

LAGRANGE AREA DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL EDUCATION  
DIRECTING BOARD MEETING  
Open Session Meeting – 8:40 a.m.  
Wednesday, November 4, 2009

Board Members Present: Dr. Sandra Martin (53); Dr. Robert Carlo (61); Mr. Steve Griesbach (62); Mr. Neil Pellicci (94); Dr. Mark Kuzniewski (95); Dr. Warren Schillingburg (102); Dr. Michael Warner (103); Dr. Mark Fredisdorf (107); Dr. Robert Sabatino (181); Dr. Tim Kilrea (204); Dr. David Bonnette (208); Dr. Nicholas Wahl (86)

Board Members Absent: Dr. Jean Sophie (92½); Dr. Jon Lamberson (96); Dr. Brian Barnhart (101); Dr. Glenn Schlichting (105); Dr. Arleen Armanetti (106)

LADSE Staff Present: Dr. James Surber, Lois Miller, Marc Sgro, Deb Hurley-Bularzik, Don Leonard, Sue Gallagher, Deb Malnar

Visitors Present: None

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Fredisdorf called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

VISITORS' COMMENTS

There were no visitors' comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A Meeting Minutes- October 7, 2009 Regular Meeting
- B. Personnel Actions – September-October
- C. LADSE Cumulative Revenue/Expenditure Report
- D. First Reading – Revised Policies/Procedures (ICSA/IASB)

Moved by Dr. Martin; seconded by Mr. Griesbach.

All presented voted Aye.

Motion carried.

### ARRA IDEA UPDATE

Don Leonard reported the following:

- 6.8 million dollars in ARRA IDEA funds are available to LADSE districts: 4.8 written for FY10; 2.0 available for FY11
- Each district had to report how they would use the funds
- For September \$255,000 out of \$328,000 were spent. Interest will be computed on \$73,000 and returned to ISBE
- Requests for October total \$423,000. Checks for September and October will be sent to districts this week.
- LADSE is responsible for due diligence of the sub grant expenditures. To this end, LADSE will request copies of the districts' annual fiscal audits which should document that adequate controls are in place.
- Before districts receive money LADSE needs to have proof the districts have actually spent the money.
- Districts are required by ISBE to segregate ARRA funds by general ledger. This will suffice for LADSE's having proof of expenditure, without districts submitting all expenditure records/paperwork to LADSE.
- Next quarterly report is due in January. If reconciliation in January reveals unspent funds, additional money will be frozen until district catches up with spending.
- ISBE now requires that ARRA IDEA proportionate share dollars be reflected in the sub grant as Function 3000 expenditures. LADSE will provide districts direction on how to file an amended grant to reflect this change.

### 1:1 PARAEDUCATORS – GUIDELINES FOR ASSIGNING

Last year Dr. Kelly (District 204) requested that on behalf of LTHS and its feeder districts LADSE examine the issue of appropriately assigning students 1:1 paraeducators. At the March Board meeting, all districts agreed to participate in this study. A survey was sent to all LADSE district paraeducators and key communicators to gather data. Deb Hurley-Bularzik and Sue Gallagher formed a committee with key communicators from eight districts to examine the survey data and do further research on this issue. It was learned that the increase in 1:1 para assignments is greatest during transition periods for students, e.g. elementary to secondary school, and that general education staff request para support for included students. It was also learned that this is an issue throughout the country and not unique to LADSE. The committee developed four documents as suggested guidelines to help organize and process information to make informed decisions about assigning and, when appropriate, reducing 1:1 para support. All key communicators have received these documents. They will be reviewed with the group at its January meeting. The guidelines are not LADSE policy. Each district can choose whether or not to implement. It was suggested that follow-up data be gathered at some point to determine the effect of using these guidelines.

#### LADSE BELIEFS/VISION/MISSION

Dr. Surber reported that on October 19, an outside facilitator guided LADSE program coordinators and administrators, 3 superintendents, 3 key communicators, a student, a parent, and a community/business representative in the development LADSE beliefs, vision, mission statement. His executive council will use the notes from the meeting to draft LADSE beliefs, vision, mission statements to be presented to the Directing Board at its January meeting. With board endorsement of the draft documents, Dr. Surber will review them with LADSE staff at their unit meetings. Final documents will be presented to the Board by the end of the fiscal year.

#### LADSE VOC DEPARTMENT – CAREER ACADEMY

Marc Sgro narrated a PowerPoint with highlights of this successful summer program. Career Academy students who have completed their junior year of high school are recommended for the program. It is not IEP driven. The summer session focuses on preparing students for job search, application, interviewing, and on-the-job performance and behavior. There are classroom activities as well as visits to manufacturing and office facilities for students to experience the work world first hand. There is an emphasis on self-advocacy and self-determination, teaching skills that will endure despite future change in technology and the world of work.

#### LADSE MEETING LOCATION

There was consensus that the remaining three Directing Board meetings this year will be held at today's location, Room D103 at Lyons Township High School South Campus in Western Springs.

#### CLOSED SESSION

Motion #2: That the LADSE Directing Board enter closed session at 9:40 a.m. to discuss possible litigation.

Moved by Dr. Sabatino; seconded by Dr. Carlo.

All present voted Aye.

Motion carried.

#### OPEN SESSION

Motion #3: That the LADSE Directing Board reconvene open session at 9:45 a.m.

Moved by Dr. Bonnette; seconded by Dr. Wahl.

All present voted Aye.

Motion carried.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Motion #4: That the LADSE Directing Board adjourn the meeting at 9:47 a.m.

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

All present voted Aye.

Motion carried.