

ATHENS COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
Board Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, April 25, 2023 – 6:00 P.M.  
Beacon School – 801 W. Union Street

**The Mission of the Athens County Board of Developmental Disabilities is to serve our  
community with compassion, innovation, and transparency**

1. Dr. Jason Jolley, Board Vice President, called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.
2. Arian Smedley did roll call.

ALLEN	Present
BOND	Present
CONNER	Present
DEMKO	Absent
JOLLEY	Present
LEWIS	Absent
OCHES	Present

Staff / Others in Attendance:

Dr. Kevin Davis	Superintendent
Arian Smedley	Assistant Superintendent
Scott Zielinski	Director of Finance
Gwen Brooks	Director of Human Resources
Tristin Lawrence	Director of Services & Support
Chris Linscott	Director of Facilities & Transportation
Stephanie Kendrick	MUI Coordinator
Becky Martin	Director of Education
Angela Carter	Director of Employment Options
Autumn Brown	Director of Integrate Athens
Doug Mitchell	Transition Coordinator
Amy Goldsberry	SSA, PGO
Kendall Berry	Speech Therapist, ABEA
Crestlyn Chaney	Instructor Assistant, ABEA

3. Dr. Allen read the Mission Statement.
4. Oches motioned to approve the agenda.

MOTION#: 4-25-23-1  
MOTION: OCHES  
SECOND: ALLEN

AYES: ALLEN, BOND, CONNER, JOLLEY, OCHES  
CARRIES: YES

5. New Business:

**Items for review and discussion:**

- a. For the budget update, Zielinski provided a presentation to the board – a similar one he is providing to each department. It offers a high-level overview of the agency’s finances.
- b. Dr. Davis provided an overview of the 2022 Annual Report (Handout).
- c. Dr. Davis walked the board members through the Beacon School 2023-2024 academic calendar (Exhibit 1, Page 1).
- d. Dr. Allen motioned to approve updated MUI policy (Exhibit 2, Pages 2-21).

MOTION#: 4-25-23-2  
MOTION: ALLEN  
SECOND: OCHES  
AYES: ALLEN, BOND, CONNER, JOLLEY, OCHES  
CARRIES: YES

- e. Dr. Davis provided an update on the van purchase. He shared Linscott and Zielinski are working with ODE to determine requirements of the van. They met with a DAS-approved vendor recently, and we are awaiting bids. Once received, it will be presented to the board (hopefully in May). Once a bid is accepted, the wait could be as long as one year for delivery, given current inventory challenges. The vendor is willing to take two vans we currently own as trades to help reduce the cost.
- f. Dr. Davis went over reminders on future meetings/trainings:
  - Next training: Tuesday, May 23, 5:00 p.m. – topic will be on the SSA dept.
  - Next regular meeting: Tuesday, May 23, 6:00 p.m.

**Motions for vote:**

- a. Oches motioned to approve March 2023 Board Meeting Minutes (Exhibit 3, Pages 22-27).

MOTION#: 4-25-23-3  
MOTION: OCHES  
SECOND: BOND  
AYES: ALLEN, BOND, CONNER, JOLLEY, OCHES  
CARRIES: YES

- b. Bond motioned to approve bid for Beacon School roof project (Handout).

Discussion: Dr. Davis shared the bid meeting occurred today, and he walked the board through the handout provided that evening. The agency received one bid. The projected cost is approximately \$625,000, which was under estimate. We have worked with this company before. He added these funds are set aside in the capital account. The plan is to complete the work over the summer.

MOTION#: 4-25-23-4  
MOTION: BOND  
SECOND: ALLEN  
AYES: ALLEN, BOND, CONNER, JOLLEY, OCHES  
CARRIES: YES

- c. Oches motioned to approve renewal contract with Aramark (Exhibit 4, Pages 28-35).

Discussion: Dr. Davis shared this is an annual renewal with Aramark, which provides food services for Beacon School. Cost increases are built into the contract and are based on the Consumer Price Index.

MOTION#: 4-25-23-5  
MOTION: OCHES  
SECOND: BOND  
AYES: ALLEN, BOND, CONNER, JOLLEY, OCHES  
CARRIES: YES

- d. Bond motioned to approve contract with Hopewell Health Services (Exhibit 5, Pages 36-40).

Discussion: Dr. Davis explained this is a new contract. The purpose is to provide trauma-informed psychological services in the event of an emergency, within 24-hours. He said he hopes to never have to use it, but it will be established in the event we need it. This is a requirement of the Emergency Operations Plan.

MOTION#: 4-25-23-6  
MOTION: BOND  
SECOND: ALLEN  
AYES: ALLEN, BOND, CONNER, JOLLEY, OCHES  
CARRIES: YES

- e. Oches motioned to approve contract with ARTSWest for second ATCO Idol event (Exhibit 6, Pages 41-44).

Discussion: Dr. Davis explained this is for the second ATCO Idol event. This is to accommodate all the individuals who wanted to participate.

MOTION#: 4-25-23-7  
MOTION: OCHES  
SECOND: BOND  
AYES: ALLEN, BOND, CONNER, JOLLEY, OCHES  
CARRIES: YES

- f. Dr. Allen motioned to approve continuation of the DSP retention payment program (Handout).

Discussion: Dr. Davis walked the board members through the handout. He reminded the board we approved participating in the 6.5% DSP Retention Payment Program that started because of COVID-19. It was expected to end. However, county boards are being asked to continue that and add by a small percentage. The program equated to a \$1/hr. wage increase for DSPs. To make that additional \$1/hr. whole again into the future, county boards are being asked to increase the 6.5% slightly. This increase equates to an additional \$45,000 for Athens County. This mean the DSP Retention Payment Program is expected to cost the ACBDD \$405,000. Dr. Davis said this is the best case scenario and would recommend approving it.

Dr. Davis added another item being discussed is causing the agency and other county boards some concern. There is discussion of making some of the Appendix K changes permanent. One of these changes allows parents or guardians to be paid providers for minors with DD. If this is approved, it has the potential of creating substantial cost increases for county boards statewide.

MOTION#: 4-25-23-8  
MOTION: ALLEN  
SECOND: OCHES  
AYES: ALLEN, BOND, CONNER, JOLLEY, OCHES  
CARRIES: YES

- g. Dr. Jolley stated an item on the agenda related to a contract will be revisited at a future board meeting.

6. Board Reports:

- a. Superintendent, Dr. Kevin Davis (Exhibit 7, Pages 45-57).  
Report stands. He shared we had the first Emerging Leaders Program, and it went very well. Oches was in attendance. It was very well received by those in attendance.
- b. Director of Finance, Scott Zielinski (Exhibit 8, Pages 58-65).  
Report stands. He noted a slight variance between the agency's books and the auditor's office. It was due to a coding issue that is being resolved.
- c. Director of Human Resources, Gwen Brooks (Exhibit 9, Pages 66-68).

Report stands. She added we are looking for an instructor assistant for Beacon School for next year.

- d. Director of Facilities and Transportation, Chris Linscott (Exhibit 10, Pages 69-70).  
Report stands. He thanked the board for approving the roof bid.
  - e. MUI Coordinator, Stephanie Kendrick (Exhibit 11, Page 71).  
Report stands. She shared student interns are finalizing an MUI guide for families. It is hopeful to be a useful resource.
  - f. Director of Service and Support, Tristin Lawrence (Exhibit 12, Pages 72-76).  
Report stands. She highlighted SSAs have been recognized by the state regarding their work with the OhioISP transition. They were invited to offer their input and experience at the statewide and regional levels.
  - g. Director of Education, Becky Martin (Exhibit 13, Pages 77-78).  
Report stands. She highlighted one month until the end of the school year. She noted prom May 5; the theme is Under the Sea. Graduations noted in her report are both at 10 a.m.
  - h. Director of Employment Options, Angela Carter (Exhibit 14, Page 79).  
Report stands. She highlighted this is the last week for PP at the mall. Also, the team is wrapping up Job Club at Beacon. They will host a coffee cart in the coming weeks, and everyone is invited to participate. An announcement of the date is forthcoming.
  - i. Director of Integrate Athens, Autumn Brown (Exhibit 15, Pages 80-82).  
Report stands. She highlighted summer camp planning, which is ongoing. ATCO Idol performance at Stuart's is coming up, as well. This Saturday, Team Heart & Sole will be participating in Race for a Reason.
  - j. Assistant Superintendent, Arian Smedley (Exhibit 16, Pages 83-88).  
Report stands. For Early Intervention, accreditation preparation is the focus. A training on how to improve outcomes was well attended – by both ACBDD staff and Hopewell staff. Transition hosted its April Teen Time, which seemed to be a well-received event.
7. No comments from Visitors relative to the agenda.
  8. No comments from Unions relative to the agenda.
  9. Regarding comments from the Board – Dr. Allen thanked the school staff for welcoming his interns. Bond mentioned she was happy to see ATCO Idol still going strong.
  10. Bond motioned to adjourn at 6:40 p.m.

MOTION#: 4-25-23-9  
MOTION: BOND  
SECOND: ALLEN  
AYES: ALLEN, BOND, CONNER, JOLLEY, OCHES  
CARRIES: YES