



**DUPAGE/WEST COOK BOARD
BOARD BRIEFS
4th QUARTERLY MEETING FY23
May 11, 2023**

BOARD MEMBERS

CHAIRPERSON

Dr. James Gunnell
Executive Director, AERO

VICE CHAIRPERSON

Jim Nelson,
Executive Director, NDSEC

SECRETARY

Dr. Ellie Ambuehl
Executive Director, LADSE

Dr. Mary Furbush
Executive Director, CASE

Kevin Wolf
Executive Director, LASEC

Mr. Michael James
Executive Director, PAEC

Tammy Prentiss, Superintendent
SD #86, Representing Hinsdale
School Districts 86 & 181

Dr. Eboney Lofton, Chief Academic
& Accountability Office
Oak Park Elementary SD 97

Elizabeth Dejewski, Director
Cicero SD 99

Andrea Neuman, Director
Oak Park River Forest SD 200C

Erica Ekstrom
Executive Director
Wheaton/Warrenville SD 200D

Timothy Truesdale, Superintendent
J.S. Morton High SD 201C

Lisa Xagas
Assistant Superintendent
Naperville CUSD 203

Christina Sepiol
Assistant Superintendent
Indian Prairie CUSD 204

Dr. Mindy McGuffin
Executive Director, SASSED

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Peter Masters, Director
Norridge SD 80
Dr. Tiffany Leiva, Director
Schiller Park SD 81
Suzanne Bement, Director
Maywood-Melrose Park-Broadview
SD 89

Margaret Turner, Director
Berwyn North SD 98,
Representing School Districts
90,91, 98, 100

Sheleah Blisset, Director
Oak Lawn-Hometown SD 123
Stephanie Daly, Director of Student
Services
Elmwood Park SD 401

PARENT REPRESENTATIVES

Alana Rybak, VI Parent
Rachel Heneghan, DHH Parent

COORDINATOR

Matthew Layton, SASSED Director

TREASURER

Don Robinson, SASSED CSBO

RECORDING SECRETARY

Chris Miller

Deaf/Hard of Hearing Program Student Recognition & Highlights – Let’s Celebrate!

Early Childhood (Total Communication & Auditory/Oral) – A new EC class was added this year. Collectively, the EC class learned over 400 words this year, learned how to play with others, follow routines and expectations and learned how to use their new words to communicate during lessons and play. Lots of new friends were made this year!

First thru Third Grade Class – Language and communication flourished this year along with socialization and problem-solving skills. Each student improved their reading fluency and comprehension scores. A student who had yet to be in school and had no language is now learning sign language and using a communication board.

Fourth thru Fifth Grade – This year Fourth and Fifth Graders learned about the Butterfly life cycle from being a larva to a pupa all the way to becoming a butterfly. Just like the butterfly our students soared to new heights!

Junior High – Students earned service hours serving on the Recycling Team, and in honor of Deaf Can Do It Day, decorated brown bags with positive messages and collected non-perishable food items to donate to a homeless shelter. This year our Junior High students took a field trip to the Technology Center of DuPage to learn about vocational skills programs they offer.

Vision Program Student Recognition & Highlights – Let’s Celebrate!

This was a great year with student participation in extracurricular activities. Some of those activities; Lego Club, Philosophy Club, Goalball, Cooking Club, Youth & Government, Art Club, Track & Field, Cheerleading, Self-Care Club, Band & Choir and Best Buddies. We had a student conquer his fear and tried roller skating and loved it! Students were climbing a rock wall in PE and a student from another Country came in February and is quickly learning English and Braille. Four High School students were nominated to attend the Spring Leadership Event hosted by the Illinois Service Resource Center. While there they spent the day with their TVI and O&M and other vision students from the State learning leadership skills to further their future success.

Transition - Several students are competitively employed. The program’s expanded core curriculum, including vocational opportunities and intensive orientation and mobility instruction have prepared our students with employable skills. Some employers; Gloria Jeans Coffee, Jimmy John’s, Jewel Osco, and Amazon.

Endless Possibilities – This year we had one middle school student transition back to their resident school, 3 transition students made honor roll at their community colleges, a student that was accepted to SIU-E attending in the Fall, and a student that will be enrolled in the massage therapy program at COD.

LADSE/Hinsdale South High School DHH Student Recognition – Let’s Celebrate!

Student Accomplishments – 6 students this year were Honorable Mentions Recipients for the DHH Advocate of the Year. 3 students attended the Deaf Academic Bowl Regional in Austin, Texas and 1 student received the Senior Academic All Conference Award for Wrestling. We also had a Deaf History Month Art Show through the LaGrange Art League Gallery.

Special Olympics - Swimming, Soccer and Track – 5 students were 1st place at Soccer Regionals qualifying for State. 1st Places were received in Backstroke, Shot Put, 100 Meter Run, a 4th Place in the Softball Throw and 50 Meter Run, 3rd place in Softball Throw, and



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Two 7th Place awards in 100 Meter Run. In Basketball we had Best in Defensive Players, an MVP and a Most Improved player along with 6 students receiving 2nd Place at Regionals. The Chicago Park District sponsored the Deaf Volleyball Tournament this year and we had All Star Players, a 2nd Place and 3rd Place!

Job Placements – Included: Target, DuPage Children’s Museum, Covenant Living at Windsor Park, Whole Foods Market, Cater Dental, Thriftbooks, Novi’s Beef, and Torres Supermercados Fresh Market.

College Acceptances – Students in the DHH Program have been accepted at Gallaudet University, Illinois State University, College of DuPage, and Rochester Institute of Technology.

DWC Student Enrollment for Low-Incidence Programs

Deaf/Hard of Hearing Program

School	Student Total May 6, 2021	Student Total May 1, 2022	Student Total May 1, 2023
North School	34	35	36*
Westmont JH	24	15	10
LADSE – HS	42	38	51
Total DHH Enrollment	100	88	97*

*Updated enrollment given at meeting due to additional student enrolled.

Visually Impaired Program

School	Student Total May 6, 2021	Student Total May 1, 2022	Student Total May 1, 2023
Salt Creek Elementary	11	5	7
Swartz Elementary	6	11	5
Albright MS	20	10	9
Addison Trail HS	34	21	21
Total VI Enrollment	71	47	42

Transition Program

School	Student Total May 6, 2021	Student Total May 1, 2022	Student Total May 1, 2023
SASED Transition (Vision)	N/A	18	15
LADSE Transition Center	16	22	13
Total Transition	16	40	28

STUDENT TOTAL: 187 175 176*



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Financial Budgetary Items –

DuPage West Cook has funds in the ISDLAF+ at PMA. These funds were once necessary to cover retirement obligations, however those obligations are no longer a consideration. The recommendation was to liquidate the account as of June 1st, 2023. The funds will be allocated between the Hearing and Vision Programs based on the respective year-to-date enrollment.

Quarterly Meeting Dates/Time/Place –

The quarterly meeting dates were approved as: September 14, 2023, November 9, 2023, February 8, 2024, May 9, 2024. All meetings will start at 10:00 am and be held at the SASSED Administrative Center located at 2900 Ogden Avenue, Lisle, IL.

Governing Board Representatives' Terms

The Board terms FY24 were distributed & will be updated, as necessary. Resolutions were sent where applicable.

Service Recognition – This year DuPage West Cook has 3 retiring Board Members. Thank you for your dedicated service.

Dr. Jimmy Gunnell – DWC Chairperson

Jim Nelson – DWC Vice Chairperson

Don Robinson – DWC Treasurer

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Matthew Layton, 630-955-8102, m Layton@sased.org or Dr. James Gunnell, 708-496-3330, jgunnell@aerosped.org.