



Association of Metropolitan School Districts

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Board of Directors Meeting
Friday, September 8, 2023, 7:30 – 9 a.m.
Quora Education Center, 70 West County B2, Little Canada, MN
Hybrid Meeting – In person and via Zoom

Members Present: Forty-eight members attended the meeting in person and 64 participated virtually.

I. Welcome and Introductions

AMSD Chair Marcus Hill called the meeting to order at 7:34 a.m. Hill welcomed everyone in person and online.

II. Routine Business

A. Approval of Minutes of August 4 Meeting

Chair Hill asked members to review the minutes from the August 4 meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved.

III. Executive Director's Report

Chair Hill invited Executive Director Scott Croonquist to give his report. Croonquist began by addressing the school resource officer (SRO) issue. Questions continue around the law change that prohibits prone restraint and other physical holds on students. Croonquist reported that AMSD partnered with the MN Association of School Administrators (MASA) to conduct a statewide survey of superintendents about the use of SROs and the current status of their contract if they use SROs. The survey results varied widely across the state. Croonquist shared that he and AMSD Lobbyists Kris Amundson and Lori Grivna are continuing to work with legislators and MDE Commissioner Jett and his team on this issue.

Croonquist reported that DFL Rep. Ruth Richardson announced her resignation earlier this week and there will be a special election to fill the seat. Gov. Walz has not yet set a date for that special election.

Croonquist reviewed the results of the 2024 Legislative Platform Survey that was recently conducted. Croonquist noted that the session convenes on Feb. 12 and encouraged board members to engage their local legislators now. With the biennial budget adopted last session, the primary focus of the 2024 session will be on policy and a bonding bill, but we will be making a case for supplemental funding. Croonquist explained that the survey is the first step in creating the 2024 legislative platform and work will continue over the next few months. He asked board members to share any input with him or members of the legislative committee. A draft of the platform will be brought to the November Board meeting, with a final adoption needed at the December meeting.

Croonquist asked board members to mark their calendars for the AMSD Day at the Capitol on March 5. In addition, Croonquist reminded members of the AMSD/BrightWorks conference scheduled for Nov. 9. Conference registration will be available later this month.

Croonquist provided an update on the student-centered learning initiative with KnowledgeWorks. KnowledgeWorks is synthesizing data collected from workshops conducted in August. There will be two additional workshops – one that will be student-focused and another for educators. Croonquist shared that AMSD and KnowledgeWorks were successful in obtaining a grant from the Minneapolis Foundation to help facilitate this important work.

IV. Guest Speakers

Chair Hill introduced Peter Leatherman of The Morris Leatherman Company. Mr. Leatherman shared results from their recent public opinion survey which was conducted in mid-August. The survey sample size was 1,100 people statewide, with a confidence interval of plus or minus 3.5 percent. Following his presentation, Mr. Leatherman engaged in a question-and-answer session with board members.

V. Adjourn

Chair Hill reminded members of the upcoming meetings and thanked everyone for their attendance. Chair Hill adjourned the meeting at 8:59 a.m.