



## **Association of Metropolitan School Districts**

2 Pine Tree Drive, Suite 380, Arden Hills, MN 55112 • 612-430-7750 • [www.amsd.org](http://www.amsd.org)

Board of Directors Meeting  
Friday, October 1, 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 7:40 a.m.

### **II. Routine Business**

#### **A. Approval of Minutes of September 10 Meeting**

Chair Dawson Walton asked members to review the minutes from the September 10 meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved.

### **III. Student Panel Discussion**

A student panel including students from Saint Paul Public Schools, Osseo Area Schools, Roseville Area Schools and Minnetonka Public Schools shared some of the challenges they have had to navigate over the last 18 months. Each student also spoke about issues important to them, and what they would like to see school districts and AMSD advocate for at the State Capitol. The students also answered a few questions from board members.

### **IV. Legislative Committee Report**

#### **A. Approval of Position Papers on Assessments, Facilities Funding, Guns on School Property, School Employee Health Insurance, Mandate Reduction & Local Control.**

Chair Dawson Walton explained that AMSD has thirteen standing position papers that are reviewed every year. The papers are updated to reflect current demographic data, new research, and to reflect pertinent legislative action from the last session. Dawson Walton noted that the papers on Assessments, Facilities Funding, Guns on School Property, School Employee Health Insurance and Mandate Reduction and Local Control had been reviewed by the legislative committee and no changes are being recommended to those papers. A motion was made and seconded to approve the position papers on Assessments, Facilities Funding, Guns on School Property, School Employee Health Insurance and Mandate Reduction and Local Control. The position papers were approved.

### **V. Guest Speakers**

Chair Dawson Walton introduced Professional Educator Licensing & Standards Board (PELSB) Executive Director Alex Liuzzi and PELSB Board Members Dr. Lucy Payne and Richfield Superintendent Dr. Steve Unowsky. The three PELSB representatives provided an update on a range of topics including grant opportunities, tiered licensure and staffing concerns. After their presentation, Liuzzi, Payne and Unowsky answered questions from board members.

## **VI. Executive Director's Report**

Chair Dawson Walton asked Executive Director Scott Croonquist to share his report. Croonquist reported that the Frontline Worker Pay Working Group has not yet reached an agreement on distributing bonus pay to frontline workers. When an agreement is reached, Gov. Walz will need to call a special session to allow the Legislature to approve the bill. However, Croonquist noted that there are potential obstacles to a special session including the possibility that commissioner confirmations could come up during a special session and that a commissioner could be removed from office.

Croonquist reminded members that registration for the annual AMSD Conference to be held on November 17 is open. Commissioner Heather Mueller has been invited to share opening remarks and the agenda will also include a keynote presentation, breakout sessions on various Reimagine Minnesota strategies and an unconference component.

Croonquist reported that AMSD school board representatives met over zoom last month. Approximately 35 school board members attended the meeting. The focus of the meeting was to share what has been happening lately and identify topics for discussion at future meetings. The group will meet again on October 15 and discuss strategies for moving equity work forward in the current political environment and sharing ideas for handling disruptions and incivility at board meetings.

Croonquist noted that AMSD superintendents continue to meet on a weekly basis. A group of superintendents met earlier this week to discuss transportation issues with Commissioner Mueller and representatives from the Governor's office.

Croonquist shared that the AMSD Legislative Committee has unanimously agreed that the 2021 Friend of Public Education Award should be presented to Paula Forbes. Croonquist will invite Forbes to attend the November board meeting to receive the award.

## **VII. 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 9:01 a.m.