



Association of Metropolitan School Districts

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AMSD Legislative Committee Meeting

Friday, June 11, 2021, 7:30 am – 9:00 am

Room 301, Anderson Center, Bethel University, Arden Hills, MN

Conducted Hybrid via Zoom

Members Present:	Lisa Anderson Zuki Ellis Astein Osei Mike Redmond	Andrea Cuene Al Ickler (alt) Christine Osorio John Stroebel	Kelsey Dawson Walton Curtis Johnson John Piotraschke (alt)
Staff Present:	Scott Croonquist	Troy Melhus	Kimberly Jansa
Guests Present:	Mary Dougherty	Josh Downham	

I. Approval of Minutes of May 14 Meeting

Chair Curtis Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:44 a.m. Johnson asked members to review the minutes from the May 14 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 shared that there is not much new to report from the Capitol with negotiations on the E-12 Education Bill still deadlocked. He noted that the May revenue report showed that \$1.8 B more was collected than was projected but that much of that was likely related to the delay in the income tax filing deadline. Croonquist reported that the Governor and legislative leaders have indicated that the priority needs to be on the budget and that policy issues that have not been resolved will need to be dropped. The Governor will call a special session on Monday, June 14 to renew the peacetime emergency and Croonquist noted that the legislature will stay in special session until they reach an agreement on the biennial budget which will likely take longer than just a few days. The budget must be adopted by June 30, the end of the fiscal year, to avoid a government shutdown.

Croonquist reported that the Legislative Audit Commission has identified the topics that the Legislative Auditor will evaluate during the interim. One of the topics is MDE's role in addressing the achievement gap.

Croonquist reported that the Center of the American Experiment has conducted a number of forums across the state to raise questions about Critical Race Theory. He noted that there is a lot of misinformation being circulated on the topic. Croonquist shared that Dr. Michael Rodriguez is convening leaders of several education groups to talk about Critical Race Theory and how to collectively address the misinformation and educate the public.

Croonquist noted that three potential topics for the annual conference have been identified for the conference: sharing lessons learned during the pandemic to better personalize learning, addressing student mental health issues and addressing the misinformation around equity and Critical Race Theory.

Croonquist asked for feedback regarding these topics. The committee had a robust discussion about the topics and agreed that it would be helpful to member districts to try to tie all three of these topics together for the conference due to their connectivity. Croonquist noted that AMSD staff will work on developing an agenda and report back to the committee.

III. Discussion of Potential Candidates for AMSD Friend of Public Education Award

Executive Director Croonquist asked members to review the history of the Friend of Public Education Award. Because the legislature is still in session and the education bill is not yet finalized, Croonquist noted that it is premature to discuss potential candidates at this time. He asked members to think about this and we will discuss further at a future meeting.

IV. Update on Strategic Plan Review and Retreat

Committee Member Lisa Anderson presented an overview and timeline for the strategic planning process, noting that a lot has changed since the strategic plan was updated in 2014. Anderson showed draft of survey that will be sent to all Board of Directors members next week. The committee members discussed the survey, suggesting a few revisions. Anderson plans to interview all legislative committee members and AMSD staff via phone over the next few weeks. She also laid out the plan for the strategic plan retreat to be held on July 16 from 7:30am – 10:30am in Room 301 at the Anderson Center. It would be preferred to have committee members attend this session in person to facilitate discussion, but there will be an option to participate via zoom. To prepare for the July 16 session, Anderson requested committee members read at least the first three chapters of the book *Upstream* by Dan Heath.

V. Executive Director's Performance Evaluation

AMSD staff was excused from the meeting so the committee members could discuss Executive Director Croonquist's annual performance review. Chair Johnson reviewed the input gathered from a survey of AMSD board members with the members of the committee. After reviewing the evaluation data, a motion was made to grant the executive director a one-time performance bonus of 2% of salary, a 2% salary increase effective July 1, 2021 and to authorize Chair Johnson to enter into a three year contract extension with the executive director. The motion was approved.

There being no other business before the committee, Chair Johnson adjourned the meeting.