



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, December 17, 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 Kim Hiel Bob McDowell	Crystal Brakke Kelsey Dawson Walton Curtis Johnson Rhoda Mhiripiri-Reed	Mary Frances Clardy Zuki Ellis Mary Kreger
Staff Present:	Scott Croonquist	Troy Melhus	Kimberly Jansa
Guests Present:	Kris Amundson Lori Grivna	Mary Dougherty	Josh Downham

I. Approval of Minutes of November 19 Meeting

Chair Dawson Walton called the meeting to order at 7:38 a.m. Dawson Walton asked members to review the minutes from the November 19 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 November state budget and economic forecast projected a surplus of \$7.7 billion. He further noted that the projected surplus is not just one-time money, but a significant share carries into the next biennium. Croonquist noted that despite the surplus, the session will likely be very contentious with previous partisan disagreements carrying over into the session.

Croonquist reported that the MN Department of Human Services has applied to the federal government under a pilot project in which the State would be allowed to use Medicaid data files to identify children eligible to receive free or reduced-price meals without having to complete an application.

Croonquist shared that AMSD has been meeting with other education organizations, including MASA, MREA and MSBA, on the Page Amendment and will continue doing so. The education groups are discussing potential amendments to the proposed constitutional amendment that all the groups could support.

Croonquist noted that he, along with Kris Amundson and Lori Grivna, are working with legislative staff to get bills drafted to reflect AMSD's platform priorities. He also shared that the groups stated are seeking ideas on how to increase the educator workforce. Committee members shared a few thoughts, including the possibility of PELSB helping to expedite the process.

III. Review of Conference Evaluations

Executive Director Croonquist shared that overall feedback from the conference was positive, noting high marks for the breakout sessions. Croonquist asked committee members for feedback regarding the unconference component, with most agreeing that one obstacle to greater participation was that it took place at the end of the day.

Croonquist requested thoughts from the committee on a possible topic for next year's conference. Some potential ideas included recruitment and retention of staff including superintendents and school board members, addressing mental health concerns, and overall health and wellness.

IV. Review and Discussion of 2022 Session Preview

Croonquist noted that the agenda has been finalized for the Legislative Session Preview scheduled for January 7. The event will be hybrid, and we will be stressing the need for RSVPs due to capacity limits at the Quora Education Center. Packets will be prepared for legislators that will include our platform and several of our position papers. Croonquist encouraged committee members to personally extend an invitation to their local legislators.

V. Discussion of Next Steps for Reimagine MN

Executive Director Croonquist began a discussion on Reimagine Minnesota. "Advancing the work of Reimagine Minnesota" is part of the AMSD Strategic Plan. He noted that John Schultz of Metro ECSU, a founding member of Reimagine Minnesota, is interested in partnering with AMSD to advance the Reimagine Minnesota work and that Equity Alliance could also be a partner. A suggestion was offered that other community organizations might also be interested.

VI. Discussion of Strategic Plan Metrics

Chair Dawson Walton invited Lisa Anderson to provide an update on the strategic plan. Anderson shared a handout summarizing feedback from the breakout sessions at the previous board meeting. The committee discussed ideas regarding metrics, emphasizing the need to have some measurements in place. Members agreed that a survey to all board members, separate from Scott's evaluation, would be one way to measure progress on the strategic plan. Also, it was suggested that we make more of a concerted effort to use our board meetings to highlight the Reimagine Minnesota work.

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 8:56 a.m.