



Association of Metropolitan School Districts

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

Board of Directors Meeting
Friday, December 3, 2021, 7:30 a.m. – 9 a.m.
Quora Education Center, 70 West County B2, Little Canada, MN
Hybrid Meeting – In person and via Zoom

I. Welcome and Introductions

AMSD Chair Kelsey Dawson Walton called the meeting to order at 7:39 a.m. Dawson Walton welcomed everyone and asked if there were any introductions to be made.

II. Routine Business

A. Approval of Minutes of November 5 Meeting

Chair Dawson Walton asked members to review the minutes from the November 5 meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved.

III. Guest Speaker

Chair Dawson Walton invited Mahtomedi School Board Member Dr. Lucy Payne to introduce Dr. Yohuru Williams, Distinguished University Chair and Professor of History and Founding Director of the Racial Justice Initiative at the University of St. Thomas. Dr. Williams gave a powerful and engaging presentation on the importance of the Reimagine Minnesota work in an age of mass division and mass disruption. After his presentation, Dr. Williams answered several questions from board members.

IV. Legislative Committee Report

A. Approval of 2022 Legislative Platform

Chair Dawson Walton noted that the platform had not changed since the Board reviewed it at the previous meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2022 AMSD Legislative Platform. The platform was approved.

B. Approval of Position Papers on Charter Schools, School Board Renewal of an Operating Referendum, and Taxpayer Subsidies of Private K-12 Education

Executive Director Scott Croonquist noted that these were the final three position papers to be updated and approved. Croonquist reminded board members that every year, the position papers are reviewed and updated to reflect new demographic data, research, or actions taken during the previous legislative session. Croonquist reported that the Legislative Committee had approved updates to the position papers on Charter Schools, School Board Renewal of an Operating Referendum, and Taxpayer Subsidies of Private K-12 Education. The changes include updating the demographic data, including new research, and reflecting the results of the last election. 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 K-12 Education. The position papers were approved.

C. Adoption of Updated Strategic Plan

Chair Dawson Walton asked members to review the AMSD Strategic Plan. She noted that the updated plan was reviewed at the previous Board of Directors meeting, and no further revisions were suggested. A motion was made and seconded to approve the updates to the AMSD Strategic Plan. The strategic plan was approved.

V. Executive Director's Report

Chair Dawson Walton asked Executive Director Croonquist to present his report. Croonquist shared that a special session continues to be unlikely as the Governor and legislative leaders have not yet reached an agreement on the terms of the special session with several issues still to resolve.

Croonquist shared that he, Kris Amundson and Lori Grivna have been meeting with legislators and staff ahead of the 2022 legislative session. Also, they have met with MDE staff regarding an overhaul of the online learning statute and addressing the staff shortages.

Croonquist reported the state budget forecast will be released next Tuesday and a significant surplus is anticipated. He noted that another forecast will be released in February and that forecast will be used to determine a potential supplemental budget.

Croonquist reminded members of the Legislative Session Preview scheduled for January 7. The event is scheduled to be held in a hybrid format. Croonquist shared that all legislators that represent AMSD districts have been invited, but he encouraged members to follow up and extend a personal invitation to their local legislators.

Croonquist reported that the comment period on the updated Social Studies standards is open until January 14. A separate comment period on the benchmarks is open through December 14.

VI. Small Group Discussions

Lisa Anderson asked members to break into small groups, in person and on Zoom, to discuss potential metrics to measure progress on the updated AMSD Strategic Plan. Members were asked to share their responses with Lisa or the AMSD team.

VII. Adjourn

Chair Dawson Walton thanked everyone for their attendance. After reminding members of upcoming meetings and with no further business, Dawson Walton adjourned the meeting at 9:02 a.m.