

Down Syndrome Association of the Upstate

Board Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2026

Meeting Time: 6:00–7:12 p.m.

Attendance

Allison Fleahman, Renee Rubner, Christian Cisneros, Stacey Scott, Will Franks, Gini Nichols, Marianne Schroeder, Elizabeth Duncan, and Jenny Lee Turner

Board Business

The Board reviewed DSAU's mission and expectations for active board participation and meeting attendance.

The **April meeting minutes were approved.**

Finance

The Board reviewed DSAU's financial position for the period ending April 30, 2026.

- Year-to-date income: **\$6,818.26**
- Year-to-date expenses: **\$12,164.55**
- Year-to-date programming expenses: **\$7,450.07**
- Current spending allocation: approximately **61% programming / 39% administrative**

April income included fundraising proceeds, general donations, workplace giving, recurring contributions, and investment gains as financial markets rebounded from the prior month.

Programming expenses included BOOST awards and social programming.

Operating income remains on track. Programming expenses remain below the annual budget, and the Board discussed the need to continue developing additional mission-driven programming during the remainder of the year.

Several accounting categories were reorganized so that the approved budget and bookkeeping system more accurately reflect recurring software and communications expenses.

The Board also reviewed DSAU's investment strategy. An external review found the organization's investments to be diversified and generally consistent with a moderate-growth approach. Based on that review, the Finance Committee is developing a formal **Investment Policy Statement** establishing the purpose, goals, oversight, and review schedule for organizational investment funds.

The proposed policy will be reviewed by the Finance Committee before being presented to the full Board for approval.

Specific investment account information and internal banking details have been omitted from the public minutes.

Education

The Education Committee reported that **\$375 in Teacher Appreciation awards** had been distributed.

The Board continued development of the **SWIM: Supporting Water Independence and Mobility** program for May through December 2026.

The Board approved a **\$150 swimming scholarship per eligible participant**, with procedures designed to prevent duplicate scholarship funding for the same swim instruction.

The committee also reviewed educational programming planned for the remainder of 2026, including:

- Ongoing special education advocacy and consultation.
- Potential tutoring support and connections to existing educational resources.
- Post-secondary transition resources for adulthood.
- Adult confidence and independence programming.
- A summer workshop focused on preparing for a positive school year.
- Homeschool resources and support.
- Educational presentations related to neurological health and cardiology care.
- Additional scholarship and community-building opportunities.

Community Outreach

DSAU continues working with community partners to provide information and resources to families receiving a new Down syndrome diagnosis.

The organization is also participating in a statewide effort to include information from South Carolina Down syndrome organizations in new-parent resource baskets.

Personal information regarding individual families and board members has been omitted.

BOOST

A total of **13 BOOST awards** had been made during 2026 as of the meeting.

Approximately **\$6,053** had been awarded, with approximately **\$4,047** remaining in the annual BOOST budget.

Identifying information regarding applicants and individual awards has been omitted.

Marketing & Communications

DSAU continues distributing quarterly newsletters along with regular updates following Board meetings.

The Board also discussed coordinating social media content through a shared planning system to improve consistency and engagement.

Chrome & Chromosomes

Final preparations were reviewed for the upcoming **Chrome & Chromosomes** fundraiser.

Event expenses had been covered, and planning included participant registration, waivers, merchandise sales, vendors, food trucks, family activities, and volunteer coordination.

The Board emphasized the importance of requiring participants to complete event registration for appropriate planning and liability purposes.

Social Groups & Community Events

The Board reviewed upcoming social and community activities, including:

- Teen programming.
- Young Adult activities.
- A summer waterpark event.
- Programming for aging adults.
- **DSAU Night at the Ballpark** in August.

The Board approved moving forward with **Night at the Ballpark**, including reserving approximately 200 tickets and funding the required deposit from the event budget.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded.

The meeting adjourned at **7:12 p.m.**