



Association of Metropolitan School Districts

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Board of Directors Meeting

Friday, May 6, 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 7:40 a.m. Dawson Walton welcomed everyone and asked if there were any introductions. A few introductions were made.

II. Routine Business

A. Approval of Minutes of April 8 Meeting

Chair Dawson Walton asked members to review the minutes from the April 8 meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved.

III. Executive Committee Report

A. Election of AMSD Vice Chair

Chair Dawson Walton congratulated Mary Frances Clardy on receiving the DFL endorsement for House District 53A. Chair Dawson Walton noted that the AMSD bylaws stipulate that if an officer of the association (chair, vice chair, treasurer) is endorsed or files for a state or federal office, they must resign their officer position. Clardy plans to continue serving on the Executive Committee but has resigned as vice chair. Dawson Walton reported that the Executive Committee has nominated Richfield Board Member Crystal Brakke to assume the role of vice chair. A motion was made and seconded to elect Crystal Brakke as AMSD's vice chair. The motion was approved.

IV. Guest Speakers

Chair Dawson Walton introduced guest speakers from the MN Teachers Retirement Association (TRA): Executive Director Jay Stoffel and Rachel Barth, Legal and Legislative Director. The presenters provided an update on the TRA fund and the status of pension legislation affecting TRA. A question-and-answer session followed the presentation.

V. Guest Speaker

Chair Dawson Walton introduced guest speaker Anthony Padrnos, Executive Director of Technology for Osseo Area Schools. Padrnos shared a brief history of the MN Student Data Privacy Bill and reported on the status of the proposed legislation. Padrnos noted that the bill has been amended in the Senate to address concerns raised by AMSD. Padrnos answered questions from board members at the conclusion of his presentation.

VI. Executive Director's Report

Chair Dawson Walton asked Executive Director Croonquist to present his report. Croonquist noted that there are just over two weeks remaining in the 2022 legislative session. The Omnibus E-12 Supplemental Budget Bill has cleared the floor in the House and Senate and conference committee members have been named to reconcile the differences. Sen. Roger Chamberlain and Rep. Jim Davnie will co-chair the conference committee. Croonquist shared that each conference committee has been assigned a regular meeting time and location, with Room 1100 in the Minnesota Senate Building reserved for the E-12 Conference Committee Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. The committee will hold its first meeting on Monday.

Croonquist reported that AMSD and other leading education organizations have planned a press conference and Day of Advocacy for Monday, May 9. The press conference is scheduled for 1 p.m. in the Minnesota Capitol Press Room. Before and after the press conference, AMSD members are encouraged to connect with local legislators to urge them to stabilize education funding by eliminating the special education cross-subsidy. Croonquist thanked AMSD Director of Communications and Advocacy Troy Melhus for his work on this event, especially the livestream option that will be available.

Croonquist shared an updated version of the school district funding challenges document, which shows aid to school districts has not kept pace with inflation since 2003.

Croonquist also mentioned that the 2022-2023 Board of Directors Meeting Schedule is finalized and available on our website.

VII. Adjourn

Executive Director Croonquist thanked everyone for their attendance and adjourned the meeting at 8:53 a.m.