



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, September 30, 2022, 7:30 a.m. – 9 a.m.

Hybrid meeting with Zoom option

Members Present:	Crystal Brakke Kelsey Dawson Walton Anne Marie Leland (alt.) Bev Petrie	Mary Frances Clardy Zuki Ellis Mary Kreger Lisa Sayles-Adams	Renee Corneille Marcus Hill 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 August 26 Meeting

Chair Brakke called the meeting to order at 7:38 a.m. Brakke asked members to review the minutes from the August 26 meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved.

II. Executive Director's Report

Chair Brakke asked Executive Director Scott Croonquist to share his report. Croonquist reported that a decision in the Cruz-Guzman case was issued this week with the Minnesota Court of Appeals ruling that a racially imbalanced school system does not, by itself, violate the state constitution. The opinion states that a racially imbalanced school system caused by intentional, *de jure* segregation would be a violation of the Education Clause of the Minnesota Constitution. However, a racially imbalanced school system caused by *de facto* segregation is not a violation. The plaintiffs in the Cruz-Guzman lawsuit had filed a motion for a partial summary judgment finding that school segregation violates the state constitution regardless of if it is intentional. The attorney for the plaintiffs intends to appeal the decision to the Minnesota Supreme Court.

Croonquist shared that Minnesota Management and Budget released the August Revenue Review showing that state revenues were up \$69 million over forecast in August. A more complete report covering July, August, and September receipts will be issued as part of the October Revenue and Economic Update.

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. There is just one more regional meeting scheduled for next week in Redwood Falls. The other meetings have been very well attended, with lively and engaging discussions. The students involved have done a great job! Forbes Solutions is working to develop a report and plan a statewide student conference in November or December. Forbes Solutions, along with some student representatives, will be speaking at our November Board of Directors meeting.

Croonquist shared that registration is now open for the conference scheduled for November 10 at the Minneapolis Marriott Northwest. AMSD is partnering with Metro ECSU, who has secured a grant from the MN Department of Health. The conference is focused on addressing mental health and racial trauma. Croonquist encouraged members to visit the AMSD website for more information.

Croonquist shared that Dr James Densley is scheduled to speak at the October 7 Board of Directors meeting. Dr. Densley is a professor at Metro State and a co-founder of The Violence Project.

III. Review and Discussion of Legislative Platform Outline

Executive Director Croonquist reviewed the legislative platform outline, which includes the issues most frequently identified in the survey responses from AMSD members. Croonquist reminded members that 2023 is a budget-setting year. Committee members discussed the outline and agreed that it was a good starting point for development of the platform. Croonquist said he would prepare a first draft of the platform for review at next month's committee meeting.

IV. Review of Standing Position Papers

Executive Director Croonquist explained that AMSD has thirteen standing position papers that are reviewed every year. The papers are updated to reflect current demographic data, new research, and to reflect legislative action from the last session. Croonquist noted that we are still waiting for additional information from MDE to update the paper on Early Childhood Education so that paper will be reviewed next month. Croonquist noted that the papers on State Accountability Assessments, Charter Schools, Facilities Funding, Guns on School Property, School Employee Health Insurance, Special Education and Tiered Licensure were on the agenda for review today. Croonquist reported that no significant changes were proposed to these papers. A motion was made and seconded to approve the position papers on State Accountability Assessments, Charter Schools, Facilities Funding, Guns on School Property, School Employee Health Insurance, and Tiered Licensure. The position papers were approved.

V. Discussion of Friend of Public Education Award

Croonquist reminded members that a consensus had been reached at the last meeting to not recognize a legislator in 2022 given the failure of the legislature to approve any supplemental funding for education. Croonquist asked if committee members had thought of a non-legislator that we might recognize but no candidates were offered. At this point, AMSD will not be issuing the Friend of Public Education Award in 2022 and staff will work with committee members to consider restructuring the award for the future.

VI. Adjournment

With no other business, Chair Brakke reminded members of upcoming meetings and adjourned the meeting at 8:43 a.m.