

Down Syndrome Association of the Upstate

Board Meeting Minutes

June 8, 2026

Meeting Time: 6:01–7:02 p.m.

Attendance

Elizabeth Duncan, Austin Bryson, Stacey Scott, Allison Fleahman, Christian Cisneros, Marianne Schroeder, Jenny Lee Turner, Renee Rubner, Megan Miller, and Eller

Board Business

The Board reviewed expectations for committee participation, meeting attendance, timeliness, and follow-through on assigned responsibilities.

The **May meeting minutes were approved.**

The Board also reviewed several committee membership changes and discussed updating committee rosters.

Finance

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

- Year-to-date income: **\$15,080.50**
- Year-to-date expenses: **\$18,744.87**
- Year-to-date programming expenses: **\$13,195.12**
- Current spending allocation: approximately **70% programming / 30% administrative**

May income included charitable giving, Chrome & Chromosomes proceeds, and investment gains. Major programming expenses included BOOST awards and the deposit for DSAU Night at the Ballpark.

Programming expenses are increasingly aligned with the annual budget and organizational goals.

The Board added a **Community Partnership Programming** budget category to support partnerships with organizations that connect families with resources and increase awareness of DSAU.

Accounting categories were also simplified to improve consistency between QuickBooks and the approved organizational budget.

Financial Management & Reserve Funds Policy

The Board reviewed a proposed **Financial Management & Reserve Funds Policy** designed to clarify the purpose, management, and long-term goals of DSAU's financial accounts and reserves.

The policy distinguishes between short-term funds supporting scholarships and programming and long-term strategic reserves intended to support organizational stability, growth, and future needs.

The Finance Committee recommended the policy to the full Board following its review.

The Board voted to approve the policy:

- **In favor: 9**
- **Opposed: 0**

The Finance Committee will next begin development of the preliminary 2027 budget.

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

Education

The Education Committee reported continued interest in the **SWIM** program and is working with families to complete required documentation.

The committee also discussed:

- A martial arts program for teens and adults focused on confidence, safety, and physical activity.
- A potential dance collaboration.
- Post-secondary transition education and adult independence resources.
- A summer training focused on IDEA, back-to-school preparation, and family problem solving.
- Future homeschool resources.
- Educational presentations related to neurological and cardiac health.

Names and information identifying individual scholarship applicants have been omitted.

Community Outreach

The Board discussed continued outreach to organizations serving families throughout the Upstate, including efforts to strengthen resources for Spanish-speaking families.

Additional community connections include local sports organizations, Special Olympics, business and nonprofit partners, and new-parent resource programs.

BOOST & Family Resources

A total of **18 BOOST applications** had been received during 2026.

Approximately **\$7,787.50** had been awarded, with approximately **\$2,212.50** remaining in the annual BOOST budget.

The Board also reported that **22 of DSAU's 100 Children's Museum tickets** had been used. Additional promotion of this benefit will be provided through email and the DSAU website.

Marketing & Communications

DSAU continues regular email and newsletter communications.

Additional volunteer support is being developed for graphic design and social media content.

Fundraising

The **2026 Buddy Walk sponsorship campaign officially launched**, and sponsorship packets are now available for distribution.

The Board also conducted a preliminary review of the recently completed **Chrome & Chromosomes** fundraiser.

Planning continues for a golf fundraiser in 2027.

Social & Community Events

Upcoming activities include:

- **Waterpark Event — July 18**
- **DSAU Night at the Ballpark — August 22**

The Board discussed using the waterpark gathering as an additional opportunity to connect with members and provide easy access to organizational information and resources.

Plans for Night at the Ballpark are confirmed, with DSAU representatives providing information and resources during the event.

Community Awareness

The Board discussed additional opportunities to increase awareness of DSAU throughout the Upstate, including possible advertising in a local disability-focused publication and exploring billboard advertising.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded.

The meeting adjourned at **7:02 p.m.**