



DUPAGE/WEST COOK BOARD
MINUTES – November 11, 2021
LOCATION: SASSED Administrative Center
2900 Ogden Avenue
Lisle, IL 60532

Dr. Jimmy Gunnell, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:01 am. During roll call, the following members answered present:

AERO – Dr. Jimmy Gunnell	Districts 86 & 181 – Tammy Prentiss
CASE – Dr. Mary Furbush	District 99/Cook – Elizabeth Dejewski
LADSE – Dr. Ellie Ambuehl	District 204 – Christina Sepiol
NDSEC – Jim Nelson	
SASED – Dr. Mindy McGuffin	

The following members were present after the roll call:

PAEC – Michael James
District 200/Cook – Shalema Francois-Blue

The following members were absent:

LASEC – Dr. Danielle Welch
District 97 – Dr. Ebony Lofton
District 200/DuPage – Erica Ekstrom
District 201 – Timothy Truesdale
District 203 – Lisa Xagas

The following non-voting members were present:

There were none present

The following parent members were present:

There were none present

Also, present:

Dr. Kennedy Strickland-Dixon, Coordinator, DuPage/West Cook
Tara Corral, DHH Administrator
Don Robinson, DWC Treasurer
Carrie Morfoot, LADSE DHH Program Coordinator
Chris Miller, Recording Secretary

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Dr. Mary Furbush moved, and her motion was seconded by Jim Nelson to approve the agenda as is.
VOICE VOTE **MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER BOARD MINUTES

Jim Nelson moved, and his motion was seconded by Dr. Ellie Ambuehl to approve and accept the September 16, 2021, meeting minutes.
VOICE VOTE **MOTION CARRIED**

INTRODUCTIONS/GUESTS

Guests:

Natalie Heinrich – CASE Administrator

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Return to Learn & Adaptive Pauses/DWC Program Updates – A Return to Learn overview was given. In person learning for all attendance days began on the first day. Updates to the Return to Learn Plan are updated on a bi-weekly basis in conjunction with ISBE and the DuPage County Health Department. All classrooms are equipped with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to ensure classrooms are clean and safe. In the case a student is excluded due to COVID symptoms remote instruction will be provided within 24 hours. Homebound instruction is available for students who meet the medical criteria for the delivery of services. Homebound instruction is facilitated by the student's resident district. Dr. Dixon acknowledged SASSED Programs & Services Assistant Director, Christine Martin's hard work and continual updates to the Return to Learn Plan.

The LADSE DHH Program has ESSER III funds that will be allocated towards: Curriculum, furniture creating group work environment that can be spaced out appropriately if needed, and technology to enhance learning. It was reported that the Community Based Program is growing, and Vocational Opportunities are back. There is a fieldtrip to the Museum of Science and Industry planned and the Deaf Drama Play: The Elf on a Shelf Must Go! On December 10, 2021, at 7:00pm will be presented at Hinsdale South High School Auditorium.

The Vision Impairment Program has 10 classrooms. Two of those classrooms are in the new Transition space at the SASSED Administrative Center. The students have reemerging independence skills in daily living, orientation, and mobility after a decrease in overall independence due to COVID and remote learning. The Goalball Tournament will be moved to Spring allowing students to have time to practice and have fun!

The Pre-K through 8th grade DHH Program has 7 classrooms this school year. Students from Westmont Jr High and North Elementary will take a fieldtrip to the Deaf Drama Performance at Hinsdale South Auditorium. It was reported that the PreK students are displaying literacy skills at or above the literacy level of their hearing peers. Extra-Curriculars for students in Junior High includes Tech Club, Cross Country, Art Club, Basketball, Sign Language Club, and more. Dr. Dixon acknowledged Tara Corral, DHH Administrator on her great work in her first year at SASSED.

Although the programs have had some staffing shortages the team has remained positive. The Districts and Programs have worked together to provide transportation.

Enrollment – 3-year comparison chart

Deaf/Hard of Hearing Program

School	Student Total November 1, 2019	Student Total November 4, 2020	Student Total November 1, 2021
North School	26	31	32
Westmont JH	23	24	17
LADSE - HS	44	42	40
Total DHH Enrollment	93	97	89

Visually Impaired Program

School	Student Total November 1, 2019	Student Total November 4, 2020	Student Total November 1, 2021
Salt Creek Elementary	12	13	5
Swartz Elementary	12	6	12
Albright MS	17	19	9
Addison Trail HS	34	34	21
Total VI Enrollment	75	72	47

Transition Program

School	Student Total November 1, 2019	Student Total November 4, 2020	Student Total November 1, 2021
SASED Transition (Vision)	N/A	N/A	18
LADSE Transition Center	19	16	22
Total Transition	19	16	40

SEMI ANNUAL REVIEW OF CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

Let it be noted that the DuPage West Cook Board has held no Closed Sessions.

FINANCIALS

Treasurer's Report

Michael James moved, and his motion was seconded by Dr. Mary Furbush to accept the Treasurer's Report ending October 31, 2021, with a balance of \$15,213.52.

VOICE VOTE

MOTION CARRIED

SASED/LADSE/DWC Summary of Budgets for Fiscal Agent and Operating Entities

SASED is the fiscal agent for DuPage/West Cook Funds (DWC). This responsibility includes preparing annual budgets for DWC funds, accounting for expenditures & administering assessments.

In addition to serving as the fiscal agent for DWC, SASED serves as the operating entity for the elementary (EC-8th grade) Deaf/Hard of Hearing program, Vision Program (EC-Transition), ESY Program & Audiology services. LADSE serves as the operating entity for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing High School Transition Program.

Some of the responsibilities assumed by SASED & LADSE as operating entities are:

- Human Resource – hiring, evaluating & supervising program staff; managing worker's compensation, health insurance & other employee benefits; negotiating contracts with bargaining units.
- Fiscal – program billing, cash collection, payroll & accounts payable; carrying the IMRF reserve for employees hired by the operating entity, but who work in DWC programs; obtaining & maintaining classroom space for programs; budget development & management.
- Programmatic – developing & maintaining the best educational practices for students with low incidence disabilities.

SASED budgeted tuition rate increases for the Vision classroom (VI) program for FY22 is 2.5%, ESY program tuition increase of 2.5%, as well as the elementary Deaf/Hard of Hearing (DHH) tuition rate increase of 2.5%. Diagnostic testing has remained the same while the One-to-One Staff increased by 2.5% in FY22.

LADSE collaborates with the DHH Program Coordinator who reviews current & projected staffing needs & brings forward recommendations to LADSE administration. Incoming Freshman are also considered for staffing changes to meet student IEP needs. LADSE budgeted tuition rate increases FY22 are: DHH/Transition - 3.9%; ESY – -10.7%; One-to-One Staff – -3.9%.

See below for a detailed explanation of the budgeted tuition and fee increases:

Deaf/Hard of Hearing Elementary Classroom Program - The enrollment and tuition in the DHH elementary program is budgeted very similar to last year's enrollment and tuition.

Deaf/Hard of Hearing Secondary Classroom and Transition Program – There is no change in enrollment from FY21 to FY22. The increase in overall budget stems from an increase in salary and benefits (3% salary increase and 8% budgeted benefits increase). LADSE is receiving ESSER III funds which will supplement the programs. Overall rates are budgeted to increase 3.9%.

Visually Impaired Student Classroom Program - The tuition rate for the VI classroom program is budgeted to increase by 2.5%. This program has had stable enrollments and consistent needs for several years.

SASED Summer School Tuition - The budgeted tuition rate for the SASED summer school program budget will increase by 2.5% for FY22.

LADSE Summer School Tuition - - There were no major changes to the ESY budget, however depending on the staff that works ESY and their individual rate, total costs/rates will vary year-to-year.

Diagnostic Testing – The pandemic has significantly decreased the number of assessments being completed. The staff have been conducting drive through ear mold clinics and innovating other strategies for supporting audiological needs. The projected number of 330 is likely a high estimate given current conditions.

One to One Staff – SASSED and LADSE one to one staff are included in a bargaining unit. One to one staff are employed based entirely on student enrollment and specific needs.

OTHER DISCUSSION

No other discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

Michael James moved, and his motion was seconded by Jim Nelson to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:34 am.


Dr. James Gunnell, Board Chairperson


Dr. Ellie Ambuehl, Board Secretary


Chris Miller, Recording Secretary