



Association of Metropolitan School Districts

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Legislative Committee Meeting

Friday, January 27, 2023, 7:30 – 9 a.m.

Hybrid meeting – In person and via Zoom

Members Present:	Michael Bolsoni (alt.) Zuki Ellis Rhoda Mhiripiri-Reed Stacie Stanley	Crystal Brakke Marcus Hill Bev Petrie	Renee Corneille Jill Lofald Lisa Sayles-Adams
Staff Present:	Scott Croonquist	Troy Melhus	Kimberly Jansa
Guests Present:	Kris Amundson Lori Grivna	Josh Downham Lucy Payne	Jim Grathwol

I. Approval of Minutes of December 16 Meeting

Chair Brakke called the meeting to order at 7:38 a.m. Brakke asked members to review the minutes from the December 16 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 thanked everyone for their participation and help with the Session Preview held on January 6. With approximately 200 people in attendance, including many legislators, it was a great way to kick off the session. Croonquist gave a special thanks to Crystal Brakke and Supt. Stacie Stanley for their presentations at the event.

Croonquist reported that the Together We Make a Difference statewide student conference was held on January 13 at Park Center High School. The Minnesota State High School League and Forbes Solutions hosted over 750 students representing 75 schools. More information will be coming soon from Paul Forbes and her team.

Croonquist asked committee members if they would be supportive of submitting a letter to the Senate Committee on Education Policy in support of Willie Jett's confirmation as MDE Commissioner. The Senate Committee hearing is scheduled for Monday, January 30. Croonquist shared a draft of a letter he and Chair Crystal Brakke had drafted. AMSD committee members expressed unanimous support for the letter.

Croonquist reported that earlier this week, Gov. Walz and Lt. Gov. Flanagan released their biennial budget recommendations to the Minnesota Legislature. Croonquist explained that bill language is still forthcoming and will provide more details about the proposed budget. Croonquist reviewed key components of the proposal with committee members. One of the most significant proposals is the

increase in the general education basic formula by 4 percent in FY24 and 2 percent in FY25 and tying the basic formula to inflation starting in FY26. The budget also creates a new cabinet-level Department of Children, Youth & Families. Croonquist noted that Cathy Erickson and Adosh Unni from MDE would be sharing an overview of the governor's proposal at our board of directors meeting scheduled for next Friday, February 3.

III. Continued Discussion of Position Papers on Assessments and School Safety

Chair Brakke reported that a working group is continuing to discuss and develop a position paper on Assessments. Brakke asked committee members to review the updated draft of the Position on School Safety. Executive Director Croonquist reminded committee members that this paper was previously focused strictly on Guns on School Property. The new draft is aimed at more comprehensively addressing School Safety.

There was a discussion about the paper and a few revisions were suggested:

- Add "requiring secure firearm storage" to the position statement; and
- Add a belief statement – "School safety is a collaborative community endeavor situated in the local context through ongoing communication and training across schools, law enforcement, and community organizations."

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Position on School Safety with the suggested revisions. The position paper was approved.

IV. Discussion of AMSD Position on Significant Issues

Croonquist shared a list of significant education-related bills that have been introduced this session. Croonquist reviewed the bills and asked committee members to confirm AMSD's position on each of them.

V. Preliminary Discussion of Session Priorities Document

Croonquist noted that staff will prepare a draft Session Priorities document, which is a streamlined version of the AMSD Legislative Platform, for the committee to review and approve at the February meeting. The Session Priorities document establishes the issues AMSD will focus on over the final two months of the session.

VI. Adjournment

With no other business, Chair Brakke reminded members of upcoming meetings and adjourned the meeting at 9:07 a.m.