



Association of Metropolitan School Districts

2 Pine Tree Drive, Suite 380, Arden Hills, MN 55112 • 612-430-7750 • www.amsd.org

Legislative Committee Meeting

Friday, June 10, 2022, 7:30 a.m. – 9 a.m.

Conducted via Zoom

Members Present:	Crystal Brakke Kelsey Dawson Walton Curtis Johnson Bob McDowell	Mary Frances Clardy Zuki Ellis Jill Lofald Rhoda Mhiripiri-Reed	Renee Corneille Kim Hiel Mary Kreger Mike Redmond
Staff Present:	Scott Croonquist	Troy Melhus	Kimberly Jansa
Guests Present:	Kris Amundson Lori Grivna	Mary Dougherty	Josh Downham

I. Approval of Minutes of May 13 Meeting

Chair Kelsey Dawson Walton called the meeting to order at 7:45 a.m. Dawson Walton asked members to review the minutes from the May 13 meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved.

II. Executive Director's Report

Chair Kelsey Dawson Walton asked Executive Director Scott Croonquist to share his report. Croonquist reported that there is not a lot new to report from the Capitol. The PowerPoint presentation that MDE shared at the May 27 Board of Directors meeting is posted in our meeting materials. The presentation does a nice job of the negotiations at the end of the legislative session. Croonquist shared that the odds of a special session are 50/50 at best. Despite the odds, we continue to advocate for a special session through social media as well as a joint press release with other education organizations. Croonquist encouraged committee members to invite local legislators to attend school board meetings when it comes time to adopt budgets. This will make sure legislators are aware of the implications for our districts if the Legislature fails to approve supplemental funding for education.

Croonquist shared that the initiative to address recent racial harm incidents continues moving forward. Financial commitments have been secured from several organizations including AMSD, MASA and MSHSL. Paula Forbes & Dario Otero have been engaged to lead the work. The MN State High School League will identify 30-40 students from across the state to serve as an advisory group and help lead a series of regional meetings in August. A statewide student conference is being planned for next fall.

Croonquist reminded members of the fall conference scheduled for November 10. AMSD will be partnering with Metro ECSU on the event. A small group of superintendents are meeting next week to discuss potential breakout sessions, speakers, etc. for the conference.

Croonquist shared that it has been AMSD's practice to put together a comprehensive election guide in election years. The guide will include tips on organizing candidate forums, engaging with candidates, education funding trends, and other useful information. The goal is to have this ready for distribution in August. With 39 legislators retiring, 8 running for different offices, and the Governor and leadership up for election, Croonquist highlighted how critical it is to engage legislative candidates.

III. Discussion of Potential Candidates for AMSD Friend of Public Education Award

Executive Director Croonquist asked members to review the handout summarizing the history of the Friend of Public Education Award. Croonquist noted that the last time a legislator was recognized was 2018. Croonquist suggested it might make sense to delay a decision until we learn about a possible special session. After a brief discussion about possible candidates, the committee members agreed to revisit this topic next month.

IV. Executive Director's Performance Evaluation

AMSD staff was excused from the meeting so the committee members could discuss Executive Director Croonquist's annual performance review. Chair Dawson Walton reviewed the results of the performance review survey with committee members. A motion was made and seconded to authorize a two percent cost of living increase and a two percent performance bonus for the executive director. The motion was approved.

V. Adjournment

With no other business, Chair Dawson Walton adjourned the meeting.