



## 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, February 25, 2022, 7:30 a.m. – 9 a.m.

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

Hybrid meeting with Zoom option

<b>Members Present:</b>	Lisa Anderson Zuki Ellis Mary Kreger Laura Oksnevad (alt.)	Mary Frances Clardy Kim Hiel Bob McDowell Mike Redmond	Kelsey Dawson Walton Curtis Johnson Rhoda Mhiripiri-Reed Allegra Smisek (alt.)
<b>Staff Present:</b>	Scott Croonquist	Troy Melhus	Kimberly Jansa
<b>Guests Present:</b>	Kris Amundson Lori Grivna	Mary Dougherty	Josh Downham

### I. Approval of Minutes of January 28 Meeting

Vice Chair Mary Frances Clardy called the meeting to order at 7:58 a.m. Clardy asked members to review the minutes from the January 28 meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved.

### II. Executive Director's Report

Vice Chair Clardy asked Executive Director Scott Croonquist to share his report. Croonquist noted that committees have been busy hearing bills with the first deadline being just one month away from today. As has been the case in recent years, the House and Senate have established very different priorities. The Senate's top priority is permanent tax cuts which will leave very little room for supplemental appropriations for education. The House has outlined several education priorities including addressing the cross-subsidies in the special education and English learner programs. Croonquist shared that many of AMSD's platform issues have been introduced as bills and received hearings.

Croonquist reported that the Senate Education Committee has heard several bills that comprise a 'Parents Bill of Rights' initiative of the Senate majority. Croonquist noted that AMSD joined several other education organizations in opposing these bills and referenced letters that were submitted to the committee.

Croonquist reported that Minnesota Management and Budget will present the February 2022 Budget and Economic Forecast on Monday, Feb. 28. This forecast will create the final parameters for the Governor and Legislature to develop any potential supplemental budget bills.

Croonquist shared that a budget survey of AMSD members is in the field and that initial results show that most member districts are facing a shortfall for the 2022-23 school year.

Croonquist then asked AMSD Lobbying Consultants Kris Amundson and Lori Grivna to share an overview of the redistricting process and the new congressional and legislative districts. Amundson and Grivna provided a detailed overview of the redistricting changes, subsequent movements within the legislature, and resignations and retirements that have been announced.

### **III. Discussion and Approval of 2022 Session Priorities**

Executive Director Croonquist reminded committee members that it has been AMSD's practice to approve a streamlined version of the legislative platform after gathering information from legislators and getting a better idea of which issues have the best chance of advancing. Croonquist shared a summary of feedback gathered from small groups at the February Board of Directors meeting as well as a draft Legislative Priorities document based on that feedback. After discussion among committee members, a motion was made and seconded to approve the proposed 2022 AMSD Legislative Priorities. The 2022 AMSD Legislative Priorities were approved. The document will be presented to the Board of Directors for approval at the meeting on March 4.

### **IV. Discussion of Potential Actions to Address Racial Harm Incidents**

Executive Director Croonquist reviewed the statement issued jointly with the Minnesota State High School League and several other education organizations regarding recent racial harm incidents. The initiatives outlined in the statement include the development of a student led model code of conduct and a student conference. Croonquist reported that he has been in contact with Paula Forbes who facilitated AMSD's Reimagine Minnesota initiative which included a student conference, about her interest facilitating another conference.

### **V. Adjourn**

Chair Dawson Walton reminded members of upcoming meetings. There being no other business before the committee, Dawson Walton adjourned the meeting at 9:07 a.m.