



Association of Metropolitan School Districts

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Board of Directors Meeting
Friday, March 1, 2024, 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 members attended the meeting in person and 58 participated virtually.

I. Welcome and Introductions

AMSD Chair Marcus Hill called the meeting to order at 7:37 a.m. Hill welcomed everyone in person and online.

II. Routine Business

A. Approval of Minutes of January 5 Meeting

Chair Hill asked members to review the minutes from the January 5 meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved.

III. Recognition of National Superintendent of the Year Dr. Joe Gothard

Chair Hill invited Superintendent Dan Bittman to speak. Supt. Bittman noted that he, Supt. David Law, and Supt. Cory McIntyre nominated Dr. Joe Gothard for Minnesota Superintendent of the Year. On behalf of the AMSD Board, Supt. Bittman congratulated Dr. Gothard on being recently selected by the American Association of School Administrators (AASA) as the 2024 National Superintendent of the Year. Dr. Gothard then shared some reflections and expressed appreciation for his colleagues.

IV. Guest Speakers

Chair Hill introduced the guest speakers – Minnesota Department of Education Assistant Commissioner Bobbie Burnham, Rep. Heather Edelson and Sen. Zach Duckworth – who provided an update on the implementation of the READ Act as well as an overview of the READ Act 2.0 legislation moving through the legislative process. Following their presentation, the speakers engaged in a question-and-answer session with board members.

V. Preview AMSD/MASA Region 9 Day at the Capitol & Advocacy Efforts

Chair Hill invited Executive Director Scott Croonquist to share a preview of the upcoming Day at the Capitol scheduled for Tuesday, Mar. 5. Croonquist noted that AMSD is partnering with MASA Region 9 on this year's event. Croonquist provided an overview of the day and discussed some logistics. Croonquist also encouraged members to review the Advocacy Guide posted on our website.

VI. Executive Director's Report

Chair Hill invited Executive Director Scott Croonquist to give his report. Croonquist began by congratulating Supt. David Law on being named a finalist for 2024-2025 AASA President-Elect position.

Croonquist reported that the February Budget and Economic Forecast was released yesterday. The projected surplus for the current biennium is \$3.7 billion, which is an increase of over \$1 billion from the November forecast. However, current spending is projected to outpace revenue leading to a structural imbalance in the next biennium. Croonquist noted that this does leave a projected \$2.2 billion surplus in the 2026-27 biennium that may be considered for additional one-time spending this session.

Croonquist noted that a compromise has been reached on the SRO bill and it appears that the bill will be approved by the House and Senate in the coming days.

Croonquist reported that a budget survey was issued to all member districts and shows a considerable shortfall for AMSD districts. The survey results will be released publicly on Monday, March 4.

Croonquist noted that the 2024-2025 AMSD Meeting Schedule is posted on our website and encouraged Board members to add those dates to their calendars.

VII. Adjourn

Chair Hill reminded members of the upcoming meetings and thanked everyone for their attendance. Chair Hill adjourned the meeting at 8:57 a.m.