

LAGRANGE AREA DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL EDUCATION
DIRECTING BOARD MEETING
Open Session Meeting – 8:40 a.m.
Wednesday, January 20, 2010

Board Members Present: Dr. Robert Carlo (61); Mr. Steve Griesbach (62); Dr. Jean Sophie (92½); Mr. Neil Pellicci (94); Dr. Mark Kuzniewski (95); Dr. Brian Barnhart (101) (arrived 8:40); 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. Sandra Martin (53); Dr. Jon Lamberson (96); 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, Sally Osborne, Kelly Adamik

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

The approval of the LADSE FY09 annual audit was removed from the Consent Agenda. Board members were provided copies of the audit for their review. This item will be placed on the March 3, 2010 Directing Board meeting Consent Agenda.

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

- A Meeting Minutes- November 4, 2009 Regular Meeting
- B. Personnel Actions
- C. First Reading LADSE FY11 Calendar
- D. LADSE Cumulative Revenue/Expenditure Report
- E. FOIA Policy/Procedures

CONSENT AGENDA (cont.)

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

Voting Aye: Dr. Robert Carlo (61); Mr. Steve Griesbach (62); Dr. Jean Sophie (92½); 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); Nays: None; Abstain: None; Absent: Dr. Sandra Martin (53); Dr. Jon Lamberson (96); Dr. Brian Barnhart (101) (arrived at 8:40); Dr. Glenn Schlichting (105); Dr. Arleen Armanetti (106). Motion carried.

DISTRICT PROFILE DATA

Dr. Surber provided ISBE District Profile Data in his annual PowerPoint presentation to the Board. The data from ISBE shows the gap between special and general education is narrowing across all data points. High schools should feel the impact of this as students move into secondary schools. Dr. Surber said it would appear that the LADSE/District RtI and Reading Initiatives have had an impact on student achievement.

LADSE STAFF TURNOVER REPORT

Director of Human Resources Marc Sgro provided the annual PowerPoint presentation on LADSE staff turnover in 2008-09. Overall turnover is 14%, down from 18% the prior year. There was a slight 1% increase in certified staff turnover due to restructuring cutbacks last year. The last three years have seen a significant decrease in turnover among non-certified staff. Marc reported that new applicant screening and interviewing processes are now in place which have resulted in making better employment decisions.

NEW ECE SECTIONS

District 103 will soon open a new ECE section to accommodate 8 of their students who need an ECE placement. There was Board consensus to authorize equal ECE package subsidy to a new District 103 ECE section. This means each district will receive proportionately smaller subsidies to its ECE program packages. The Board would like to be informed when this issue arises in the future. At that time, the Board will consider several things before it approves subsidy to a new program, e.g. number of students in the requesting district in need of placement; number of openings in each district after its own needs are met; severity of population in current sections with openings; time of the school year in which request is made.

Dr. Surber noted that based on current known referrals, it may be necessary to open another new section before the end of the year. Dr. Barnhart offered that his district, if not in need of its unfilled ECE spots, would open them to other member districts' students. He also stated he would not expect a district to share its open spots if that district knew the space would be needed in the near future for its own students.

LADSE ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT

The Board requested additional information before taking action on the new Articles of Agreement. Dr. Surber will ask Franczek-Radelet attorney Dana Fattore to attend the March 3 meeting to address the Board's concerns. Dr. Surber will ask Ms. Fattore to provide to him clarification about the withdrawal process sections of the revised Articles which he will share with the Board prior to the meeting: 1) How much of the new language is actually required by law/school code? What are the "bare bones" that need to be included in the Articles to comply with law/school code? 2) Explain what happens if/when withdrawal request moves to "regional board of school trustees" (clarify who/what is this) and what happens if that board is abolished. 3) What is the board's liability if it does not make required all revisions to the Articles of Agreement? 4) Regardless of the district's timeline for withdrawal, the Board wants it to be clear that no withdrawal can take place before July 1 of any year. 5) Since all Boards of Education will have their law firms review and approve the Articles, what are potential issues the attorneys would raise on behalf of the school districts?

PURCHASED SERVICE REQUESTS

Districts have received the Purchased Service Requests for 2010-11 school year. To comply with reduction-in-force requirements, LADSE needs to know by January 29 if a district is planning to discontinue a purchased service. If a service the district is currently purchasing is not requested before January 29, it will be assumed the district does not wish to purchase for 2010-11. There is a bit more leeway for new requests. However, if it is necessary to fill a request received after March 12 through a contractual agency, the entire cost will be charged to the purchasing district.

LADSE VISION/MISSION

The board packet included a timeline for the ongoing process of completing draft LADSE Vision/Mission/Belief statements which will be presented to the Board in March.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SEARCH

The Superintendent Search Committee formed last year will meet immediately following the March 3 Directing Board meeting. Members of the committee are: Dr. Fredisdorf, Dr. Wahl, Dr. Sophie, Dr. Warner, and Dr. Barnhart.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion #2: That the LADSE Directing Board adjourn the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Moved by Dr. Wahl; seconded by Dr. Warner.

All present voted Aye.

Motion carried.