

# Down Syndrome Association of the Upstate

## Board Meeting Minutes

September 14, 2026

Meeting Time: 6:00–8:12 p.m.

### Attendance

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

### Board Business

The Board reviewed DSAU's mission and organizational priorities.

The **August meeting minutes were approved with a correction to the BOOST update.**

### Board Recruitment

The Board reviewed the status of applications and interviews for open Board positions.

Recruitment remains ongoing, with additional candidates being considered for available seats. The Board also discussed anticipated membership changes for the upcoming year.

*Personal and family information regarding individual applicants has been omitted from the public minutes.*

### Volunteer Background Checks

The volunteer database has been updated, and DSAU has identified a point person to help coordinate volunteer screening and background-check procedures.

Implementation of the previously approved background-check system will continue.

### New Family Baby Shower

Planning was finalized for the **September 19, 2026 New Family Baby Shower.**

The event will provide families with resources, welcome gifts, food, and information from community professionals and service providers.

## **Buddy Walk**

The Board reviewed substantial progress toward the **October 3, 2026 Buddy Walk**.

At the time of the meeting:

- Registrations had generated approximately **\$3,645**
- Team fundraising had generated approximately **\$14,996.64**
- Sponsorships had generated approximately **\$18,400**
- Combined fundraising totaled approximately **\$37,041.64**

Participation included approximately **128 registrations, 39 teams, and 17 sponsors**.

The Board also reviewed several in-kind donations supporting food, beverages, entertainment, activities, and event décor.

Final event planning included equipment, setup, volunteer coordination, registration, food service, activities, and cleanup.

*Individual board-member assignments and internal logistics have been omitted from the public minutes.*

## **Young Adult Programming**

Representatives from the Young Adult group met with the Board to discuss programming goals and the group's proposed 2027 budget.

The discussion focused on:

- Building independence and life skills.
- Creating opportunities for friendship and inclusion.
- Maintaining recreational and social activities.
- Expanding educational programming.
- Continuing activities such as bowling, movies, karaoke, culinary opportunities, and other community outings.
- Exploring social-skills classes and additional structured programming.

The Board also discussed age-group organization across DSAU social programming, including groups for younger children, school-age children, teens, and adults.

## **Finance**

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

- Year-to-date income: **\$47,054.91**
- August income: **\$21,852.47**
- Year-to-date expenses: **\$34,677.80**
- August expenses: **\$4,748.09**
- Year-to-date programming expenses: **\$17,264.16**
- August programming expenses: **\$3,356.18**
- Year-to-date net activity: **+\$12,377.11**

August's strong income was driven primarily by Buddy Walk fundraising, which generated approximately **\$19,387.10** during the month.

Approximately 71% of August expenses supported mission-related programming, including social events and family programming.

Most programming categories remain below their annual budget allocations, with BOOST being the primary exception. Earlier in the year, **\$3,000 was transferred from the general Education budget to BOOST** to meet increased demand.

## Compliance & Financial Oversight

Based on current fundraising projections, DSAU may exceed the gross-receipts threshold it has historically used for filing Form 990-N.

The Board discussed confirming the appropriate federal filing requirement for 2026 and engaging an accountant experienced in nonprofit tax filings.

The organization will also continue reviewing banking relationships and financial systems as part of its broader financial-management planning.

The Finance Committee will incorporate Board and committee requests into the proposed **2027 budget**.

Going forward, DSAU intends to treat its investment accounts as long-term reserves rather than routine operating funds, with a goal of maintaining a balanced operating budget.

## 2027 Budget Planning

The Board continued detailed discussion of the proposed 2027 budget.

Areas under review include:

- Young Adult programming.
- Education and scholarship programming.
- BOOST and camp assistance.
- Community Outreach.
- Social events and age-group activities.

- Fundraising initiatives.
- Family programming and community partnerships.

The October Board meeting will include another review of the proposed 2027 budget using updated fundraising information before final approval.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at **8:12 p.m.**