

2019 AMSD Legislative Preview Brings Legislators and Education Leaders Together

January 25, 2019 Executive/Legislative Committee Meeting

7:30 a.m.
Room 304
Anderson Center
2 Pine Tree Drive
Arden Hills

February 1, 2019 Board of Directors Meeting

7 a.m.
Quora Education Center
NE Metro 916
Little Canada
<https://goo.gl/maps/EG2bcsS9zuK2>

February 22, 2019 Executive/Legislative Committee Meeting

7:30 a.m.
Room 304
Anderson Center
2 Pine Tree Drive
Arden Hills

NEW AMSD OFFICE LOCATION Effective December 17

2 Pine Tree Drive
Suite 380
Arden Hills, MN 55112
612-430-7750

AMSD's Mission

To advocate for state education policy that enables metropolitan school districts to improve student learning.



Association of
Metropolitan School Districts

More than 120 education leaders - superintendents, school board members and district staff - and more than 30 state legislators turned out for the annual AMSD Legislative Preview on Jan. 4 at the Quora Education Center (Intermediate School District 916), to learn about the upcoming 2019 legislative session which began Jan. 8.

The annual AMSD event, which this year included remarks from the incoming Commissioner of Education Mary Cathryn Ricker, precedes each session. The event brings together metro area legislators and education leaders to discuss important education issues and provides legislators the opportunity to hear a presentation of the AMSD platform as they prepare for the upcoming session.

The preview also allows member districts to communicate with legislators how the platform issues affect their districts directly.

AMSD unveiled its [2019 Legislative Platform, "Ensuring an Equitable and Excellent Education,"](#) in December 2018, based on surveys with the nearly 50 AMSD member school districts. Districts agreed the five key areas to address in the 2019 session include:

- School funding stabilization
- School safety
- Closing opportunity gaps
- Addressing taxpayer equity
- Enhancing local control

All five points are explained in detail in the platform.

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Education Commissioner Mary Cathryn Ricker



From the Chair

Happy New Year! It was incredibly energizing to have over 150 superintendents, school board members, legislators, district staff and other public education supporters in attendance at AMSD's annual legislative session preview on January 4. Thanks to the nearly 40 legislators and legislative staff who attended the preview. Also, a special thanks to Commissioner of Education Mary Cathryn Ricker, our superintendent speakers who outlined the AMSD legislative priorities and the legislative panel of Representative Jim Davnie, Representative Sondra Erickson, Senator Carla Nelson and Senator Chuck Wiger who shared their thoughts and goals for the 2019 session. It was heartening to hear our legislators speak about the importance of investing in education. I encourage AMSD members to stay engaged throughout the session. Together, our advocacy will benefit teaching and learning for all of our students!

Stephanie Levine, school board member from West St. Paul-Mendota Heights-Eagan, is chair of AMSD.

Legislative Preview: New leadership, new governor, new commissioner

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In addition to sharing the platform, several AMSD superintendents provided context at the preview to show how their districts are directly impacted by state policies.

Supt. David Law of Anoka-Hennepin Schools, for example, presented about the importance of racial equity work with regard to closing opportunity gaps for students — and how by recruiting and retaining teachers of color, Anoka-Hennepin has seen direct impacts on student performance.

Law also emphasized the importance of — and state obligation for — education funding.

Law noted that a funding increase of even 3 percent on the basic formula for education in 2019 — and indexing it to inflation — would still leave his district in the red by more than \$300,000 in the coming year.

Three possible budget scenarios			
Impact of state revenue on operations			
Biennium	1%/1% and \$2MM Cross-subsidy buy down per year	2%/2% and \$2MM Cross-subsidy buy down per year	3%/3% and \$2MM Cross-subsidy buy down per year
Anoka-Hennepin Revenue	1,037,158,855	1,045,185,428	1,053,265,068
Anoka-Hennepin Expenses	1,053,526,663	1,053,553,378	1,053,580,225
Anoka-Hennepin Surplus/(deficit)	(16,367,808)	(8,367,950)	(315,157)



Robbinsdale Supt. Carlton Jenkins

Rising costs were a theme echoed by Supt. Carlton Jenkins of Robbinsdale, who emphasized that the special education cross-subsidy (the amount by which special education expenditures exceed revenue provided by the state and federal governments), if unaddressed, could force his district to divert more than \$15 million of general fund dollars to subsidize special education.

“The chronic underfunding of special education services stresses the budgets of school districts across the state,” Jenkins said.

Legislative Impact

- If we continue with the same funding patterns, Robbinsdale Area Schools will have to divert \$15.5 million from the general fund to subsidize unfunded special education costs. The chronic underfunding of special education services stresses the budgets of school districts across the state. Additionally, it places districts which are property-rich and income-poor in a position reducing services to fully see, support and serve all children, staff and families.
- Recommendation: Help us position Minnesota in providing the highest quality for all children by increasing special education funding.**

Superintendents Connie Hayes of Intermediate School District 916 and Teri Staloch of Prior Lake-Savage also spoke to the group about student mental health challenges, school safety, and the importance of property taxpayer equity based on wealth disparities between districts.

“These disparities should be addressed in the Omnibus Tax Bill,” Staloch said.

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AMSD Members: Anoka-Hennepin School District, Bloomington Public Schools, Brooklyn Center Community Schools, Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District 191, Columbia Heights Public Schools, Eastern Carver County Schools, Eden Prairie Schools, Edina Public Schools, Elk River Area School District, Equity Alliance MN (Associate Member), Farmington Area Public Schools, Fridley Public Schools, Hopkins Public Schools, Intermediate School District 287, Intermediate School District 917 (Associate Member), Inver Grove Heights Schools, Lakeville Area Public Schools, Mahtomedi Public Schools, Metro ECSU (Associate Member), Minneapolis Public Schools, Minnetonka Public Schools, Mounds View Public Schools, North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale School District, Northeast Metro Intermediate School District 916, Northwest Suburban Integration District (Associate Member), Orono Schools, Osseo Area Schools, Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools, Richfield Public Schools, Robbinsdale Area Schools, Rochester Public Schools; Rockford Area Schools, Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan Public Schools, Roseville Area Schools, Shakopee Public Schools, South St. Paul Public Schools, South Washington County Schools, SouthWest Metro Intermediate District, Spring Lake Park Schools, St. Anthony-New Brighton Independent School District, St. Cloud Area Schools, St. Louis Park Public Schools, St. Paul Public Schools, Stillwater Area Public Schools, Wayzata Public Schools, West St. Paul-Mendota Heights-Eagan Area Schools, Westonka, and White Bear Lake Area Schools.

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The preview wrapped with a legislative panel that featured Reps. Jim Davnie (DFL-Minneapolis) and Sondra Erickson (R-Princeton), and Sens. Carla Nelson (R-Rochester) and Chuck Wiger (DFL-Maplewood).

Davnie is the chair of the House Education Finance Committee, and Erickson is the ranking minority member of the House Education Policy Committee. Nelson is the chair of the Senate Committee on E-12 Finance and Policy, and Wiger is the ranking minority member for the DFL.

- [Link: View a PDF of the 2019 AMSD Legislative Platform](#)
- [Link: View a PDF of the Superintendent Presentations at the Legislative Preview](#)
- [Link: View a full photo gallery of images from the Jan. 4, 2019 Legislative Preview](#)



Legislative panel from left: Sen. Chuck Wiger, Sen. Carla Nelson, Rep. Sondra Erickson and Rep. Jim Davnie



AMSD Presents Friend of Public Education Award



AMSD Executive Director Scott Croonquist presented Rep. Tim O’Driscoll with the AMSD Friend of Education Award at a recent meeting of the St. Cloud School Board. Pictured from left to right are school board members Bruce Mohs, Bruce Hentges, Rep. Tim O’Driscoll, Supt. Willie Jett, AMSD Executive Director Scott Croonquist, school board members Al Dahlgren, Shannon Haws, Jeff Pollreis and Jerry Von Korff.