



## Association of Metropolitan School Districts

2 Pine Tree Drive, Suite 380, Arden Hills, MN 55112 • 612-430-7750 • www.amsd.org

### Legislative Committee Meeting

Friday, September 24, 2021, 7:30 a.m. – 9 a.m.

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

Hybrid meeting with Zoom option

<b>Members Present:</b>	Lisa Anderson Renee Corneille Kim Hiel Bob McDowell	Crystal Brakke Kelsey Dawson Walton Mary Kreger Rhoda Mhiripiri-Reed	Mary Frances Clardy Zuki Ellis Jill Lofald Mike Redmond
<b>Staff Present:</b>	Scott Croonquist	Troy Melhus	Kimberly Jansa
<b>Guests Present:</b>	Mary Dougherty	Josh Downham	Lori Grivna

### I. Approval of Minutes of August 27 Meeting

Chair Dawson Walton called the meeting to order at 7:37 a.m. Dawson Walton asked members to review the minutes from the August 27 meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved.

### II. Executive Director's Report

Chair Dawson Walton asked Executive Director Scott Croonquist to share his update. 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 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 shared that the Senate Democrats elected Melisa Lopez Franzen as the new minority leader following the resignation of former Minority Leader Susan Kent.

Croonquist reminded members of the upcoming AMSD conference to be held on November 17. He noted that registration will open soon. Commissioner Heather Mueller has been invited to provide opening remarks at the conference, 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 members met over zoom last week. Approximately 35 school board members attended the meeting. The board members in attendance introduced themselves and identified topics for discussion at future meetings. The group will meet again on October 15 and discuss how school boards can move equity work forward in the current political environment and how to handle disruptions and incivility at board meetings.

### III. Review and Discussion of Updates to the Strategic Plan

Chair Dawson Walton asked Lisa Anderson to provide a strategic planning update. Anderson first reviewed what the committee had agreed upon at the last meeting:

Vision: Reimagine public education

Mission: Advocate for member school districts so they can lead the transformation of public education

Anderson shared that she has met with AMSD staff since the last meeting to work on the strategic directions and belief statements and she provided a summary of the proposed strategic directions. Following a discussion, the committee agreed on the following strategic directions:

- Advocate for funding and policies that respect and empower local districts to meet the needs of each and every student.
- Create opportunities for school district leaders to collaborate, innovate, generate solutions, and share best practices.
- Generate nonpartisan research, data and legislative updates that assist AMSD members to effectively advocate for our school districts and students.
- Advance the work of Reimagine Minnesota.

A motion was made and seconded to approve these strategic directions. The motion was approved.

Anderson asked members to review the current AMSD belief statements. During the discussion, a few suggestions were offered including to add a belief statement about equity. Anderson will work with staff to implement the suggestions and prepare an updated draft for the next meeting.

#### **IV. Discussion of Friend of Public Education Award**

Executive Director Croonquist asked members for feedback regarding candidates to receive the award this year. After a short discussion, the committee unanimously agreed that AMSD should award the 2021 Friend of Public Education Award to Paula Forbes. A motion was made and seconded to approve this nomination. The motion was approved. Croonquist will invite Forbes to attend the November board meeting to receive the award.

#### **V. Review and Discussion of Legislative Platform Outline**

Executive Director Croonquist explained that the outline reflects issues identified by three or more people in the platform survey conducted in August. Croonquist provided context for the upcoming legislative session including noting that the 2022 session is a non-budget year. He also noted that 2022 is an election year and that the election will occur in new districts following redistricting. Committee members discussed the political climate and several issues for possible inclusion on the platform. Croonquist said he will prepare a draft platform based on the discussion for review at the October meeting.

#### **VI. Review of Standing Position Papers**

Executive Director Croonquist 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. Croonquist noted that the papers on Assessment, Facilities Funding, Guns on School Property, Mandate Reduction and Local Control and School Employee Health Insurance were on the agenda for review today. Croonquist reported that no changes were needed to these papers. A motion was made and seconded to approve the position papers on Assessments, Facilities Funding, Guns on School Property, Mandate Reduction and Local Control and School Employee Health Insurance. The position papers were approved.

Croonquist also asked members for feedback regarding the Session Brief on the Proposed Constitutional Amendment. The committee will continue the discussion at the next meeting.

#### **VII. Adjourn**

Chair Dawson Walton reminded members of upcoming meetings. There being no other business before the committee, Chair Dawson Walton adjourned the meeting at 9 a.m.