



Association of Metropolitan School Districts

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Legislative Committee Meeting

Friday, April 29, 2022, 7:30 a.m. – 9 a.m.

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

Hybrid meeting with Zoom option

Members Present:	Lisa Anderson Kelsey Dawson Walton Curtis Johnson Rhoda Mhiripiri-Reed	Crystal Brakke Zuki Ellis Mary Kreger Laura Oksnevad (alt.)	Mary Frances Clardy Kim Hiel Jill Lofald Mike Redmond
Staff Present:	Scott Croonquist	Troy Melhus	Kimberly Jansa
Guests Present:	Kris Amundson Lori Grivna	Mary Dougherty	Josh Downham

I. Approval of Minutes of March 25 Meeting

Chair Kelsey Dawson Walton called the meeting to order at 7:59 a.m. Dawson Walton asked members to review the minutes from the March 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 reported that planning is underway on the joint initiative with the MN State High School League and other education organizations to address student racial harm incidents. Paula Forbes and Dario Otero have submitted a proposal to facilitate the work that would culminate with a student conference. The Minneapolis Foundation has offered financial support and outreach is underway to secure additional funding from other foundations for part.

Croonquist reviewed a document that summarizes the increases in state aid for education since 2003. This is in response to a narrative from some legislators that state aid has increased significantly since 2006 and further investments are not necessary in the current session. The AMSD document isolates state aid to school districts, excluding aid to charter schools, and shows that state aid has not kept pace with inflation since 2003.

Croonquist noted that there were a few updates made to the 2022-2023 AMSD Meeting Schedule. The calendar is now final and has been shared with all member districts.

III. Legislative Update

Lori Grivna provided an update on the agreement reached to replenish the state's unemployment trust fund and provide bonuses to frontline workers. The agreement appropriates \$500 million for bonuses of \$750 to the estimated 667,000 eligible workers and does include school employees.

Croonquist reported that the House passed the Omnibus E-12 Supplemental Budget Bill on Wednesday with a party line vote after several hours of debate. The Senate is scheduled to take its Omnibus E-12 Supplemental Budget Bill up on the floor on Monday. Following passage of the bill by the Senate, a conference committee will be appointed to reconcile the differences between the House and Senate bills.

Croonquist shared that AMSD is partnering with several education organizations in an advocacy effort and planning a joint press conference on Monday, May 9. This is a call to action to the Governor and Legislators to fully fund special education. The press conference is scheduled for 1 p.m. at the Capitol. Further details, including sample tweets, letters, emails, etc. will be provided to AMSD members prior to the press conference.

Croonquist reported that student data privacy continues to be in play at the Capitol. The House has included the proposed legislation in its Judiciary Omnibus Bill while the Senate has a separate bill. The biggest concern with the legislation is that it would allow parents to opt out of digital platforms including school management systems and instructional platforms. The opt-out provisions would create major disruptions to basic school functions.

IV. Discussion of Fall Conference and Possible Alternatives

Executive Director Croonquist shared that during their meeting yesterday, the AMSD superintendents were very supportive of having the fall conference focus on issues related to student behavior/school climate. There was an engaging discussion among committee members on this topic with suggestions brought forward to include cultural competency, student mental health, impacts of the pandemic, and student and community voice. There was agreement that it would be important that the conference not be framed in a way that would blame students or put the responsibility totally on students without addressing adult responsibility. Croonquist will bring the thoughts and concerns from the committee to the superintendent group next week. AMSD Office Manager Kimberly Jansa is working on securing a date and venue for the fall conference which is traditionally held in November.

V. Adjourn

Chair Dawson Walton reminded members of upcoming meetings. There being no other business before the committee, Dawson Walton adjourned the meeting at 8:51 a.m.