

LAGRANGE AREA DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL EDUCATION
FISCAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

Open Session Meeting
Thursday, December 8, 2011

Board Members Present: Dr. Sandra Martin (53); Dr. Robert Carlo (61); Mr. Steve Griesbach (62); Mike Prombo for Dr. Jean Sophie (92½); Mr. Neil Pellicci (94); Dr. Brian Barnhart (101); Dr. Warren Schillingburg (102); Dr. Michael Warner (103); Dr. Glenn Schlichting (105); Susan Birkenmaier for Dr. Robert Dyer (106); Dr. Mark Fredisdorf (107); Dr. Tim Kilrea (204); Tim McGinnis for Dr. Kevin Skinkis (208)

Board Members Absent: Dr. Mark Kuzniewski (95); Dr. Jon Lamberson (96); Dr. Nicholas Wahl (86)

LADSE Staff Present: Dr. Sheri Wernsing, Lois Miller, Marc Sgro, Deb Hurley-Bularzik, Don Leonard, Sue Gallagher, Deb Malnar, Betsy Miller, Robin Pritts, Jon Adamczewski

Visitors Present: None

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Fredisdorf called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

FISCAL MODEL

Don Leonard stated that in developing a new fiscal model, the goal is for equity among districts. Consideration was given to the district's size in the cooperative and the amount of IDEA dollars it generates. The model must be sustainable and keep LADSE stable and healthy.

A two-tiered membership model is being proposed. Tier 1 is much like the current system, which districts share 100% of their IDEA dollars to pay for consolidated services (base services) from LADSE. Tier 1 districts may have IDEA dollars left to offset their purchased services or tuition costs. Tier 2 districts would receive 75% of their IDEA dollars and have flexibility, choices as to how to spend these dollars. They could apply these dollars toward discounting their LADSE assessments for shared services. Tier 2 districts would have 75% of their IDEA allocations available to them in the form of sub grants to reimburse allowable special education programs and services expenses at LADSE. Each district regardless of tier would only pay its proportionate share of administrative and consolidated services in a combination of an assessment or by applying an equitable share of the 25% of IDEA funds that are allocated to LADSE.

FISCAL MODEL (cont.)

For both tiers, LADSE will be able to show districts what they are getting for their money. The Goal 2 committee was charged with developing a system to show specific and tailored financial data that enable districts to assess the value of their cooperative membership. The committee is recommending LADSE create a template that will allow each district to compare LADSE program/services costs, to typical costs on the open market/vendors, to what it would cost districts to provide these programs and services with their own staff.

Membership in LADSE entitles districts access to services considered to be shared or consolidated services. This includes Easy IEP, FACTS, transportation, low incidence diagnostic services, ECE evaluation, AT, OT/PT and SL administration, voc services, autism and ED consultation. A level of these services will be established that when exceeded, Tier 2 districts will pay additional. Both Tiers will have equal access to purchased services and multi-district programs.

Don noted that there are 256 combinations of district tier-membership choices. For purpose of planning, the information being presented today assumes the secondary districts and District 102 will chose Tier 2, all other district, Tier 1. Each tier has separate elementary and secondary components. This separation avoids allocating shared resources to programs and services not used by some districts, e.g. high schools do not use ECE. All districts share costs for consolidated services and pay separately for programs and services that primarily benefit their own students/families.

Using the Fiscal Year 2012 budget that was approved in May 2011, Don reviewed expenditures by programs/services. He listed LADSE's revenue sources: IDEA preschool, IDEA, Pre-School for All, billing for purchased services and multi-district tuition programs, transportation reimbursement, Medicaid, personnel reimbursement, WIA and DHS grants, interest income, assessments. He explained how these funds were currently applied to expenses. Then he illustrated how IDEA funds for each tier, and further divided by secondary and elementary levels within the tiers, would be applied to offset the program/service expenditures. Administrative costs are proportionately applied to programs and services. Currently, one-half personnel reimbursement offsets costs in each program/purchased service and one-half offsets administrative costs. In the new model the entire offset is applied to the same line item that generates the expense.

Don presented a second scenario which would move OT/PT and psych out of purchased services and into consolidated services. It was discovered that a district's enrollment correlates with the amount of OT/PT purchased by a district. Moving these related services to consolidated services provides districts more flexibility in requesting services to meet their needs, and LADSE more flexibility to deliver the services. This would not change net costs, just how districts pay for them.

Under either scenario ECE packages will be gone and districts will have to purchase related services for their ECE programs as they currently do for their other related service needs.

LADSE Directing Board
Fiscal Committee Meeting of the Whole
December 8, 2011
Page 3 of 3

AGREE/DISAGREE STATEMENTS

The Board electronically voted on “agree/disagree” statements about addressing membership configuration and funding. Results are attached to these minutes.

FOLLOW UP WITH DISTRICTS

Dr. Wernsing and Don Leonard will meet individually with superintendents and their staff to again review the fiscal plan to help them to more clearly understand the plan and to make a tier choice.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion #1: That the Directing Board adjourns at 3:20 p.m.

Moved by Mr. Griesbach; seconded by Mr. Pellicci.

Voice Vote: All Aye.

Motion carried.