



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, March 22, 2024, 7:30 – 9 a.m.

Conducted Remotely via Zoom

Members Present:	Crystal Brakke Jeff Holmberg Lucy Payne Lisa Sayles-Adams	Renee Corneille (alt.) Mary Kreger Bev Petrie Michael Thomas	Marcus Hill Patrick Lee-O'Halloran Jason Ross (alt.)
Staff Present:	Scott Croonquist	Kimberly Jansa	Troy Melhus
Guests Present:	Kris Amundson Lori Grivna	Josh Downham	Jim Grathwol

I. Approval of Minutes of February 23 Meeting

AMSD Chair Marcus Hill called the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m. Hill asked members to review the minutes from the February 23 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 noted that AMSD helped draft a joint letter signed by a number of other education organizations urging the legislature to refrain from including new mandates in this year's omnibus policy bills. He noted that the policy committee deadline is today, and he reviewed the House and Senate policy bills with committee members.

Croonquist reported that Gov. Walz released his supplemental budget recommendations on Monday. Croonquist noted that expectations had been tempered following the release of the February State Budget Forecast, which projected a surplus in the current biennium but an imbalance in the next biennium. However, the lack of even one-time funding for the Read Act came as a very disappointing surprise. Croonquist noted that House and Senate leaders are not bound by the Governor's recommendations and are developing joint supplemental budget targets. A call to action will be sent in the AMSD Update today asking members to reach out to legislators to let them know that supplemental funding for education is critical.

Croonquist noted that the budget survey results, and the media release are included in today's meeting materials. These results have been referenced several times in various media outlets, but we were hoping for a bigger impact. Croonquist shared that MASBO is also doing a statewide budget survey.

Croonquist thanked committee members for their participation in the AMSD Day at the Capitol on March 5. There were over 100 attendees that came together to advocate for public education! It was wonderful

to see so many AMSD members meeting with their local legislators and engaging in the legislative process. Croonquist asked committee members for any feedback on the event.

Croonquist shared that since our last meeting, the KnowledgeWorks work continued with a virtual workshop. Lucy Payne and Laura Oksnevad participated in the workshop which was attended by several members of Education Minnesota with the goal of gathering/representing the teacher voice. Lucy Payne provided some insight into the workshop, which included mostly secondary teachers.

Croonquist reminded committee members that last month, it was suggested that AJ Crabill, the author of *Great on Their Behalf*, might be a good keynote speaker at our fall conference. Croonquist shared that he had connected with Crabill's manager, and he is available on our conference date. Croonquist then asked committee members for their thoughts and feedback. Committee members discussed if Crabill is best suited for the conference audience and topic or if it might make more sense to explore another opportunity to work with Mr. Crabill. A majority of committee members leaned toward identifying another workshop or event to engage with Mr. Crabill.

III. Discussion and Approval of 2024 Session Priorities

Executive Director Croonquist shared that our past practice has been to streamline the legislative platform into a one-page Session Priorities document at about the midpoint of the session. This document helps to focus advocacy efforts for the remainder of the session. Croonquist shared two options with the committee for review. Committee members agreed that the new focus should be to urge legislators to approve \$100 per pupil one-time aid to support a successful implementation of the Read Act and other programs and requirements approved in the 2023 session. This document will be shared with AMSD members in today's weekly update.

IV. Review and Discussion of Significant Legislation

Executive Director Croonquist highlighted some of the current significant legislation working through committees including hours of instruction, local optional revenue, the open meeting law, state standards for health and pension enhancement proposals. The fiscal deadline is scheduled for April 19.

V. Adjournment

Chair Hill reminded members of the upcoming meetings before adjourning the meeting at 8:43 a.m.