

ATHENS COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
Board Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, April 23, 2024 – 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.

BOND	Present – virtually
CONNER	Present
DEMKO	Absent
GÜT	Present
JOLLEY	Present
LEWIS	Present – virtually
OCHES	Present

Staff / Others in Attendance:

Dr. Kevin Davis	Superintendent
Arian Smedley	Assistant Superintendent
Scott Zielinski	Director of Finance
Gwen Brooks	Director of HR
Tristin Lawrence	Director of Service & Support Administration
Stephanie Kendrick	MUI Coordinator
Autumn Brown	Director of Integrate Athens
Becky Martin	Director of Education
Doug Mitchell	Transition Services, ABEA

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

MOTION#:	4-24-24-1
MOTION:	OCHES
SECOND:	GÜT
AYES:	BOND, CONNER, GÜT, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES
CARRIES:	YES

5. New Business:

a. Regarding the budget update, Dr. Davis shared what would have been shared during the Finance & Personnel Committee meeting, which was canceled due to an unexpected absence. He walked board members through two handouts, one that outlined the agenda (which will be the agenda for the scheduled meeting in June) and also a document that outlines where things stand currently with the waiver redesign. The waiver redesign discussion is a state-led effort. Dr. Davis serves on this workgroup, along with many other across the state. Board members also discussed how to proceed in the event of an absence. In the event of someone's absence, an invitation will be extended to the alternate (Pam Bond). In addition, board members decided to proceed in the future, even if only two members can attend.

b. Regarding the Staff Engagement Workgroup update, Dr. Davis walked the board members through the handout, which is a draft version of the action plan created by the workgroup. Dr. Davis reminded the board the workgroup is made up of ten staff, with representation from across the agency. The workgroup has met for approximately 12 hours to brainstorm suggested action steps to address the agency's 13 Opportunities for Improvement. Once the suggested action plan has been finalized and approved by the workgroup, the management team will review it and assess each item for its feasibility. For items that go beyond the management team, those will be forwarded on to the board members for assessment. Oches praised the workgroup on their efforts and said the focus now is on what comes next.

Dr. Davis added that the suggestions will be met with compassion and empathy. In addition, he stressed how proud he is to work for an agency that invests a significant amount of time and energy into staff engagement as the agency has done. He reminded the board that the agency does the staff survey every year, and an action plan is developed every year to address opportunities for improvement. This year, the agency went even further by soliciting additional feedback, forming the staff-led workgroup, and investing work time to develop suggested action steps. Lastly, he expressed appreciation to Oches for his time, as well. Dr. Jolley said he also appreciated the process, particularly the transparency.

c. Regarding the Summer Camp update, Dr. Davis walked the board members through the handout, which detailed out dates, number of received camper applications, number of received counselor applications, outlined some of the planned activities, and detailed out what planning remains.

d. Dr. Davis walked the board members through the Q1 Managers' List update (Exhibit 1, Pages 1-5).

e. Board members discussed future meetings/trainings:

- Board Training on MUI/UI: Tuesday, May 28, 5:00 p.m.
- Next regular meeting: Tuesday, May 28, 6:00 p.m.

**Motions for vote:**

- a. Dr. Güt motioned to approve March 2024 Board Meeting Minutes (Exhibit 2, Pages 6-10).

MOTION#: 4-24-24-2  
MOTION: GÜT  
SECOND: OCHES  
AYES: BOND, CONNER, GÜT, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES  
CARRIES: YES

- b. Bond motioned to approve renewed contract with Aramark, pending prosecuting attorney's approval (Exhibit 3, Pages 11-44).

MOTION#: 4-24-24-3  
MOTION: BOND  
SECOND: LEWIS  
AYES: BOND, CONNER, GÜT, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES  
CARRIES: YES

- c. Dr. Lewis motioned to approve contract with Hopewell Health Services, pending prosecuting attorney's approval (Exhibit 4, Pages 45-48).

MOTION#: 4-24-24-4  
MOTION: LEWIS  
SECOND: GÜT  
AYES: BOND, CONNER, GÜT, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES  
CARRIES: YES

- d. Oches motioned to approve contract with ARTSWest for second ATCO Idol event, pending prosecuting attorney's approval (Exhibit 5, Pages 49-51).

MOTION#: 4-24-24-5  
MOTION: OCHES  
SECOND: BOND  
AYES: BOND, CONNER, GÜT, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES  
CARRIES: YES

- e. Lewis motioned to approve Administration to explore the cost of purchasing a new school bus (with more detailed information to be shared at a future meeting).

MOTION#: 4-24-24-6  
MOTION: LEWIS  
SECOND: GÜT

AYES: BOND, CONNER, GÜT, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES  
CARRIES: YES

6. Board Reports:

- a. Superintendent, Dr. Kevin Davis (Exhibit 6, Pages 52-54).  
Report stands.
- b. Director of Education, Becky Martin (Exhibit 7, Pages 55-57).  
Report stands. She shared the dates of a few upcoming events, including Teacher Appreciation Week during the week of May 6, graduation and awards will be on May 17 at 10 a.m., annual cookout and VFW appreciation event on May 23 at 11 a.m. She added board members are welcome at any of these events.
- c. Director of Finance, Scott Zielinski (Exhibit 8, Pages 58-66).  
Report stands.
- d. Director of Human Resources, Gwen Brooks (Exhibit 9, Pages 67-69).  
Report stands.
- e. Director of Facilities and Transportation, Chris Linscott (Exhibit 10, Page 70).  
Report stands.
- f. MUI Coordinator, Stephanie Kendrick (Exhibit 11, Pages 71-80).  
Report stands. She added praise to the SSAs and the school staff for their handling of recent stressful situations.
- g. Director of Service and Support, Tristin Lawrence (Exhibit 12, Pages 81-87).  
Report stands.
- h. Director of Employment Options, Angela Carter (Exhibit 13, Page 88).  
Report stands.
- i. Director of Integrate Athens, Autumn Brown (Exhibit 14, Pages 89-90).  
Report stands. She highlighted the dates of the upcoming ATCO Idol events – May 23<sup>rd</sup> at Stuart’s Opera House and June 30 at ARTSWest. She also shared information about an upcoming bake sale fundraiser hosted by Echoing Connections.
- j. Assistant Superintendent, Arian Smedley (Exhibit 15, Pages 91-96).  
Report stands. She highlighted the two presentations Doug Mitchell has done in the past month, which focused on educating the community about best practices related to transition services.

7. No comments from Visitors relative to the agenda.

8. No comments from Unions relative to the agenda.
9. Regard comments from the Board, Dr. Jolley shared information about the recent partnership between Ohio University and the OACB. The new partnership offers a discount on select OU programs. Details about this information has been sent to all staff.
10. Bond motioned to adjourn at 6:36 p.m.

MOTION#: 4-24-24-7  
MOTION: BOND  
SECOND: GÜT  
AYES: BOND, CONNER, GÜT, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES  
CARRIES: YES