



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, November 18, 2022, 7:30 a.m. – 9 a.m.

Hybrid meeting with Zoom option

Members Present:	Steve Adams (alt.) Renee Corneille Marcus Hill Bev Petrie	Crystal Brakke Kelsey Dawson Walton Jill Lofald Lisa Sayles-Adams	Mary Frances Clardy Zuki Ellis Bob McDowell Mert Woodard (alt.)
Staff Present:	Scott Croonquist	Troy Melhus	Kimberly Jansa
Guests Present:	Kris Amundson	Mary Dougherty	Josh Downham

I. Approval of Minutes of October 28 Meeting

Chair Brakke called the meeting to order at 7:39 a.m. Brakke asked members to review the minutes from the October 28 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 thanked everyone for attending the AMSD/Metro ECSU conference held on November 10. Croonquist noted it was the first time AMSD and Metro ECSU had co-sponsored a conference, and the overall feedback has been positive. A special thanks was given to Dr. Lisa Sayles-Adams and her team for the great presentation.

Croonquist provided an update on the Together We Make a Difference initiative with the MN State High School League to address racial harm incidents in school activities. The team is still trying to finalize a date and venue for the student conference.

Croonquist reviewed the results of the recent election. Statewide, there were 34 school districts with 43 questions on the ballot and there were 8 AMSD districts with 12 questions. Croonquist shared that 9 of the 12 questions were passed for AMSD members. Croonquist also provided an update on the state legislative and constitutional officer elections and noted that for the first time since the 2013-14 session, the Democrats will control the House, Senate and Governor's office. He also reported that four commissioners, including MDE Commissioner Heather Mueller, are not seeking reappointment in Gov. Walz's second term.

III. Review and Discussion of 2023 Legislative Platform

Executive Director Croonquist asked committee members to review the draft legislative platform. Croonquist noted two substantive changes: the title on the second page was changed to "Strengthen and Stabilize Funding" and within that section of the platform, the language was amended to "Fully

fund the special education and English learner programs...". In addition, graphics and the formula chart have now been added. Croonquist reminded members that it has been past practice to develop a streamlined session priorities document a few months into the legislative session based on what has gained momentum with legislators. A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2023 Legislative Platform. The 2023 Legislative Platform was approved. The platform will be brought to the December board meeting for full approval.

IV. Review of Standing Position Papers

Chair Brakke shared the three position papers for committee review: School Board Renewal of an Operating Referendum, State Accountability Assessments, and Guns on School Property. Executive Director Croonquist noted that the Renewal of Referendum paper was updated to reflect the election results. Unfortunately, one referendum renewal failed, and the paper has been amended accordingly.

Croonquist reported that the Assessments paper was up for approval at the last board meeting; however, after some discussion at the previous board meeting, it was determined that further discussion was warranted. The committee discussed potential changes. Croonquist thanked Superintendent Renee Corneille for spearheading the effort to update the paper.

Following Dr. Densley's compelling presentation at the October board meeting, committee members are interested in revisiting the Guns on School Property paper. There was a robust discussion about how to encapsulate overall school safety into a position paper. Chair Brakke and Executive Director Croonquist will work on an updated draft for consideration at a future committee meeting.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the updated position paper on School Board Renewal of an Operating Referendum. The position paper was approved.

V. Discussion of Legislative Preview Program

Croonquist shared an overview of the AMSD Legislative Session Preview scheduled for January 6 from 7:30 – 9:45 a.m. at Quora. Croonquist urged committee members to invite their local legislators to the event. He noted that Gov. Walz has been invited and once appointed, the MDE commissioner will also be invited to attend. The program will also include a legislative panel discussion.

VI. Adjournment

With no other business, Chair Brakke reminded members of upcoming meetings and adjourned the meeting at 8:57 a.m.