



Association of Metropolitan School Districts

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Legislative Committee Meeting

Friday, November 19, 2021, 7:30 a.m. – 9 a.m.

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

Hybrid meeting with Zoom option

Members Present:	Lisa Anderson Renee Corneille Curtis Johnson Mike Redmond	Jason Bodey (alt) Kelsey Dawson Walton Jill Lofald Rhoda Mhiripiri-Reed	Mary Frances Clardy Zuki Ellis Bob McDowell
Staff Present:	Scott Croonquist	Troy Melhus	Kimberly Jansa
Guests Present:	Kris Amundson Lori Grivna	Mary Dougherty	Josh Downham

I. Approval of Minutes of October 29 Meeting

Chair Dawson Walton called the meeting to order at 7:38 a.m. Dawson Walton asked members to review the minutes from the October 29 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 there is not much new on the legislative front. The governor and legislative leaders continue to negotiate the terms of a potential special session, but an agreement has not been reached.

Croonquist noted that there are outstanding questions on the OSHA COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standard on Vaccination and Testing, including whether school board members are considered employees of the district and who is responsible for testing costs.

Croonquist shared that the revised Social Studies standards are currently available for public comment. Per Minnesota statute and the rulemaking process, the standards are required to have a period of 60 days for public comment on the revised standards; however, a 30-day period for public comment will be added for the benchmarks. Croonquist noted that this review process is done every 10 years. School Board Member Curtis Johnson, a member of the Social Studies review committee, added that the 2026-27 school year will be the planned implementation date of the new standards.

Croonquist thanked everyone for attending the AMSD annual conference this week. There were approximately 150 attendees at the conference. Evaluations have been sent out to all who attended, with positive feedback being received so far. Complete evaluation results will be shared at the next committee meeting.

III. Approval of Updated Strategic Plan

Chair Dawson Walton asked Lisa Anderson and Scott Croonquist to provide a strategic planning update. Anderson thanked the committee members who facilitated small group discussions at the last board of directors meeting. The committee agreed to move the vision to the top of the one-page strategic plan document to better communicate what AMSD wants to focus on. A motion was made and seconded to approve the strategic plan with this one small revision. The updated strategic plan was approved.

Dawson Walton thanked Anderson for her work facilitating the updating of the strategic plan. At the December 3 board of directors meeting, members will be broken into small groups to discuss possible metrics to measure progress on the plan.

IV. Discussion and Approval of 2022 Legislative Platform

Executive Director Croonquist noted that the platform was presented to the board at the November meeting, with no substantial changes recommended. The only change since the previously reviewed draft, is the inclusion of the special education cross-subsidy graph on the first page. A motion was made and seconded to approve the platform as presented. The 2022 Legislative Platform was approved.

V. Review of Standing Position Papers

Executive Director Croonquist noted that the position papers on Charter Schools, School Board Renewal of an Operating Referendum and Taxpayer Subsidies of Private Education were on the agenda for review today. In addition, the committee will discuss the Session Brief on the Proposed Constitutional Amendment

The three standing position papers were updated to reflect new demographic data, research and action taken during the previous legislative session. A motion was made and seconded to approve the updated position papers on Charter Schools, School Board Renewal of an Operating Referendum and Taxpayer Subsidies of Private Education. The position papers were approved.

The committee discussed the Session Brief on the Proposed Constitutional Amendment. Croonquist noted that AMSD is conferring with other education organizations to develop a consistent position and message. Croonquist noted that the brief does not need to be updated at this point and it may make sense to evaluate the discussion with the other education organizations. The committee agreed to revisit the brief again next month.

VI. Discussion of 2022 Session Preview Program

Executive Director Croonquist shared the draft agenda for the upcoming session preview. Croonquist noted that we plan to host this as a hybrid event. Commissioner Mueller has been invited, and Rep. Jim Davnie, Rep. Sondra Erickson, Sen. Roger Chamberlain, and Sen. Chuck Wiger, have all confirmed that they will participate on a panel discussion. Croonquist reviewed the history of the session preview presenters and noted that it has worked best to have 3 AMSD superintendents present the platform priorities. Superintendents Renee Corneille and Rhoda Mhiripiri-Reed volunteered to be presenters at the preview. Croonquist will follow-up with Supt. Bob McDowell, who had to step out of this meeting early, to see if he is interested and willing to be a presenter.

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 8:49 a.m.