



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, March 25, 2022, 7:30 a.m. – 9 a.m.

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

Hybrid meeting with Zoom option

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| Members Present: | Lisa Anderson Kelsey Dawson Walton Jill Lofald Mike Redmond | Mary Frances Clardy Curtis Johnson Bob McDowell Allegra Smisek (alt.) | Renee Corneille Mary Kreger Rhoda Mhiripiri-Reed |
| Staff Present: | Scott Croonquist | Troy Melhus | Kimberly Jansa |
| Guests Present: | Mary Dougherty | Lori Grivna | |

I. Approval of Minutes of February 25 Meeting

Chair Kelsey Dawson Walton called the meeting to order at 7:38 a.m. Dawson Walton asked members to review the minutes from the February 25 meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved.

II. Executive Director's Report

Chair Kelsey Dawson Walton asked Executive Director Scott Croonquist to share his report. Croonquist shared the results of the recent budget survey which asked districts to project their 2022-23 school year funding shortfalls, assuming no additional funding is provided in the 2022 legislative session. The survey shows AMSD members face a combined \$230 million shortfall. Croonquist reported that the budget survey results are getting attention from legislators and have been carried by various media outlets.

Croonquist asked committee members to review the draft 2022-23 AMSD Meeting Schedule. Croonquist requested that committee members let him or AMSD Office Manager Kimberly Jansa know if they are aware of any conflicts with key conferences or events. The final calendar will be distributed in April.

Croonquist provided an update on the initiatives to address student racial harm incidents. He noted that Paula Forbes and Dario Otero are currently working on a proposal for the student conference, with the hope of conducting the conference in person. The MSHSL and MASSP are serving as the lead organizations in the effort. Croonquist shared that the goal is to have the model code of conduct ready for the fall sports season. The committee members shared their thoughts on how these initiatives can be most impactful.

Croonquist reported that the House and Senate have established very different priorities on how to direct the projected budget surplus. 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 reported that many of AMSD's priority issues have been introduced as bills and received hearings.

Croonquist reminded members of the deadlines. The first committee deadline is today, the second is next Friday, April 1 and the fiscal deadline is April 8. The legislature will be on recess from April 9 through April 18.

Croonquist reviewed the House Omnibus Education Policy Bill with committee members, highlighting several of the provisions.

III. Review Status of Legislative Priorities

Executive Director Croonquist reviewed the 2022 AMSD Legislative Priorities and provided the committee members with an update on where the priority issues stand in the legislative process. Croonquist noted that most of our priorities are still alive.

IV. Discussion of Legislative Strategy

Executive Director Croonquist facilitated a discussion among committee members on legislative strategy for the remainder of the session with an emphasis on regular communication with local legislators and that it is important for members to share their budget challenges with their legislators.

V. Discussion of Topic for Fall Conference

Executive Director Croonquist asked committee members to share their thoughts about a potential topic for the 2022 conference. Topics including flexibility and innovation were discussed. Croonquist encouraged members to share other ideas with him.

VI. Adjourn

Chair Dawson Walton reminded members of upcoming meetings. There being no other business before the committee, Dawson Walton adjourned the meeting at 8:47 a.m.