



Association of Metropolitan School Districts

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Board of Directors Meeting
Friday, February 4, 2022, 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 7:31 a.m. Dawson Walton welcomed everyone.

II. Routine Business

A. Approval of Minutes of December 3 Meeting

Chair Dawson Walton asked members to review the minutes from the December 3 meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved.

III. Guest Speaker

Chair Dawson Walton introduced Minnesota's State Demographer, Dr. Susan Brower, who gave an interesting and informative presentation on state demographic trends following the completion of the recent census. After her presentation, Dr. Brower answered several questions from board members.

IV. Executive Director's Report

Chair Dawson Walton asked Executive Director Croonquist to present his report. Croonquist began by acknowledging the tragic shooting that occurred at an Intermediate District 287 site and shared a message from Superintendent Sandy Lewandowski. Croonquist then invited introductions of new AMSD board members and guests. Several introductions were made.

Croonquist reported that the legislative session is off to a fast start. He noted some highlights from the Governor's supplemental budget proposal and reported that both the House and Senate Majority Caucuses have held press conferences to announce their respective legislative priorities.

Croonquist reported that the Legislature has announced committee deadlines for the 2022 session. The first committee deadline is March 25, when policy bills must clear all policy committees in the House or the Senate. April 1 is the deadline when bills that met the first deadline must clear all policy committees in the other body. April 8 is the deadline for the omnibus finance bills. The Legislature will take an Easter/Passover break beginning April 9 and running through April 18.

Croonquist reported that some of AMSD's top priorities have already been introduced as bills. He noted a few bills in particular:

- HF2657 (Wolgamott) – would eliminate the special education cross-subsidy;

- HF2944 (Her) – would phase out the cross-subsidy in the English learner program over the next four years;
- HF2949 (Feist) – would link the general education formula to inflation;
- HF2577 (Schultz) – legislation that would reinstate the requirement that an estimate of inflation in state expenditures be included in the state’s biannual budget forecasts (this bill has already been heard and passed to the Ways and Means Committee);
- HF2950 (Hassan) – increased flexibility for short-call substitute teachers;
- HF2726 (Edelson) – modernize hours of instruction requirement/seat time.

Croonquist encouraged board members to refer to the bill tracker on the AMSD website to view the bills tied to our legislative priorities.

Croonquist shared that AMSD is working with MREA and SEE on a comprehensive equalization package that has received positive feedback on the House side.

V. Small Group Discussions to Identify Top Session Priorities

Executive Director Croonquist asked members to break into small groups, in person and on Zoom, to discuss our legislative priorities with the goal of developing a one-page Session Priorities document. This document would highlight the key priorities that AMSD will focus on over the final few months of the 2022 session.

VI. 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 9:00 a.m.