



## 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, December 15, 2023, 7:30 – 9 a.m.

Hybrid meeting – In person and via Zoom

<b>Members Present:</b>	Crystal Brakke Mary Kreger Rhoda Mhiripiri-Reed Bev Petrie Michael Thomas	Marcus Hill David Law (alt.) Laura Oksnevad Lisa Sayles-Adams	Jeff Holmberg Jill Lofald Lucy Payne Stacie Stanley
<b>Staff Present:</b>	Scott Croonquist	Kimberly Jansa	Troy Melhus
<b>Guests Present:</b>	Kris Amundson Lori Grivna	Josh Downham	Jim Grathwol

### I. Approval of Minutes of November 17 Meeting

AMSD Chair Marcus Hill called the meeting to order at 7:36 a.m. Hill asked members to review the minutes from the November 17 meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved.

### II. Executive Director's Report

Chair Hill asked Executive Director Scott Croonquist to share his report. Croonquist shared that District 196 Board Member Bianca Virnig won the special election earlier this month to fill the House District 52B seat left open after the retirement of Rep. Ruth Richardson.

Croonquist reported that the State Budget and Economic Forecast released last week was positive for the short-term but negative in the long-term. The projected surplus for the 2024-25 biennium increased to almost \$2.4 billion. However, expenditures are expected to exceed revenues by about \$2.3 billion in the 2026-27 biennium, leaving a projected balance of just \$82 million. The forecast includes \$880 million to account for inflation in state expenditures. Education spending is projected to increase, with higher projected student enrollment (5,000 more students) and higher than anticipated costs related to the universal meals program. Croonquist shared that the next forecast will come out at the end of February and that is the one the Governor and Legislature will use to make any adjustments to the biennial budget.

Croonquist reported that the Minnesota Supreme Court issued a decision in the Cruz-Guzman lawsuit a few days ago. The Court ruled that although the parents do not have to prove that state action caused racial imbalances in certain Minneapolis and Saint Paul schools, racial imbalances alone are not sufficient to establish a violation of the Education Clause of the Minnesota Constitution. The Court ruled that the parents must prove that racial imbalances in schools are a substantial factor in causing their children to receive an inadequate education. The case now returns to district court.

Croonquist noted that we are awaiting delivery of the Opportunity Analysis (initial report) from KnowledgeWorks. Croonquist shared that we are planning a workshop/brainstorming session for February 9, with further details to be announced soon.

### **III. Review and Approval of Updated Position Papers**

Executive Director Croonquist next turned to a discussion of 4 standing position papers for review. The position papers were on School Board Renewal of a Capital Projects Referendum, School Safety, State Accountability Assessments, and Tiered Licensure for Teachers. The papers have been updated to reflect current demographic data, new research, and to reflect legislative action from the last session.

Croonquist shared that a small committee, led by Supt. Renee Corneille, had been working on redesigning the Assessments paper. This work was put on hold in anticipation of our work with KnowledgeWorks. There was a robust discussion among the committee members about how best to revamp this complex paper to encompass student growth and measurements among other issues. Work will continue following receipt of the report from KnowledgeWorks.

The committee reviewed the paper on School Board Renewal of a Capital Projects Referendum, which was previously named School Board Renewal of an Operating Referendum. The committee agreed to a couple of edits to this paper.

Next, the committee reviewed the paper on School Safety. Members agreed to a couple of small edits. Additionally, there is agreement that a separate paper on student mental health would be helpful.

Finally, the committee reviewed the paper on Tiered Licensure for Teachers. Croonquist noted that this paper included significant changes from the last legislative session. Committee members agreed to approve, but to revisit the paper and potentially address rulemaking.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the updated position papers with agreed amendments/edits on School Board Renewal of a Capital Projects Referendum, School Safety and Tiered Licensure for Teachers. The position papers were approved.

### **IV. Discussion of Legislative Session Preview**

Executive Director Croonquist reminded members that the Session Preview is scheduled for February 2. All legislators that represent AMSD districts will be invited to attend. Croonquist shared that the format of the meeting has typically included the AMSD Chair and 2 superintendents sharing topics from our platform. Committee members discussed some potential presenters and Croonquist will contact them to see if they are interested in presenting.

### **V. Adjournment**

Executive Director Croonquist shared that we will talk about legislative issues in the 2024 session at our next meeting. Croonquist also asked committee members to start brainstorming ideas on how to celebrate AMSD's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2024 as well as some potential 2024 conference topics. These items will be added to our January meeting agenda. Chair Hill reminded members of the upcoming meetings before adjourning the meeting at 9:05 a.m.