



Association of Metropolitan School Districts

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Legislative Committee Meeting

Friday, December 16, 2022, 7:30 a.m. – 9 a.m.

Conducted Remotely via Zoom

Members Present:	Crystal Brakke Zuki Ellis Bev Petrie	Renee Corneille Mary Kreger Lisa Sayles-Adams	Kelsey Dawson Walton Rhoda Mhiripiri-Reed Stacie Stanley
Staff Present:	Scott Croonquist	Troy Melhus	Kimberly Jansa
Guests Present:	Kris Amundson Jim Grathwol	Thomas Brooks Lori Grivna	Mary Dougherty Lucy Payne

I. Approval of Minutes of November 18 Meeting

Chair Brakke called the meeting to order at 7:41 a.m. Brakke asked members to review the minutes from the November 18 meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved.

II. Executive Director's Report

Chair Brakke asked Executive Director Scott Croonquist to share his report. Croonquist shared that registration is open for the Together We Make a Difference statewide student conference. The Minnesota State High School League is working closely with Forbes Solutions on the event scheduled for Friday, January 13 at Park Center High School. They are hoping to have 1,500 students attend the conference.

Croonquist reported that Minnesota Management and Budget recently released the November Budget and Economic Forecast, revealing a \$17.6 billion surplus for the 2024-25 biennium. About \$12 billion of the total is one-time money which leaves ample room for permanent funding.

Croonquist reported that it is a very busy time at the Capitol, with the session convening on January 3. House leaders released the committee rosters this week and Senate committee rosters are expected to come out soon. Croonquist reported that Mary Frances Clardy has been appointed Vice Chair of the Education Finance Committee.

Croonquist reminded committee members about the AMSD Session Preview scheduled for January 6. An overview of the AMSD Legislative Platform will be shared by Chair Brakke along with Supt. Joe Gothard and Supt. Stacie Stanley. Gov. Walz has been invited to speak at the preview. Rep. Cheryl Youakim and Sen. Mary Kunesh have confirmed that they will serve on the legislative panel.

Croonquist shared that after 35 years with Saint Paul Public Schools, Mary Dougherty will be retiring at the end of the year. Croonquist expressed his thanks to Dougherty for her partnership and work on

behalf of public education through the years. Croonquist welcomed Jim Grathwol, who will replace Dougherty. Grathwol previously worked as a lobbyist for Minneapolis Public Schools.

III. Continued Discussion of Position Papers on Assessments and Guns on School Property

Chair Brakke shared drafts of the two position papers for committee review: State Accountability Assessments and School Safety. Brakke invited Supt. Renee Corneille to share the process of how the Assessments paper was updated. Corneille worked with Supt. Jason Berg and Supt. Barb Duffrin on the revisions to the paper including more focus on “career-ready” than “college-ready” and competency-based models. Executive Director Croonquist shared that the Guns on School Property position paper has been broadened in scope to encapsulate School Safety.

There was an engaging and robust discussion about both papers and how to move forward. The teams will continue to work on refining the details of each paper and the committee will review again at the January meeting.

IV. Discussion of AMSD Position on Anticipated Education Issues

Croonquist shared a list of significant issues anticipated in the upcoming 2023 legislative session. The committee discussed the proposal to provide universal meals. Croonquist shared that AMSD is currently surveying member districts for more information on the impact this could have on compensatory funding for our districts. Committee members agreed that AMDS should focus on ensuring that compensatory funding is protected if universal meals legislation advances.

Croonquist noted that we will return to this list at the January committee meeting for further review.

V. Adjournment

With no other business, Chair Brakke reminded members of upcoming meetings and adjourned the meeting at 9:05 a.m.