime, Anderson plans to interview AMSD staff and other committee members and also begin work on a survey to be sent to the board of directors.

### **III. Discussion of Conference Committee Priorities and Legislative Strategy**

Executive Director Croonquist asked members to review the proposed Conference Committee Priorities document. He noted that it is basically a refresh/update of the previously approved Legislative Priorities document. Croonquist noted a few important updates to the document:

- Advocacy for a budget target of \$750 million for the E-12 Education Conference Committee. Several other education organizations are advocating for the same target.
- Bold type “index the formula to inflation” to highlight the importance.

Croonquist informed committee members that an alert is being sent out later today requesting active advocacy on these priorities. Chair Johnson asked members for final review of the Conference Committee Priorities. A motion was made and seconded to approve. The Conference Committee Priorities document was approved.

### **IV. Adjourn**

With no further business before the committee, Chair Johnson adjourned the meeting at 8:37 a.m.