



Association of Metropolitan School Districts

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Legislative Committee Meeting

Friday, February 23, 2024, 7:30 – 9 a.m.

Hybrid meeting – In person and via Zoom

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

I. Approval of Minutes of January 26 Meeting

AMSD Chair Marcus Hill called the meeting to order at 7:40 a.m. Hill asked members to review the minutes from the January 26 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 began with a legislative update. Croonquist reported that we are two weeks into the session, and the first deadline is only a month away. Committees are in full swing. This week, the Senate Education Policy and Education Finance Committees each hosted a "Student Day" to hear students' perspectives. The students did a fantastic job with their testimonies.

Croonquist shared that the February State Budget and Economic Forecast is scheduled to be released next Wednesday. The updated forecast will provide the fiscal framework the Governor and Legislators will use to make any adjustments to the biennial budget.

Croonquist reported that an ongoing topic of discussion is the Read Act 2.0. Croonquist shared that Assistant MDE Commissioner Bobbie Burnham, Rep. Heather Edelson and Sen. Zach Duckworth will be the guest speakers at the AMSD Board of Directors meeting next Friday. They will provide an overview of the implementation of the Read Act as well as the Read Act 2.0 legislation that has been introduced.

Croonquist noted that most of the issues on our legislative platform have been introduced. He reported that there are also new mandates being introduced including making FAFSA completion as a graduation requirement, requiring school board elections to take place on even years only, and many others.

Croonquist shared that we have a bill tracker on our website that tracks education-related bills of significant impact to the AMSD membership.

Croonquist asked committee members for feedback on the Session Preview earlier this month. Members agreed that it was great to connect with legislators, both as a group and on an individual basis.

Croonquist reported that the AMSD Day at the Capitol is coming up on March 5. Education Finance Committee chairs Sen. Mary Kunesh and Rep. Cheryl Youakim will join us for updates as we kick off the day from 8-9 a.m. in Room 316. After the gathering concludes at 9 a.m., everyone is encouraged to meet with legislators and/or attend hearings.

Croonquist shared that the KnowledgeWorks workshop held on Feb. 9 was a success. Prior to the workshop, the 26 recommendations from KnowledgeWorks were narrowed down to 14. The group identified a lot of great work happening already. Croonquist encouraged committee members to review the summary of the workshop that is posted on our website. To move this work forward, we continue to hold weekly zoom meetings with KnowledgeWorks.

III. Continued Discussion of AMSD Budget Survey

Executive Director Croonquist invited members to review the results of our budget survey and asked about releasing this information. Committee members support the release of the survey results with the caveat that the superintendents first have the opportunity to review and discuss the survey at a zoom meeting scheduled for Monday, Feb. 26. The timing of the release has yet to be determined.

IV. Discussion of AMSD Session Priorities

Executive Director Croonquist shared that our past practice has been to streamline the legislative platform into a one-page Session Priorities document once the session is in full swing. This document will help to focus advocacy efforts for the remainder of the session. Croonquist noted that this will be brought to the committee at next month's meeting.

V. Discussion of Topic for Fall Conference

Executive Director Croonquist asked committee members for their ideas on a topic for the Nov. 14 fall conference. Laura Oksnevad suggested "Student Centered Learning Part II: Transformational System Changes Starting at the Top" that would focus on the book *Great on Their Behalf*. Bev Petrie, Marcus Hill, and other committee members suggested that we also include the topic of student mental health in the conference. Committee members agreed that both topics could be woven into the conference. Staff will work to contact the author of the book to see if there is a possibility of having him join us as a speaker.

VI. Adjournment

Chair Hill reminded members of the upcoming meetings before adjourning the meeting at 8:55 a.m.