



Association of Metropolitan School Districts

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Board of Directors Meeting
Friday, March 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. Superintendent Dave Webb, South St. Paul Public Schools, introduced Dr. Brian Zambreno who will be taking his place following his retirement in a few weeks. Executive Director Croonquist thanked Supt. Webb for his many contributions to AMSD over the years.

II. Routine Business

A. Approval of Minutes of February 4 Meeting

Chair Dawson Walton asked members to review the minutes from the February 4 meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved.

III. Guest Speakers

Chair Dawson Walton introduced Sen. Zach Duckworth (R-Lakeville) and Rep. Heather Edelson (DFL-Edina). The legislators provided informative updates on a variety of education issues and their respective priorities for the session. Following their updates, Sen. Duckworth and Rep. Edelson answered questions from board members.

IV. Legislative Committee Report

A. Discussion and Adoption of 2022 Session Priorities

Chair Dawson Walton invited Executive Director Croonquist to review the proposed Legislative Priorities document. Croonquist reminded board members that it has been AMSD's practice to develop and approve a refined and streamlined version of the Legislative Platform a few months into the session to reflect the state budget situation and political climate at the Capitol. Croonquist noted that the proposed priorities are very consistent with the platform and reflect the feedback received from the small group breakout discussions at the February board of directors meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the AMSD 2022 Legislative Priorities. The priorities document was approved.

V. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Croonquist reported that MN Management and Budget released the February 2022 Budget and Economic Forecast on Monday, which shows the projected surplus has increased to \$9.25 billion – up \$1.5 billion from the November forecast. Croonquist noted that the legislature is headed toward a familiar path with the House and

Senate holding very different positions which will likely once again lead to challenging negotiations at the end of the session. The first committee deadline is three weeks from today.

Croonquist shared that staff is compiling the information from the annual budget survey of AMSD members and plans to release the results publicly next week. Croonquist expressed hope that this information will open the eyes of state policymakers to the financial challenges facing our school districts.

Croonquist reviewed the joint statement issued February 24 in conjunction with the Minnesota State High School League and several other education organizations regarding recent racial harm incidents. The joint statement outlines the following initiatives:

- Facilitating a student led model code of conduct;
- Convening a student conference;
- Identifying and providing resources to school districts including tools currently available to address behavior issues.

Croonquist introduced AMSD consultants, Kris Amundson and Lori Grivna, who provided an overview of the redistricting process and the recently released legislative maps. Amundson and Grivna shared an overview of some of the legislators who have been paired in the same district as well as some of the legislators who have announced their retirement at the end of their current term.

Amundson and Grivna encouraged board members to stay current on what is going on in their local community, as well as be an available resource for information for their legislators.

VI. Small Group Breakouts to Discuss Strategies to Respond to Racial Harm Incidents

Executive Director Croonquist asked members to break into small groups, in person and on Zoom, to discuss and share thoughts and potential strategies for addressing the recent racial harm incidents. Croonquist requested that any feedback be shared with him.

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 9:03 a.m.