



Association of Metropolitan School Districts

2 Pine Tree Drive, Suite 380, Arden Hills, MN 55112 • 612-430-7750 • www.amsd.org

Board of Directors Meeting
Friday, August 5, 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 7:35 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 May 27 Meeting

Chair Dawson Walton asked members to review the minutes from the May 27 meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved.

III. Guest Speaker

Chair Dawson Walton introduced Dr. Rose Chu, 2022 Bush Fellow and Roseville Area Schools Board Member. Dr. Chu provided an overview of the PELSB Teacher Recruitment and Marketing Campaign which is aimed at elevating the teaching profession and identifying strategies to recruit and retain teachers, particularly teachers of color. Following her presentation, Dr. Chu answered questions from board members.

IV. Executive Committee Report

A. Election of New Executive and Legislative Committee Members

Chair Dawson Walton reported that the Executive Committee had nominated the following slate of AMSD board members to serve on the Executive Committee for 3-year terms:

Marcus Hill, School Board Member, West St. Paul-Mendota Heights-Eagan School District
Bev Petrie, School Board Member, Stillwater Area Public Schools
Stacie Stanley, Superintendent, Edina Public Schools

A motion was made and seconded to approve the slate of nominees. The motion was approved

Chair Dawson Walton reported that the Executive Committee had nominated the following AMSD board member to serve on the Legislative Committee for a 3-year term:

Lisa Sayles-Adams, Superintendent, Eastern Carver County Schools

A motion was made and seconded to approve the nomination. The motion was approved.

B. Election of AMSD Officers

Chair Dawson Walton reported that the Executive Committee had nominated the following board members to serve as AMSD officers for 2022-2023:

Chair: Crystal Brakke, School Board Member, Richfield Public Schools
Vice Chair: Marcus Hill, School Board Member, West St. Paul-Mendota Heights-Eagan
Treasurer: Jenny Loeck, Superintendent, Roseville

A motion was made and seconded to approve the nominations. The motion was approved.

V. Recognition of Outgoing AMSD Chair

New AMSD Chair Crystal Brakke thanked Kelsey Dawson Walton for her leadership as AMSD Chair over the past year. Executive Director Croonquist presented a \$100 donation, in honor of Dawson Walton's service, to the District 279 Foundation.

VI. Executive Director's Report

Chair Brakke invited Executive Director Croonquist to share his report. Croonquist started by thanking the outgoing committee members for their service and dedication to AMSD – School Board Members Lisa Anderson and Curtis Johnson and Superintendents Kim Hiel and Mike Redmond. Croonquist also thanked outgoing Chair Kelsey Dawson Walton for her great leadership. Croonquist extended his congratulations to the new committee members and officers.

Croonquist noted that the 2022-2023 Board of Directors meeting schedule is available on our website. Board meetings will continue to be offered in a hybrid format with a virtual option. Croonquist reminded members that breakfast is served at 7 a.m. and the meeting beginning at 7:30. Croonquist requested that board members please RSVP to AMSD Office Manager Kimberly Jansa if they plan to attend in person.

Croonquist reported that there continues to be speculation about a special session, but it appears the odds are very slim. There may be a small window of opportunity after the primary election next week. Croonquist shared that AMSD is planning to join the League of Minnesota Cities and several other local government associations by signing onto a letter to the Governor and legislators asking them to a special session.

Croonquist reminded board members that the primary election is Tuesday, August 9. There are a few competitive legislative races, as well as a couple of referendums on the ballot – St. Louis Park Public Schools & South Washington County Schools. Croonquist shared that the AMSD Election Guide is available on the website. The guide includes helpful information to engage in the electoral process, education facts, trends, and sample candidate questions. Croonquist encouraged board members to share the guide with staff, parent groups, and other who might be interested.

Croonquist noted that the AMSD Annual Conference is scheduled for November 10 at the Minneapolis Marriott Northwest. This year, we are partnering with Metro ECSU to host the conference and look forward to an inspiring agenda.

Croonquist invited Mahtomedi School Board Member Lucy Payne to give a short overview of an event being hosted by MSBA – The Long Now: Considering the Big Picture of Education Transformation – on Wednesday, August 10 at Quora Education Center.

Croonquist provided an update on the Together we Make a Difference – the initiative being led by the Minnesota State High School League to address racial harm incidents occurring at sporting events and activities. Paula Forbes and Dario Otero are facilitating the effort. Paula & her Forbes Solutions team will train student leaders serving on a steering committee to facilitate regional meetings in September. The first training was yesterday, with 32 student participants.



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There are two more training sessions scheduled and there is still room for additional students to join the steering committee.

VII. Guest Speakers

Executive Director Croonquist introduced representatives from three AMSD districts who have active LACs to share information on how they got started, how they operate, the activities they engage in, etc. Croonquist noted that next session is a budget-setting session and there will be many new faces at the Capitol with the large number of retirements. Croonquist urged board members to engage with their local legislative candidates to educate them about AMSD's legislative priorities and the needs of their district.

The panel included Hopkins School Board Member Steve Adams and Legislative Liaison Catherine Callahan, District 196 Superintendent Mary Kreger and Director of Communications Tony Taschner, and Edina School Board Member Julie Greene. Each of the panelists shared an overview of their LAC, which was followed by a question-and-answer session.

VIII. Adjourn

Chair Brakke reminded members of the upcoming meetings and thanked everyone for their attendance. Chair Brakke adjourned the meeting at 9:02 a.m.