



Association of Metropolitan School Districts

Board of Directors Meeting
Friday, November 1, 2019, 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
Quora Education Center, 70 West County B2, Little Canada, MN

I. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Andrea Cuene called the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m. Cuene welcomed the members present and asked if there were any introductions to be made. A few introductions were made. Chair Cuene congratulated Anoka-Hennepin Superintendent David Law on being named the 2020 MN Superintendent of the Year.

II. Routine Business

A. Approval of Minutes of October 4 Meeting

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the October 4 meeting. The motion was approved.

III. Executive Committee Report

A. Review and Acceptance of FY 2019 AMSD Audit

Chair Cuene noted that the FY 2019 AMSD audit had been emailed to board members prior to the meeting. Cuene reported that AMSD received a clean audit, completed by Olsen Thielen & Co., and the organization is in good financial position. Cuene reported that the audit is required to note two internal weaknesses – a lack of segregation of duties and preparation of the financial statements by the auditing firm - that are due to AMSD's small staff size. The audit shows that AMSD has been consistent in year to year income and expenditures. A motion was made and seconded to accept the FY 2019 audit report. The motion was approved.

VI. Legislative Committee Report

A. Review and Approval of Position Papers on Compensatory Revenue, English Learner Funding, Mandate Reduction and Local Control, Special Education, Guns on School Property and Facilities Funding

Chair Cuene reported that the Legislative Committee had approved updates to the position papers on Compensatory Revenue, English Learner Funding, Mandate Reduction and Local Control, Special Education, Guns on School Property and Facilities Funding. Cuene reported that the committee is not recommending any changes to the Guns on School Property and Facilities Funding papers. Chair Cuene then reviewed the updates that the Legislative Committee is recommending to the other papers. She noted that no changes are being recommended to the underlying position statements. Rather, the updates reflect updated data and statistics and changes to reflect action taken during the 2019 legislative session. A motion was made and seconded to approve the updates to the position papers. Chair Cuene asked if there was any discussion about the proposed changes. A suggestion was made to amend the paper on Compensatory Revenue to encourage the Legislature to explore alternative ways to identify students in need of compensatory services. It was noted that fewer students and families are choosing to apply for

free or reduced priced lunch which was causing a significant drop in compensatory aid for many school districts. Chair Cuene stated that the Compensatory Revenue position paper will be returned to the Legislative Committee for further work. The motion to approve the position papers on English Learner Funding, Mandate Reduction and Local Control, Special Education, Guns on School Property and Facilities Funding was renewed and seconded. The motion was approved.

B. Review and Discussion of DRAFT Legislative Platform

Chair Cuene asked members to review the draft 2020 legislative platform. Cuene reminded board members that the platform development process began with a survey of AMSD board members and select school district staff in August. The Legislative Committee used the results of the survey to prepare the draft platform. Chair Cuene reviewed the draft platform with members and asked for feedback or suggestions. No changes were recommended. Chair Cuene noted that the Legislative Committee will further evaluate the platform at its next meeting and bring the platform back to the December board meeting for final approval.

V. Guest Speaker

Chair Cuene introduced the guest speaker, Dennis Olson, Commissioner of the Office of Higher Education. Mr. Olson provided an overview of his office and its programs, such as the Get Ready Program and Minnesota's Forward Together initiative, which brings the Office of Higher Education out into communities in the metro area as well as greater Minnesota. Following his presentation, Mr. Olson answered some questions from board members.

VI. Executive Director's Report

Chair Cuene asked Executive Director Croonquist to give his report. Croonquist reminded members that the registration deadline for the AMSD conference is today. Croonquist provided an update on The Student Conference which was held at the Minneapolis Convention Center on October 21. Approximately 1,500 students attended the conference and it was very successful. There were several breakout sessions that were student-led and student-driven. Paula Forbes & her team are gathering all feedback & information from the conference, which will be shared in the coming weeks. Croonquist reported that the Cruz-Guzman mediation is continuing and the mediators and parties to the lawsuit are taking testimony from a wide variety of education stakeholder groups as well as hearing presentations from educators from around the country. Croonquist reported that the Minneapolis Foundation has become very engaged and interested in the Reimagine Minnesota work. To elevate and enhance awareness of the work, they are planning an event for December 5 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. All AMSD members are invited and the invitation is posted on the AMSD website. Croonquist shared that he testified at a hearing held by the House Rules and Legislative Administration Subcommittee on Legislative Process Reform regarding the budget forecast in support of reinstating projected inflation to state expenditures in the forecast. Croonquist testified that removing inflation from the forecast has had a negative impact on education. Croonquist reported that the AMSD Legislative Session Preview will be held February 7. He reminded members that now is a great time to meet with their local legislators – not to ask them for anything, but to build/strengthen relationships. Croonquist wished good luck to all districts with referendums and school board members up for re-election next Tuesday. As Superintendent Jay Haugen is retiring and attending his last AMSD meeting, he was invited to share some reflections. Haugen shared a passionate and inspiring message with board members and was given a standing ovation.

VII. Adjourn

Chair Cuene thanked members for their attendance. Cuene reminded members of the upcoming meetings and adjourned the meeting at 8:47 a.m.

Attendance:

David Law, Al Ickler and Nicole Hayes from Anoka Hennepin; Les Fujitake Beth Beebe and Nelly Korman from Bloomington; DeeDee Currier from Burnsville-Eagan-Savage; Kathy Kelly from Columbia Heights; Lisa Anderson from Eastern Carver County; Terri Swartout and Stacie Stanley from Eden Prairie; Owen Michaelson from Edina; Jay Haugen from Farmington; Kim Hiel from Fridley; Rhoda Mhiripiri-Reed, Chris LaTondresse, Catherine Callahan and Steve Adams from Hopkins; Mark Zuzek from Intermediate 917; Dave Bernhardson and Sue Gliva from Inver Grove Heights; Renae Ouillette from Lakeville; Barb Duffrin and Mike Neubeck from Mahtomedi; Ed Graff and Josh Downham from Minneapolis; Dennis Peterson and Chris Vitale from Minnetonka; Chris Lennox, Jeff Ridlehoover, Kim Hartung and Diane Glasheen from Mounds View; Christine Osorio from North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale; Marilyn Forsberg from NE Metro 916; Melissa Jordan from Northeast Suburban Integration; Martha Van De Ven from Orono; Cory McIntyre and Ron Meyer from Osseo; Teri Staloch and Stacy Ruelle from Prior Lake-Savage; Steve Unowsky and Peter Toensing from Richfield; Helen Bassett and Kristine Wehrkamp from Robbinsdale; Aldo Sicoli and Curtis Johnson from Roseville; Dave Webb and Chris Walker from South St. Paul; Keith Jacobus and Shelly Schafer from South Washington County; Jeff Ronneberg, John Stroebel, Erika Taibl and Amy Hennen from Spring Lake Park; Renee Corneille and Leah Slye from St. Anthony-New Brighton; Anne Casey from St. Louis Park; Joe Gothard and Mary Vanderwert from St. Paul; Mike Ptacek from Stillwater; Cheryl Polzin and Andrea Cuene from Wayzata; Peter Olson-Skog and Stephanie Levine from West St. Paul-Mendota Heights-Eagan; Margaret Newmaster from White Bear Lake; Kris Amundson, Scott Croonquist, Troy Melhus and Kimberly Jansa from AMSD.