



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, August 26, 2022, 7:30 a.m. – 9 a.m.

Hybrid meeting with Zoom option

Members Present:	Crystal Brakke Celi Haga (alt.) Jill Lofald Bev Petrie	Renee Corneille Marcus Hill Bob McDowell Stacie Stanley	Zuki Ellis Mary Kreger Rhoda Mhiripiri-Reed
Staff Present:	Scott Croonquist	Troy Melhus	Kimberly Jansa
Guests Present:	Kris Amundson Lori Grivna	Mary Dougherty	Josh Downham

I. Approval of Minutes of July 29 Meeting

Chair Brakke called the meeting to order at 7:49 a.m. Brakke asked members to review the minutes from the July 29 meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved.

II. Review of AMSD Strategic Plan

Chair Brakke reminded members that the AMSD Strategic Plan was updated last year and asked Executive Director Scott Croonquist to share an overview of the updated plan.

III. Executive Director's Report

Chair Brakke asked Executive Director Scott Croonquist to share his report. Croonquist reported that AMSD joined sixteen other local government associations in submitting a joint letter to the Governor and legislators urging them to convene a special session to complete the unfinished work of the 2022 session. However, Croonquist reported that there is a very slim chance of a special session with the campaign in full swing.

Croonquist shared the results of the referendum survey of AMSD districts. Eight of our member districts have referendum requests on the November ballot.

Croonquist shared that the MN Department of Education released the 2022 North Star Accountability report yesterday based on the 2022 statewide assessments. There was a discussion among committee members about the results, the validity of the results, and ideas for broadening the accountability system.

Croonquist provided an update on the Together We Make a Difference Initiative, led by the MN State High School League, to address racial harm incidents in school activities. A letter was sent last week providing an update on the process, goals, and planned action steps. Students on the steering

committee have been trained by Forbes Solutions and will host the World Café style regional meetings that will be held in September at various locations across the state. Registration information for the regional meetings was sent to superintendents, high school principals, and activity directors on August 24. This initiative will culminate in a statewide student conference in November.

Croonquist reminded members of the fall conference scheduled for November 10 at the Minneapolis Marriott Northwest. AMSD will be partnering with Metro ECSU, who has secured a grant from the MN Department of Health. The final agenda and registration information will be available soon.

Croonquist shared that the group convened by MN Department of Education, Office of Higher Education, and PELSB to address the workforce shortage is meeting next Monday to dig deeper into possible legislative solutions. Croonquist also shared that an administrative rule hearing was held on PELSB's proposed changes to the rule covering Standards of Effective Practices. The hearing drew over 460 WebEx participants.

IV. Review Results of Legislative Platform Survey

Executive Director Croonquist reviewed the results of the 2023 legislative platform survey. There was a great response (48) relative to previous years' surveys. Committee members discussed the funding and policy priorities. Croonquist reminded members that the 2023 session will be a budget-setting legislative session. An outline of the platform will be brought to the next committee meeting for review. Croonquist asked members to share any thoughts or ideas with him.

V. Discussion of Friend of Public Education Award

Executive Director Croonquist shared a handout summarizing the history of the Friend of Public Education Award. Croonquist noted that the last time a legislator was recognized was 2018. Committee members discussed various options including changing the criteria for the award, renaming the award, and discontinuing the award. The committee agreed that the award, in some fashion, should continue. Croonquist asked members to share ideas for restructuring the award and he will work with staff to bring potential options to the next meeting.

VI. Adjournment

With no other business, Chair Brakke adjourned the meeting at 9:06 a.m.