



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 25, 2023, 7:30 – 9 a.m.

Hybrid meeting – In person and via Zoom

Members Present:	Crystal Brakke Jill Lofald Lucy Payne Byron Schwab (alt.) Lisa Wagner	Jeff Holmberg Rhoda Mhiripiri-Reed Bev Petrie Stacie Stanley	Mary Kreger Laura Oksnevad Lisa Sayles-Adams Michael Thomas
Staff Present:	Scott Croonquist	Kimberly Jansa	Troy Melhus
Guests Present:	Josh Downham	Jim Grathwol	Lori Grivna

I. Approval of Minutes of July 28 Meeting

AMSD Vice Chair Lucy Payne called the meeting to order at 7:36 a.m. Payne asked members to review the minutes from the July 28 meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved.

II. Executive Director's Report

Vice Chair Payne asked Executive Director Scott Croonquist to share his report. Croonquist reported that there continues to be questions arising from the language in the 2023 Omnibus Education Bill that prohibits prone restraint and other physical holds on students. Law enforcement officials have expressed concerns about the new language and what it could mean for school resource officers and contracts with school districts. Croonquist reported that Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison has issued a legal opinion on the amendments to provide clarity. The League of MN Cities Insurance Trust and the Minnesota Police Chiefs Association have outlined concerns and some cities have suspended or terminated their SRO contracts. The committee members discussed the need for more clarity and agreement on the language. Croonquist noted that the superintendents will be meeting on August 31 to discuss this issue.

Croonquist noted that a referendum survey has been distributed to AMSD members to gather information about referendums on the November ballot. Results will be shared with all AMSD members soon.

Croonquist provided members with an update on the KnowledgeWorks project. The goal of the project is to identify barriers to student-centered learning. Croonquist shared a brief overview of the survey that was conducted in June and July and the three workshops that followed. He reported that KnowledgeWorks is synthesizing the data collected from those workshops and is looking to hold two additional workshops – one that is student-focused and another for educators. Croonquist also shared that KnowledgeWorks has received funding through a Bush grant to help continue the work.

Croonquist reminded committee members of the November 9 annual conference at the Marriott Northwest in Brooklyn Park. The title of the conference is *Embracing Student-Centered Learning and Artificial Intelligence*. Croonquist noted that the agenda is coming together nicely, and we are planning for an opening speaker, panel discussion that includes student voice, as well as several breakout sessions. The RFP for districts to submit proposals to host a breakout session is open through next week, and Croonquist encouraged districts to consider signing up.

III. Discussion of Together We Make a Difference Initiative

Vice Chair Payne asked Executive Director Croonquist to update the committee. The initiative being led by the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) has been going on for over a year. As a result of the regional meetings and statewide student conference held last year, MSHSL Behavior Expectations were created. Croonquist reported that the MSHSL plans to offer eight regional student meetings this fall to advance this vision and gather further student feedback. The MSHSL has asked AMSD to help finance the effort with a contribution. Croonquist asked the committee members for their feedback on the MSHSL plan and their funding request. There was a lengthy and robust discussion about the topic. The decision was made to have Croonquist go MSHSL with some concerns and questions before deciding on a financial contribution.

IV. Review and Discuss Results of Legislative Platform Survey

Executive Director Croonquist reviewed the results of the 2024 legislative platform survey. There were 41 responses received. Committee members discussed the funding and policy priorities and agreed that a concise platform will be important in the 2024 session. Croonquist shared that an outline of the platform will be brought to the next committee meeting for review. Croonquist asked members to share any additional thoughts or ideas with him.

V. Overview of Existing Legislative 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 a small working group, led by Supt. Renee Corneille, has been working on the paper on State Accountability Assessments. Croonquist asked committee members to consider the need for some position papers, including School Employee Health Insurance and English Learner Funding as well as the Session Brief on the Constitutional Amendment. There was a discussion among committee members about creating position papers on additional topics. Croonquist noted that we will continue to review these papers and consider updates at next month's committee meeting.

VI. Adjournment

Executive Director Croonquist shared that the Sept. 8 Board of Directors meeting will include a presentation from Dr. Bill Morris and Peter Leatherman on their recent statewide poll results. There being no other business, Vice Chair Payne adjourned the meeting at 9:01 a.m.