



Association of Metropolitan School Districts

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Board of Directors Meeting
Friday, November 4, 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 Crystal Brakke called the meeting to order at 7:37 a.m. Brakke welcomed everyone and asked if there were any introductions. A few introductions were made.

II. Guest Speakers

Chair Brakke introduced Dario Ortero and Robin Francis from Forbes Solutions. Ortero and Francis provided an update on the Together We Make a Difference initiative, including a powerful video and plans for next steps. Following their presentation, Ortero and Francis fielded questions from board members.

III. Routine Business

A. Approval of Minutes of October 7 Meeting

Chair Brakke asked members to review the minutes from the October 7 meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved.

IV. Executive Committee Report

A. Report on AMSD FY 2022 Audit

Chair Brakke reported that the AMSD audit for fiscal year 2022 was recently completed with a clean opinion. Brakke noted that the final audit report and management letters were posted on the AMSD website for review. Brakke thanked AMSD Office Manager Kimberly Jansa for her excellent work on the audit.

V. Legislative Committee Report

A. Review and Discussion of DRAFT 2023 Legislative Platform

Chair Brakke noted that the platform draft has been reviewed by the legislative committee and brought to the board for further discussion. Executive Director Croonquist noted that the proposed draft reflects the results of the survey sent to board members and district staff. Several board members shared thoughts, comments, and suggestions for consideration. Croonquist reminded members that, once approved, the platform will be used to educate legislators – many of whom will be new this session. The platform also serves as a resource for member districts' legislative action committees and community advocates. Croonquist reminded members that it has been past practice to develop a streamlined session priorities document a few months into the legislative session based on what has gained momentum with legislators. Croonquist asked

board members to contact him or any member of the legislative committee with further feedback. A revised draft will be brought to the board in December for final approval.

B. Review and Approval of Updated Position Papers

Chair Brakke reminded board members that every year, the position papers are reviewed and updated to reflect new demographic data, research, or actions taken during the previous legislative session. Brakke reported that the Legislative Committee had approved updates to the position papers on Charter Schools, Compensatory Revenue, Early Childhood Education, English Learner Funding, Facilities Funding, Mandate Reduction and Local Control, School Employee Health Insurance, Special Education, State Accountability Assessments, Taxpayer Subsidies for Nonpublic K-12 Education, Tiered Licensure for Teachers, and the Session Brief on the Proposed Constitutional Amendment.

Brakke shared that the committee has decided to revisit the Guns on School Property paper following the compelling presentation of the guest speaker at last month's board meeting. Committee members would like to develop a more comprehensive paper on this important issue.

Chair Brakke suggested that the board approve these as a slate unless there are any in particular that members would like to discuss. After a discussion among board members, it was decided that the Assessments paper merits further review given the number of colleges that no longer require an entrance exam. Superintendent Renee Corneille volunteered to work on a revised draft of the Assessments paper.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the updated position papers on Charter Schools, Compensatory Revenue, Early Childhood Education, English Learner Funding, Facilities Funding, Mandate Reduction and Local Control, School Employee Health Insurance, Special Education, Taxpayer Subsidies for Nonpublic K-12 Education, Tiered Licensure for Teachers, and the Session Brief is on the Proposed Constitutional Amendment. The motion was approved.

VI. Executive Director's Report

Brakke invited Executive Director Croonquist to give his report. Croonquist reported that conference registration will remain open through today and encouraged board members to sign up. Croonquist shared that we would continue to keep members updated on the Together We Make a Difference initiative, including the upcoming statewide student conference.

Croonquist reminded members that the Session Preview will be on January 6 and AMSD Day at the Capitol is scheduled for March 8.

Croonquist gave his best wishes to all AMSD School Board members up for re-election next week as well as to the districts with referendum questions.

VII. Adjourn

Chair Brakke reminded members of the upcoming meetings and thanked everyone for their attendance. Chair Brakke adjourned the meeting at 8:41 a.m.