



Association of Metropolitan School Districts

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Legislative Committee Meeting

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

Hybrid meeting with Zoom option

Members Present:	Lisa Anderson Kim Hiel Steve Unowsky (alt.)	Renee Corneille Curtis Johnson	Kelsey Dawson Walton Mary Kreger
Staff Present:	Scott Croonquist	Troy Melhus	Kimberly Jansa
Guests Present:	Kris Amundson Lori Grivna	Mary Dougherty	Josh Downham

I. Approval of Minutes of June 10 Meeting

Chair Kelsey Dawson Walton called the meeting to order at 7:40 a.m. Dawson Walton asked members to review the minutes from the June 10 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 the League of Minnesota Cities has organized an effort among the local government associations to send a joint letter to the Governor and legislative leaders to urge the convening of a special session. Members agreed that it would be a good idea for AMSD to sign on to this effort.

Croonquist reported on a meeting held earlier this week convened by MN Department of Education Commissioner Heather Mueller, Office of Higher Education Commissioner Dennis Olson, and PELSB Executive Director Alex Liuzzi to address the workforce shortage. Data from a statewide survey was shared. Commissioner Mueller convened a group of superintendents from all regions of the state including AMSD superintendents Michael Favor, Kim Hiel, Mary Kreger and Lisa Sayles-Adams to discuss strategies to address the shortage.

Croonquist shared that the MN Department of Education has issued new guidance related to online and blended learning for the 2022-23 school year. The provisional authority that had been in effect last year does not carry forward. Districts must be an approved online provider to offer online learning in the 2022-23 school year, but all districts have the ability to offer a blended learning option. Districts must notify MDE of their intent to provide blended learning or online learning prior to the first day of instruction.

Croonquist shared that the Better Together Initiative, led by the MN State High School League, to address recent racial harm incidents continues moving forward but calendar dates have been pushed back. The number of students that participated in the first meeting was much smaller than expected

and did not include the diversity necessary for good representation. The MSHSL is recruiting students to serve on the steering committee which will hold three meetings in August. The steering committee members will be trained to host the World Café style regional meetings that will be held in September and a student conference will be held in November. Croonquist reported that he proposed to the other partner organizations that a joint statement be issued to provide an update on the initiative and reaffirm that racist and bullying behavior will not be tolerated in school athletics and activities. The partner organizations concurred with the idea

Croonquist reminded members of the fall conference scheduled for November 10 at the Minneapolis Marriott Northwest. AMSD will be partnering with Metro ECSU and the agenda is coming together. Kevin Kling, a national speaker, will deliver the opening presentation.

III. Review AMSD Election Guide

Executive Director Croonquist shared the draft Election Guide, which will be ready for release after the August 5 Board of Directors meeting. The guide includes tips on organizing candidate forums, engaging with candidates, education funding trends, and other useful information. With a major turnover among legislators coming, Croonquist highlighted how critical it is to engage legislative candidates. Croonquist asked that committee members share any feedback on the guide with him.

IV. Discussion of Legislative Platform Development

Executive Director Croonquist shared that there will be a survey sent to AMSD Board members next month to identify legislative priorities. At the August 26 meeting, committee members will review the survey results. The platform will be developed through the fall. In addition, all AMSD position papers will be updated.

V. Adjournment

With no other business, Chair Dawson Walton adjourned the meeting at 8:35 a.m.