

LAGRANGE AREA DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL EDUCATION  
SPECIAL DIRECTING BOARD MEETING

Open Session Meeting  
Wednesday, November 2, 2011

Board Members Present: Dr. Sandra Martin (53); Dr. Robert Carlo (61); Dr. Jean Sophie (92½); Mr. Neil Pellicci (94); Dr. Warren Schillingburg (102); Dr. Michael Warner (103) (arrived 8:35); Dr. Robert Dyer (106); Dr. Mark Fredisdorf (107); Dr. Tim Kilrea (204); Dr. Kevin Skinkis (208); Dr. Nicholas Wahl (86).

Board Members Absent: Mr. Steve Griesbach (62); Dr. Mark Kuzniewski (95); Dr. Jon Lamberson (96); Dr. Brian Barnhart (101); Dr. Glenn Schlichting (105).

LADSE Staff Present: Dr. Sheri Wernsing, Lois Miller, Marc Sgro, Deb Hurley-Bularzik, Don Leonard, Sue Gallagher, Deb Malnar, Kelly Rathbun, Betsy Miller, Kelly Adamik, Jessica Sredzinski.

Visitors Present: None.

CALL TO ORDER

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

VISITORS' COMMENTS

Betsy Miller, on behalf LADSE-A membership, thanked the board and LADSE administration for working together to move LADSE forward as a viable cooperative.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Minutes of the October 5, 2011 Regular Meeting
- B. Personnel Actions
- C. LADSE Cumulative Revenue/Expenditure Report
- D. Section 4 LADSE Directing Board Policy Manual
- E. Collective Bargaining – Memorandum of Understanding

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

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

### LADSE POLICY COMMITTEE

The LADSE Policy Committee will continue its review of the Directing Board Policy Manual. The next section to be reviewed will be Section 5 - Students Rights and Responsibilities. The committee will bring Section 5 to the Board for first reading in January. The committee will address Section 3 after fiscal restructuring decisions are made. This will complete the review of the Policy Manual.

### STRATEGIC GOAL REPORTS

Sheri Wernsing and her Executive Council provided overviews of the outcomes and action plans for the four goals.

*Goal #1* – Don Leonard reported the following: the Goal #1 committee met in September to discuss funding model options for LADSE; in October he met with district business managers to explain the three models proposed by Goal #1 committee and to be considered by the Board today; the Directing Board Fiscal Committee will meet in December and January to further develop the funding model preferred by the Board today; a Directing Board Fiscal Committee recommendation will be presented to the Board at its January meeting; a draft preliminary budget, incorporating Board decisions on the strategic goals, will be presented to the Board at its March 7 meeting; final budget to be approved at the May 23 Board meeting.

Don presented charts that illustrated the use of IDEA funds and the districts' responsibility for and the importance of maintenance of effort (MOE). MOE and other reporting responsibilities should be seriously considered as districts make decisions about LADSE subgranting IDEA funds back to them. Don presented information showing current revenue and expenses as well as information that explained the three funding models proposed by the Goal #1 committee: Model 1 – 60% of IDEA funds returned to districts; Model 2 – 80% of IDEA funds returned to districts; Model 3 – a two-tiered membership allowing districts options to leave IDEA fund at LADSE or have them returned to them.

The board received, in their agenda packet, a study done by NSSD showing revenue sources and membership benefits of other area cooperatives. It illustrates that there is no one model, but a variety of service/funding models that neighboring cooperatives have determined best meet their individual needs.

Dr. Wernsing stated that she would support the tiered funding Model 3 which allows the most local control. She believes that a cooperative should provide a certain base or consolidated set of services available to all. These services could be efficiently provided and funded if LADSE retains 10-20% of IDEA funds. If the tiered Model 3 is the Board's choice, Don can create several cost scenarios for Model 3. However, he could be more exact if superintendents tell LADSE which tier they think they will choose.

To clarify, pay-as-you-go cannot mean that LADSE will provide staff on short notice. To maintain stability and meet school code requirements, decisions to purchase LADSE staff/programs would continue to be made in January before budget and rifting decisions are made.

STRATEGIC GOAL REPORTS (cont.)

*Goal #2* – This goal addresses measuring fiscal accountability and the value of cooperative membership. Don reported that the committee has not met, but as shown in Goal #2's action plan a timeline has been developed to begin collecting data for this committee's work.

*Goal 4* – Goal 4 addresses how to measure program/service accountability and customer satisfaction. Sue Gallagher stated the goal outcomes: program quality; customer satisfaction; student outcomes; allocation of programs and services. She reviewed the process to accomplish the goal: develop or identify measures; gather input from District Directors and LADSE coordinators; develop a process for collecting and reporting data. This Goal will be presented to the Board for approval at its May 2012 meeting.

*Goal #3* – Dr. Wernsing distributed a revised Goal #3 action plan to the Board. This goal has six outcomes, A-F. She noted that column one of the plan would be the focus of today's presentation.

Marc Sgro addressed outcome A which addresses LADSE operating a public therapeutic day school. LADSE will build off of its current ED self-contained program which has a strong core program focused on academic, social-emotional, mental, health, and transition, using evidence-based methods and curricula matched to the students' needs. Forty-five day and ten-day suspension placements will also be considered for this program.

Marc reviewed outcome B, the expansion of consultation and intervention services in LADSE districts. He explained that LADSE would be building upon its existing model of staff and professional development supports to the districts.

Deb Hurley-Bularzik explained outcome C focuses on: enhancing existing multi-district programs, all of which are on the elementary school level; on growing consultation supports to help districts determine appropriate out of district placements or retention in their home school; and to support student and teachers when students return to their home schools. The work of the ECE evaluation committee will be incorporated into this goal, along with a review of various placement options to be included in the ECE program. This goal also focuses on locating a long-term, LADSE district school location for a junior high ED classroom.

Deb reported that outcome D addresses expanding and maintaining program/service options for students with disabilities in high school. This would include looking at continuing as the administrative agent for the DWC high school DHH program; coordinating/delivering high school ESY programs; expanding transition programming in the high schools.

Outcome E looks at support programs/services provided by LADSE to the districts, such as Easy IEP; FACTS data collection; developing common forms, practices, guidelines among LADSE and its districts.

STRATEGIC GOAL REPORTS (cont.)

Outcome F's goal is to expand direct/consultative supports to students; facilitating district access to electronic text, AIMs (Accessible Instructional Materials), etc.; providing professional development for district staff.

Board members divided into three small groups and used a "rating scale" to review each intended outcome for their assigned goal(s). The small groups reported back to the board and their recommendations were agreed to by the board as a whole

Rating Scale:

1. Proceed with developing action plans and do great things.
2. Proceed with developing action plans with these specific changes/considerations.
3. Change the outcome as follows.
4. Do not write actions plans because....

From small group - Goal #1 – Rating 2

- Confused on the tiered model – on how dollar amount for the sub-grant will be determined.
- Collect info from districts to actually create tiered model and include "exact" numbers in the plan.
- Don't bother with 80/20 or 60/40.
- Explain the effect of tier 1 districts when tier 2 get more of subgrants back.
- What percentage does tier 2 get back?

From small group – Goal #2 – Rating 2

- Preview plans/data with a random sample or survey of superintendents prior to rollout and approval on January 16.
- Make models as specific as possible in terms of financial impact on each district (various scenarios)
- Identify a few other cooperatives who utilize specific financial indicators who might inform our direction. Samples vs. brainstorming.
- Outline cost benefit for each district, tailored to each district (i.e. be specific – dollars in – benefits out (services/programs).

From small group – Goal #3 – Various ratings

- Rating 1 for Outcomes A, B, C, D
- Rating 2 for Outcome E – Develop a plan specific to Easy IEP
- Rating 3 for Outcome F – Does not reflect action plan as presented. Need more detail. Looks like a mission statement. Should be action plan.

From small group – Goal #4 – Rating 1

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STRATEGIC GOAL REPORTS (cont.)

Dr. Wernsing and her Executive Council will revise the outcomes/action plans as recommended. They will be brought back to the Board for approval in January.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion #2: That the Directing Board adjourns at 9:55 a.m.

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

Voice Vote: All Aye.

Motion carried.