

CONNECTIAMS DNS

News from the Association of Metropolitan School Districts

February 2023
Volume 20
Number 5

February 24, 2023
Executive/Legislative Committee Meeting
7:30 a.m. - 9 a.m.
Anderson Center
Bethel University
Arden Hills

March 3, 2023
Board of Directors Meeting
7 a.m. - 9 a.m.
Quora Education Center
NE Metro 916
Little Canada

March 8, 2023
AMSD Day at the Capitol
8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Room 316
<https://www.amsd.org/event/amsd-day-at-the-capitol-2023/>
RSVP to
kjansa@amsd.org

March 31, 2023
Executive/Legislative Committee Meeting
7:30 a.m. - 9 a.m.
Anderson Center
Bethel University
Arden Hills

'Together We Make a Difference' Conference Draws More than 750 Students Statewide to Osseo Area Schools — Addressing Student Safety, Sportsmanship and more

More than 750 students from 75 schools statewide converged on Friday, Jan. 13 at Park Center High School in Brooklyn Park to participate in the "Together We Make A Difference" initiative, a collaborative effort of the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) and several Minnesota education organizations including AMSD. The initiative is aimed at addressing racial

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I was thrilled to see several of AMSD's legislative priorities included in Gov. Walz and Lt. Gov. Flanagan's budget recommendations. We have a historic opportunity to strengthen and stabilize the education funding system while enacting programs to support all students in reaching their full potential. But we know nothing is guaranteed; please join me at AMSD's Day at the Capitol on March 8 to advocate for our collective priorities. You can find more information here: <https://www.amsd.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/AMSD.CapitolDay.2023.pdf>. Thank you in advance for advocating for our students and our schools.

From the AMSD Chair, Crystal Brakke, Richfield Public Schools Board Member

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discrimination and breaking down barriers to ensure a safe environment for all students in which to learn and participate in all activities.

The event, facilitated by Forbes Solutions and Youth Lens 360, included engaging discussions among the students in a setting filled with music and fellowship. The students met in small groups to share goals and discuss ideas to enhance inclusiveness and build respect and relationships in their schools and communities.

The team is now synthesizing the responses and plans to share action steps with the partner organizations, with the goal of implementation by next school year.

- [LINK: View the MSHSL website overview](#)



Governor Releases Budget Proposals to 2023 Legislature



Gov. Tim Walz and Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan's biennial budget recommendations include nearly \$7 billion in education investments over the next four years. The \$65.2 billion FY 24-25 budget—an increase of \$13.1 billion over the current biennium—includes new spending, tax cuts, and tax increases.

Several of AMSD's legislative priorities are included in the Governor's budget recommendations including linking the education funding formula to inflation. The Governor proposes to increase the funding formula by 4 percent for next fiscal year and 2 percent in FY 25. The formula would be linked to inflation beginning in FY 26.

The Governor's proposed budget also addresses several additional AMSD priorities including:

- Reducing the special education cross-subsidy by 50 percent at a cost of \$722.6 million in FY 24-25, and \$840.1 million in FY 26-27;
- Reducing the English learner cross-subsidy by 25 percent at a cost of \$24.9 million in FY 24-25 and \$32.5 million in FY 26-27;
- Providing funding for school support personnel and funding for school linked mental health grants and intermediate school linked behavioral health grants;
- Providing more than \$30 million in funding to address the educator workforce shortages in both K-12 and early education, and to recruit and retain more educators of color;
- Fully funding the state's 4,000 Voluntary PreK slots permanently;
- Allowing school boards to renew an existing voter approved operating referendum.

The Governor's budget also proposes to fund breakfast and lunch for all students. This legislation is rapidly advancing through the Legislature. ([HF5/SF123](#)) The universal meals proposal comes at a cost of \$388.4 million in FY 23-25, and \$424.3M in FY 26-27.

The Governor's budget also creates a new cabinet-level Department of Children, Youth and Families. The new department would incorporate programs from several existing program areas including:

- Childcare and Early Learning
- DHS programs and economic support programs
- Some older youth programming

The department will operate with a budget of approximately \$3 billion. The proposal calls for a two-year transition with the new department beginning in 2024 and would involve a transfer of more than 60 MDE staff, as well as more than 100 Department of Health and Human Services staff.

- [LINK: View the Education Budget](#)
- [LINK: View an Overview of the Governor's Budget to the AMSD Board of Directors](#)
- [LINK: View Proposal to Create Dept. of Children, Youth and Families \(p. 33\)](#)
- [LINK: View all individual budget recommendations](#)