



Association of Metropolitan School Districts

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Legislative Committee Meeting

Friday, September 29, 2023, 7:30 – 9 a.m.

Hybrid meeting – In person and via Zoom

Members Present:	Crystal Brakke Mary Kreger Laura Oksnevad Lisa Sayles-Adams Lisa Wagner	Marcus Hill Jill Lofald Lucy Payne Stacie Stanley	Jeff Holmberg Rhoda Mhiripiri-Reed Bev Petrie Michael Thomas
Staff Present:	Scott Croonquist	Kimberly Jansa	Troy Melhus
Guests Present:	Kris Amundson Lori Grivna	Josh Downham Erich Martens	Jim Grathwol

I. Approval of Minutes of August 25 Meeting

AMSD Chair Marcus Hill called the meeting to order at 7:32 a.m. Hill asked members to review the minutes from the August 25 meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved.

II. Overview of Together in Partnership Initiative from Erich Martens

Chair Hill invited Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) Executive Director Erich Martens to provide an overview and update of the Together in Partnership Initiative. Martens provided a recap of the work completed over the last year including a review of the recently completed regional student meetings. Martens noted that the meetings had gone very well with great student input. The MSHSL is tentatively planning to hold another statewide student gathering in early December, but it has not yet been finalized. Martens fielded questions from committee members who were especially interested in learning what has been done to address racial incidents occurring in activities. Members expressed appreciation for the opportunity for discussion and dialogue.

III. Executive Director's Report

Chair Hill asked Executive Director Scott Croonquist to share his report. Croonquist reported that the legislative changes related to school resource officers and physical restraints continues to be an issue. Following Attorney General Keith Ellison's second opinion on the statutory changes, the League of MN Cities Insurance Trust recently issued updated guidance. Hennepin County Attorney Mary Moriarty has expressed a different interpretation of the law change further clouding the issue. Croonquist shared that we will likely not see resolution until the 2024 legislative session.

Croonquist noted that the Legislative Commission on Cybersecurity will meet on Nov. 13 to focus on education related cybersecurity including data breaches that have occurred over the last year.

Croonquist encouraged committee members to register for the Nov. 9 annual conference at the Marriott Northwest in Brooklyn Park.

Croonquist provided members with an update on the KnowledgeWorks project. He reported that KnowledgeWorks is synthesizing the data collected from recent workshops and is looking to hold two additional workshops – one that is student-focused and another for educators. Lucy Payne and Crystal Brakke have been instrumental in putting together these events, and both shared some thoughts on how these workshops will be conducted.

Croonquist shared next week's Board of Directors meeting will include a student panel that will seek input on barriers to student-centered learning and how the school experience can be improved.

IV. Review and Discussion of Legislative Platform Outline

Executive Director Croonquist reviewed the legislative platform outline, which includes the issues most frequently identified in the survey responses from AMSD members. Croonquist reminded members that 2024 is a non-budget-setting year with the focus traditionally on policy and a bonding bill. Croonquist did note that recent economic updates provide some hope that there will be supplemental funding. Committee members provided some feedback on the outline, including suggestions for edits and additions. Croonquist said he would prepare a first draft of the platform for review at next month's committee meeting.

V. Overview of Updates to Standing Position Papers

Executive Director Croonquist explained that AMSD has thirteen standing position papers that are reviewed every year. The papers for review today are the positions on Charter Schools, Compensatory Revenue, Facilities Funding, Mandate Reduction and Local Control, School Employee Health Insurance, and Taxpayer Subsidies for Nonpublic K-12 Education. The papers are updated to reflect current demographic data, new research, and to reflect legislative action from the last session. Croonquist noted that the Charter Schools belief statement has been revised. Croonquist pointed out the change in the position on Compensatory Revenue due to the passage of the Universal Meals Act as well as the added bullet point on the Mandate Reduction and Local Control paper. Croonquist proposed that the paper on School Employee Health Insurance be archived as this issue has not come up for several years.

There was some discussion among committee members about additional revisions to the paper on Taxpayer Subsidies for Nonpublic K-12 Education. Croonquist said he would do some additional research and bring the paper back next month.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the updated position papers on Charter Schools, Compensatory Revenue, Facilities Funding and Mandate Reduction and Local Control. The position papers were approved. These papers will be brought to the Board of Directors at the next meeting for final approval.

There was also a motion made and seconded to archive the position paper on School Employee Health Insurance.

VI. Discussion of Minnesota's Hope Initiative

Executive Director Croonquist shared the Minnesota Character Council's Minnesota's Hope Initiative. Croonquist noted that they are asking AMSD to sign on as a supporter of the vision. Committee members agreed to give this some thought and discuss it further at next month's meeting.

VII. Adjournment

There being no other business, Chair Hill adjourned the meeting at 9:02 a.m.