

December 2017  
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## AMSD Annual Conference: Reimagine Minnesota

### December 15, 2017 Executive/Legislative Committee Meeting

7:30 a.m.  
Lexington Room,  
TIES Conference Center  
St. Paul

### January 5, 2018 Board of Directors Meeting

7:00 a.m.  
Grand Hall,  
TIES Conference Center  
St. Paul

### January 26, 2018 Executive/Legislative Committee Meeting

7:30 a.m.  
Lexington Room,  
TIES Conference Center  
St. Paul

### February 2, 2018 Legislative Preview

8:00 a.m.  
Grand Hall,  
TIES Conference Center  
St. Paul

Over 200 education leaders, advocates, students and community members gathered on December 8, 2017, for the Association of Metropolitan School District's (AMSD) annual conference. The theme of the 2017 conference was *Reimagine Minnesota*, which aligns with an initiative of the same name formed last year to



develop a comprehensive collective action plan to address integration, access, opportunity and education achievement for all students. Specifically, *Reimagine Minnesota* is focused on accelerating growth for students of color and other students struggling in the current educational system; closing on all measures, the achievement, access and opportunity gaps faced by students; and ensuring equitable academic outcomes (i.e. high levels of achievement) for all students.

### Why Reimagine Minnesota?

Edina Superintendent John Schultz and Robbinsdale Area Schools Superintendent Carlton Jenkins kicked off the conference by providing background on the *Reimagine Minnesota* initiative. They noted that the effort began in March 2016, when a group of AMSD superintendents gathered together to discuss the future of education in the state of Minnesota. Specifically, the superintendents were determined to create a plan that would ensure equity and excellence for all students.

In October 2016, 17 superintendents and educational leaders asked AMSD to support their goal of developing a collective education action plan. The AMSD Board of Directors approved the creation of an Ad Hoc Committee on Equity and Integration to support the work of the superintendents.

The superintendents worked to collect community voice to inform the work of the committee as it created a plan and recommendations for new local and statewide policies and practices with the goal of creating a model of education designed for the success of all students. The committee hired Paula Forbes and her team at Forbes Solutions as consultants to organize community meetings and identify the issues most important to students and families in creating an equitable and excellent education for all.

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### AMSD's Mission

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



Paula Forbes

### From the Chair

Thank you to everyone who attended AMSD's annual conference on December 8 for a stimulating conversation about *Reimagining Public Education in Minnesota*. We were thrilled to have a slate of outstanding presenters who shared their expertise and passion. A special thank you to our remarkable student presenters for sharing their personal stories and ideas. As Anoka-Hennepin Superintendent David Law emphasized, this conference was not a "one and done." Rather, the work continues in our quest for creating lasting equity and excellence in education for all students.

*Steve Adams, school board member from Hopkins Public Schools, is chair of AMSD.*



Association of  
Metropolitan School Districts

# Students Share Insights and Vision

## Community Conversations and Listening to Students

Paula Forbes and St. Paul Superintendent Joe Gothard provided an overview of the community conversations that were conducted throughout the metropolitan area from January through May of 2017. Students, parents, community members, cultural leaders and business leaders were invited to reimagine the way schools deliver education and share their vision for achieving these goals. Community participants were asked to identify the various challenges that need to be overcome, as well as the most urgent changes that need to be made to give all students the best chance of being successful. Over 2,000 stakeholders of all ages and backgrounds attended one of the 12 world café style community gatherings to share their thoughts, hopes and dreams for improving learning outcomes for all Minnesota students.



Following the community gatherings, superintendents worked with teachers, curriculum specialists, administrators, equity directors and school board members to synthesize and analyze the input and data that had been collected. The result is the identification and prioritization of three overarching themes – SEE ALL, SERVE ALL and SUPPORT ALL – that serve as the foundation of a collective education action plan.

Conference attendees also heard about the student conference and the value of student voice in this process. Four students from Saint Paul Public Schools, South St. Paul Public Schools, Roseville Area Schools and Hopkins Schools, wowed conference attendees with their insights and vision for reimagining the way we deliver education to meet the needs of all students.



## Collective Education Plan

In response to the input received from students, parents and other school community stakeholders, superintendents and their teams joined together to develop a plan for achieving the goals of SEE, SERVE and SUPPORT ALL students. Following the world café gatherings, they met in several district cluster work sessions to propose concrete actions for each goal. Next, over 150 school leaders were invited to five planning sessions to review the action ideas from the cluster meetings and determine realistic directions for creating lasting equity and excellence in education for all students. They analyzed the key barriers to ensuring education equity and excellence for all students and identified nine strategies to achieve the shared education goals.

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**AMSD Members:** Anoka-Hennepin School District, Bloomington Public Schools, Board of School Administrators (Associate Member), Brooklyn Center Community Schools, Burnsville-Eagan-Savage, 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, Monticello 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 (Associate Member), 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, TIES (Associate Member), Wayzata Public Schools, West Metro Education Program, West St. Paul-Mendota Heights-Eagan Area Schools and White Bear Lake Area Schools.

## Superintendents Outline Strategies to Deliver an Equitable and Excellent Education for All

Nine AMSD superintendents presented the following strategies outlined in the draft plan.

- Strategy A: Develop, sustain and evaluate cultural competence for teachers.
- Strategy B: Prioritize and ensure personalized education with emphasis on acceleration vs. intervention.
- Strategy C: Develop and implement culturally inclusive standards, curriculum and a comprehensive system of assessment.
- Strategy D: Develop teacher preparation, recruitment and retention for staff of color.
- Strategy E: Elevate student voice and leadership and improve/ensure inclusiveness in the school culture and environment.
- Strategy F: Eliminate disproportionality due to adult behaviors and policies; provide growth-oriented student support.
- Strategy G: Build bridges between school and community.
- Strategy H: Create and sustain continuous/consistent shared understanding of equity and a high level of skill application for leaders at all levels.
- Strategy I: Statewide funding that ensures equity, access and opportunity for all students.



The full draft plan with an overview of the strategies is available [here](#).

Conference attendees also heard from Executive Director Jean Lubke, Equity Alliance MN and Executive Director Kimberly Matier, West Metro Education Program on building equity-centered capacity and measuring results.

AMSD presenters at the *Reimagine Minnesota* conference included: Supt. John Schultz, Edina; Supt. Carlton Jenkins, Robbinsdale; Supt. Joe Gothard, St. Paul; Supt. Chace Anderson, Wayzata; Supt. Christine Osorio, North St. Paul-Maplewood Oakdale; Supt. Teri Staloch, Prior Lake-Savage; Supt. Mark Bonine, Brooklyn Center; Supt. Astein Osei, St. Louis Park; Supt. Dave Webb, South St. Paul; Supt. Aldo Sicoli, Roseville; Executive Director Kimberly Matier, WMEP; Supt. Ed Graff, Minneapolis; Supt. Dennis Peterson, Minnetonka; and Executive Director Jean Lubke, Equity Alliance MN.



The conference concluded with an engaging panel discussion centered on the theme, *Building Momentum for Educational Excellence for All*. The panel was moderated by Dr. Ric Dressen and panelists included: Rep. Carlos Mariani, executive director, MN Education Equity Partnership; James Burroughs II, chief inclusion officer, Office of Governor Mark Dayton and Lt. Governor Tina Smith; Dr. Muhammad Khalifa, Department of Organizational Leadership, Policy and Development, University of Minnesota; and Superintendent David Law, Anoka-Hennepin Schools.

Presentation materials from the conference are available on the [AMSD web page](#).