



## 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, October 29, 2021, 7:30 a.m. – 9 a.m.

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

Hybrid meeting with Zoom option

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

### I. Approval of Minutes of September 24 Meeting

Chair Dawson Walton called the meeting to order at 7:56 a.m. Dawson Walton asked members to review the minutes from the September 24 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. Instead, the working group approved a motion to forward both a Republican and DFL proposal to the legislature. Croonquist noted that the prospects of a special session are very much in doubt. Croonquist reported that Rep. Alice Hausman, a 17-term legislator representing Roseville, Falcon Heights and St. Paul, has announced that she will not seek reelection.

Croonquist reminded members of the upcoming AMSD conference to be held on November 17. He noted that the registration deadline is November 10. There will be an unconference component to the conference, and Croonquist encouraged committee members to think about potential topics for this part of the conference agenda.

Croonquist reported that AMSD superintendents continue to meet weekly. Also, school board members held their second monthly meeting on October 15. The school board members heard from Sebastian Witherspoon and Paula O'Loughlin from Equity Alliance about moving equity work forward in the current political environment. The meeting also included some discussion about how to handle disruptions and incivility at board meetings.

Croonquist noted that 11 AMSD districts have 18 referendum questions on the ballot on November 2 and that there are also a number of districts with school board elections.

### 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 has agreed upon to date. These are all pending board approval:

**Vision:** Reimagine public education

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

**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.

Anderson reported that a subcommittee met to review the belief statements and presented recommendations. The committee engaged in a robust discussion of the proposed statements and agreed to the following:

- Public education is foundational to Minnesota's future prosperity.
- Public education must be non-partisan and the highest priority of state government.
- State education policy and resource allocation must recognize and support the unique needs of member districts.
- The collective and consistent advocacy of member districts is critical to achieving our mission.
- Minnesota's education system is unjust and inequitable and does not provide sufficient resources to ensure all students thrive.

The Vision, Mission, Strategic Directions and Belief Statements will all be brought to the November board meeting for review and discussion.

### IV. Discussion of Draft 2022 Legislative Platform

Executive Director Croonquist noted that the draft platform is a reflection of the feedback received from a survey of AMSD board members in August and the discussion of the legislative committee at the September meeting. Croonquist shared that while it is not a funding year, there will likely be a surplus and the Governor has indicated that he is planning robust supplemental funding and bonding bills. Committee members reviewed the draft and agreed to bring it to the board of directors for review at the November meeting for feedback.

### V. Review of Standing Position Papers

Executive Director Croonquist noted that the position papers on Compensatory Revenue, Early Childhood Education, English Learner Funding, Special Education and Tiered Licensure for Teachers were on the agenda for review today. Croonquist reported the Compensatory Revenue paper is the only one with a change in the position – adding the following statement:

*In addition, the formula should be stabilized by using factors beyond eligibility for free or reduced price lunch to determine the level of compensatory funding.*

The other papers were updated to reflect new demographic data, research or action taken during the previous legislative session. A motion was made and seconded to approve the updated position papers on Compensatory Revenue, Early Childhood Education, English Learner Funding, Special Education and Tiered Licensure for Teachers. The position papers were approved.

### VI. Adjourn

Chair Dawson Walton reminded members of upcoming meetings. There being no other business before the committee, Chair Dawson Walton adjourned the meeting at 8:59 a.m.