



Association of Metropolitan School Districts

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Board of Directors Meeting
Friday, September 10, 2021, 7:30 a.m. – 9 a.m.
Quora Education Center, 70 West County B2, Little Canada, MN
Also conducted via Zoom

I. Welcome and Introductions

AMSD Chair Kelsey Dawson Walton called the meeting to order at 7:39 a.m. and asked if there were any guests or new board members to be introduced. A few introductions were made.

II. Routine Business

A. Approval of Minutes of August 13 Meeting

Chair Dawson Walton asked members to review the minutes from the August 13 meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved.

III. Executive Director's Report

Chair Dawson Walton asked Executive Director Scott Croonquist to share his report. Croonquist reported that there are big changes in the Senate leadership. Senate Majority Leader Paul Gazelka has stepped down and announced his bid for governor. Senate Republicans have elected Senator Jeremy Miller to replace Gazelka. In addition, Minority Leader Susan Kent announced that she is not planning to seek reelection and has resigned her leadership position. The Democrats will elect a new minority leader on Monday. Croonquist noted that there is a lot of action in the governor race and that Sen. Michelle Benson had also announced her candidacy for governor.

Croonquist shared that the Frontline Worker Pay Working Group is continuing to meet and trying to reach agreement on how to distribute \$250 million in direct financial support. The group did not meet the September 6 deadline for reaching an agreement, but negotiations are continuing. When an agreement is reached, Gov. Walz will need to call a special session for the legislature to approve the bill. However, Croonquist noted that Gov. Walz might be reluctant to call a special session because the possibility has been raised that commissioner confirmations could come up during a special session and that a commissioner could be removed from office.

Croonquist reminded members of the upcoming AMSD Conference scheduled on November 17. The agenda is firming up. Proposals for breakout sessions are being accepted through September 15.

Croonquist shared that interest has been expressed in AMSD hosting a monthly zoom meeting for AMSD School Board Representatives to share information, ideas & best practices.

The first meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 17 at 7:30 a.m. The zoom link will be sent out next week.

Croonquist noted that 10 AMSD member districts will be going out for referendums this fall and reminded members to reach out to him if there is anything AMSD staff can do to help. Croonquist asked Director of Communications and Advocacy Troy Melhus to display on the screen where AMSD members can find helpful financial information on the AMSD website related to the formula, special education and English learning funding.

Croonquist reported that 24 people had completed the legislative platform survey and the survey results are posted on the board meeting page. He noted that there is still plenty of time to provide feedback on the 2022 legislative platform as the final platform won't be adopted until the December meeting. He encouraged board members to contact him or any member of the legislative committee to share feedback.

IV. Guest Speakers

Executive Director Croonquist introduced Bill Morris and Peter Leatherman of The Morris Leatherman Company. Mr. Morris and Mr. Leatherman shared results from their recent public opinion survey which was conducted August 9 - August 16. Their survey sample size was 800 people statewide, with a confidence interval of plus or minus 3.5 percent. Following their presentation, Mr. Morris and Mr. Leatherman engaged in a question-and-answer session with board members.

V. Adjourn

Chair Dawson Walton thanked everyone for their attendance and reminded members of upcoming meeting dates. There being no further business, Chair Dawson Walton adjourned the meeting at 9:02 a.m.