

LAGRANGE AREA DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL EDUCATION
DIRECTING BOARD MEETING
Open Session Meeting –
Wednesday, March 2, 2011

Board Members Present: Dr. Sandra Martin (53); Dr. Robert Carlo (61); Mr. Steve Griesbach (62); Dr. Jean Sophie (92½); Mr. Neil Pellicci (94); Dr. Jon Lamberson (96); Dr. Brian Barnhart (101); Dr. Warren Schillingburg (102); Dr. Michael Warner (103); Dr. Glenn Schlichting (105); Dr. Robert Dwyer (106); Dr. Mark Fredisdorf (107); Dr. Renate Schuster (181); Dr. Tim Kilrea (204); Dr. David Bonnette (208).

Board Members Absent: Dr. Mark Kuzniewski (95); Dr. Nicholas Wahl (86).

LADSE Staff Present: Dr. James Surber, Lois Miller, Marc Sgro, Deb Hurley-Bularzik, Don Leonard, Sue Gallagher, Betsy Miller, Kelly Rathbun, Sally Osborne, Deb Malnar, Kelly Adamik, Kacey Lazzarotto.

Visitors Present: None.

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Fredisdorf called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

VISITORS' COMMENTS

There were no visitors' comments.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

Executive Director's Report:

- Update on the LADSE Learning Center
- PCG Medicaid Services
- Use of ARRA Funds

CONSENT AGENDA

There was consensus to approve the Consent Agenda with the 2011-12 calendar as presented, but to discuss the continuation of the Annual Dinner at the May meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA (cont.)

Motion #1: That the Directing Board approves the consent agenda as follows:

- A. Minutes of the January 26, 2011 Regular Meeting; February 14, 2011 Special Meeting
- B. Personnel Actions
 - Monthly Employment Actions
 - Employee Dismissal Actions
- C. Semi-Annual Review & Release of Closed Session Minutes: Written: October 6, 2010, January 26, 2011, February 14, 2011; Verbatim recordings: March 27, 2009, May 17, 2009.
- D. LADSE Cumulative Revenue/Expenditure Quarterly Reports
- E. 2nd Reading/Approval of LADSE FY12 Calendar
- F. 1st Reading Sections 1 & 2 of LADSE Policy Manual

Moved by Mr. Pellicci; seconded by Dr. Bonnette.

Voting Aye: Dr. Sandra Martin (53); Dr. Robert Carlo (61); Mr. Steve Griesbach (62); Dr. Jean Sophie (92½); Mr. Neil Pellicci (94); Dr. Jon Lamberson (96); Dr. Brian Barnhart (101); Dr. Warren Schillingburg (102); Dr. Michael Warner (103); Dr. Glenn Schlichting (105); Dr. Robert Dwyer (106); Dr. Mark Fredisdorf (107); Dr. Renate Schuster (181); Dr. Tim Kilrea (204); Dr. David Bonnette (208). Voting Nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Dr. Mark Kuzniewski (95); Dr. Nicholas Wahl (86). Motion carried.

LADSE LEARNING CENTER

Deb Hurley-Bularzik provided a status report on the LLC. Contrary to original expectations, the LADSE ECE CD, Phono, and the new ECE classrooms at the LLC will not be ready for occupancy for the remainder of this school year. The Oak Brook Park District has been hosting a p.m. section of the new ECE class, but is not able to host an a.m. section which is now needed due to student enrollment. Because of the logistics of moving staff between two locations, these two sections must be combined at a single location. ECE CD and Phono could continue to use their current classrooms at the Hinsdale Episcopal Church, but the space is not ideal. Deb reported her staff is investigating alternative sites for the ECE sections, as well as the ECE CD and Phono classes.

PCG & MEDICAID SERVICES

LADSE contracts its Easy IEP system from PCG. PCG offers a Medicaid Fee-For-Service component for a competitive fee. Superintendents were asked to consult with their key communicators to determine if their districts are interested in purchasing this service from PCG. They were asked to respond to Don Leonard as soon as possible.

ARRA FUNDS

The ARRA IDEA funds cannot be carried over and must be obligated on or before June 30 and can be expended through September 2011. If districts have funds they will not be using, LADSE could use these funds to purchase classroom equipment and/or to do building maintenance. Districts should contact Don Leonard to discuss.

FISCAL STUDY COMMITTEE

The Fiscal Committee recommends that this study be done by a committee of the whole. This will be an agenda item for the May meeting. For the May meeting, the Board will be provided the Elliott Lenoff report regarding the redistribution of IDEA funds, and Mark Fredisdorf will draft an outline of the process and timelines for the fiscal study and goal setting. He will contact the new Executive Director, Sheri Wernsing, to set a committee of the whole meeting date in early August.

ECE EVALUATION COMMITTEE

As part of the budget reductions to the ECE evaluation team, administration proposed a committee should study the process. Superintendents Mike Warner, Bob Carlo and Jean Sophie volunteered to be on the committee which will include key communicators and LADSE staff. The first meeting is at 12:30 p.m. on April 5 at LADSE. Program/personnel decisions need to be finalized by January of 2012 because of budget planning at LADSE and in the districts.

EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR

The LADSE Extended School Year Program will again be at District 107 Pleasantdale Elementary School. Thank you to Dr. Fredisdorf and the District 107 Board of Education for sharing their school with the LADSE member districts. Staff start on Wednesday June 15 and students on Thursday June 16; no school on July 4. Last day is July 14. Deadline for student applications is May 6.

FIRST READING FY12 BUDGET

The FY12 LADSE budget is \$18,767,641. There are no new programs or initiatives proposed in this budget. The Board approved a \$1.2MM budget cut as a result of District 181 leaving the cooperative: reductions include \$743,227 in IDEA and IDEA Pre School funds, \$399,403 in purchase services (directly purchased by District 181) and \$91,345 in personnel reimbursement. Additional reductions have been made in ECE as a result of District 102's decision to do all of its own ECE evaluations and to provide supervision to its ECE classrooms. Additionally, two funding sources have been eliminated: \$56,919 Aspire Grant which is ending, and \$147,682 in ARRA IDEA Pre-School funds that the Board agreed that LADSE would keep. Combining IDEA subsidies to purchased services, tuition and ECE, 58% of the IDEA funds are offsetting district costs. A 3% salary increase was included in the budget for non-collective bargaining staff. This will be revised based on salary survey data being collected from LADSE districts and other cooperatives. When Proportionate Share began, the Board decided to let LADSE keep the IDEA dollars allocated for this and districts spent their local dollars. LADSE will next year flow these funds to the district due to auditor concerns about the current practice.

APPOINTMENT OF A LADSE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. Fredisdorf thanked the Search Committee for all its work.

Motion #2: That the Directing Board approves the employment of Dr. Sheryl Wernsing as LADSE Executive Director according to the terms of the contract dated March 2, 2011.

Moved by Dr. Kilrea; seconded by Dr. Schuster.

Voting Aye: Dr. Sandra Martin (53); Dr. Robert Carlo (61); Mr. Steve Griesbach (62); Dr. Jean Sophie (92½); Mr. Neil Pellicci (94); Dr. Jon Lamberson (96); Dr. Brian Barnhart (101); Dr. Warren Schillingburg (102); Dr. Michael Warner (103); Dr. Glenn Schlichting (105); Dr. Robert Dwyer (106); Dr. Mark Fredisdorf (107); Dr. Renate Schuster (181); Dr. Tim Kilrea (204); Dr. David Bonnette (208). Voting Nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Dr. Mark Kuzniewski (95); Dr. Nicholas Wahl (86). Motion carried.

TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT

The Directing Board approved a transportation contract with Grand Prairie Transit beginning in fiscal year 2011. The Directing Board has the option to renew the transit contract without re-bidding unless a vendor requests to bid. It is important to note that the LADSE contract does not include a fuel escalator clause.

Motion #3: That the Directing Board approves an annual increase of 3% in our transportation contract with Grand Prairie Transit.

Moved by Dr. Bonnette; seconded by Dr. Martin.

Voting Aye: Dr. Sandra Martin (53); Dr. Robert Carlo (61); Mr. Steve Griesbach (62); Dr. Jean Sophie (92½); Mr. Neil Pellicci (94); Dr. Jon Lamberson (96); Dr. Brian Barnhart (101); Dr. Warren Schillingburg (102); Dr. Michael Warner (103); Dr. Glenn Schlichting (105); Dr. Robert Dwyer (106); Dr. Mark Fredisdorf (107); Dr. Renate Schuster (181); Dr. Tim Kilrea (204); Dr. David Bonnette (208). Voting Nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Dr. Mark Kuzniewski (95); Dr. Nicholas Wahl (86). Motion carried.

This transportation contract includes the option of Grand Prairie providing First Division Vehicles (small buses, vans, cabs, suburbans) for LADSE to use in place of using private cab companies. At this time about 10% of the students are transported in cabs at the districts' requests. Because of liability and safety concerns, it is recommended that the Board consider contracting with Grand Prairie to use its First Division vehicles and stop using private cab services. The Transportation Committee will be convened to meet with Grand Prairie to review this possibility.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion #4: That the Directing Board adjourns the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

Voice Vote: All Aye. Motion carried.