

Down Syndrome Association of the Upstate

Board Meeting Minutes

April 13, 2026

Meeting Time: 6:03–7:25 p.m.

Attendance

Elizabeth Duncan, Gini Nichols, Marianne Schroeder, Stacey Scott, Megan Miller, Austin Bryson, Allison Fleahman, Christian Cisneros, and Jenny Lee Turner

Board Business

The Board reviewed the DSAU mission and expectations for board and committee participation. Members were reminded to represent DSAU professionally at organizational and community events.

The **March meeting minutes were approved** unanimously.

Finance

The Board reviewed DSAU's financial position as of March 31, 2026.

- Year-to-date income, including investment activity: **-\$919.36**
- Year-to-date expenses: **\$10,319.19**
- Year-to-date programming expenses: **\$6,024.72**
- Current spending allocation: approximately **58% programming / 42% administrative**

The Board discussed that administrative expenses are typically higher early in the year because several annual expenses, including insurance and filing costs, are paid during the first quarter.

Fundraising income and donations were received during March, including proceeds from Chrome & Chromosomes and merchandise sales at the World Down Syndrome Day event.

The organization's investment portfolio experienced a decline during the quarter due to market fluctuations. Programming and operating activity otherwise remain on track with the approved budget.

An external review of DSAU's investment strategy will be conducted to help the Board evaluate the organization's long-term investment approach.

Specific investment account information and internal financial-access details have been omitted from the public minutes.

Fundraising

Planning continues for the **2026 Buddy Walk**.

The Board also reviewed progress on **Chrome & Chromosomes**. Additional sponsorships and participant registrations remain priorities. A new sponsorship option was added to make participation more accessible to prospective community partners.

Community Outreach

The Board approved a **31-day period for designated community-support fundraising**, after which remaining funds will roll into the DSAU Family Care Fund.

The Board also discussed developing additional website resources to connect families with community organizations and available services throughout the Upstate.

BOOST

Eight BOOST applications had been approved during 2026 as of the meeting date.

Approximately **\$3,759.50** had been awarded, with approximately **\$6,200** remaining in the annual BOOST allocation.

Identifying information regarding applicants and individual awards has been omitted.

Education

The Education Committee developed a centralized list of educational opportunities and programs for DSAU families.

The Board discussed expanding access to swimming instruction through a designated education allocation of up to **\$200 per participant with Down syndrome**, with the program budget to be reviewed as participation develops.

The swimming initiative will be known as **SWIM: Supporting Water Independence and Mobility**.

Social Groups & Community Engagement

DSAU social groups continue to hold regular activities, including recurring birthday celebrations.

The Board also reported successful recent community speaking and outreach opportunities that helped build awareness of DSAU and strengthen community connections.

Website

Website priorities include:

- Development of a sponsor recognition/resource page.
- Information and application materials for the SWIM program.
- Continued updates to organizational programs and resources.

Strategic Planning

The Board continues working with Sarah Brand on development of DSAU's next strategic plan.

Current discussions include committee planning, organizational priorities, board structure, and future administrative needs.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at **7:25 p.m.**