

ATHENS COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 26, 2025 – 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 6:00 p.m.
2. Arian Smedley did roll call.

BOND	Present
CONNER	Present
DEMKO	Present – virtual
GÜT-ZIPPERT	Present
JOLLEY	Present
LEWIS	Present – virtual
OCHES	Present

Staff / Others in Attendance:

Dr. Kevin Davis	Superintendent
Arian Smedley	Assistant Superintendent
Scott Zielinski	Director of Finance
Tristin Lawrence	Director of Human Resources
Stephanie Kendrick	Director of Service & Support Administration
Chris Linscott	Director of Transportation / Facilities
Becky Martin	Director of Education / Principal
Jamie Bartee	Assistant Principal
Clayton Ray	SSA, PGO
Heather Clemons	Community Inclusion Coordinator, ABEA
Brie Stammler	Instructor, ABEA
Doug Mitchell	Transition Coordinator, ABEA

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

MOTION#: 8-28-25-1
MOTION: DEMKO
SECOND: LEWIS
AYES: BOND, CONNER, DEMKO, GÜT-ZIPPERT, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES

CARRIES: YES

5. New Business:

Items for review and discussion:

- a. Dr. Davis shared information about the possibility of replacing Beacon School windows and exterior classroom doors, and he walked the board members through the exhibit in the packet (Exhibit 1, Pages 1-5). He explained the windows are original to the building. The replacement windows would be tinted and would have the blinds within the window panes. These features would increase energy efficiency and enhance safety. The replacement exterior doors would also increase energy efficiency. The recommendation would be to consider this project after the General Election. There was brief discussion that touched on the following areas:
 - i. Whether this project is necessary right now or what we have in place could sustain us
 - ii. The impact this would have on the outside wrap around the building
 - iii. Whether this financial investment would be better suited in other areas
 - iv. It was added the agency is in a financial position now to replace, which may not be the case in the future when it may be more of an emergency
- b. Dr. Davis provided an update on Transportation staffing (Exhibit 2, Page 6). He shared the challenges that both the agency and Athens City Schools are facing with having adequate staffing. He also shared the various routes that the agency currently has planned, when we are fully staffed. Although we have hired several drivers over the summer, they are not road ready just yet. He also shared an announcement made by the Meigs County Board of DD, which stated they were no longer providing school transportation. He stated this is not our intention and not in our plans, but he is sharing so the board is aware these challenges are not unique to us. There was discussion about the following:
 - i. Length of the routes in time
 - ii. Whether additional collaborations with school districts could be explored and the impact this could have on the rest of the route
- c. Dr. Davis provided an update on the Metrics & Scorecard and walked the board members through the exhibit in the packet (Exhibit 3, Pages 7-18). He shared the official Scorecard will be developed at the end of the year. It was shared the document was easy to follow. There was a question about the renovations to the teacher's lounge, and it was explained the renovations were needed to address normal wear and tear since the last renovation.
- d. Dr. Davis shared the results of the Annual Board Member Survey and the Opportunities for Improvement (OFI) (Exhibit 4, Pages 19-23). There was discussion about the OFIs and which direction the board wished to go. No formal recommendation or request from the board was made.
- e. Bond motioned to approve updated policies (Exhibit 5, Pages 24-48).

Discussion: Dr. Davis walked the board members through the exhibits, which included a summary of the changes and the specific policies. He offered the board the opportunity to consider this a first read or to vote to approve, if they wished.

MOTION#: 8-28-25-2
MOTION: BOND
SECOND: OCHES
AYES: BOND, CONNER, DEMKO, GÜT-ZIPPERT, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES
CARRIES: YES

- f. Dr. Davis walked the board members through the 2024 ATCO Legacy Fund Outcome Report (Exhibit 6, Pages 49-59). He shared two reports were missing, even after multiple attempts to collect information.
- g. Dr. Davis provided a reminder on the required Board member trainings. He shared all board members, prior to this evening, had two hours logged. Anyone who attended the 5 p.m. MUI/UI training now has three hours logged. He added we will host one more training in October, with a topic to be determined.
- h. Reminders on future meetings/trainings:
 - i. Regular meeting: Tuesday, September 23, 2025, 6:00 p.m.

Motions for vote:

- a. Dr. Lewis motioned to approve June Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting Minutes (Exhibit 7, Page 60).

MOTION#: 8-28-25-3
MOTION: LEWIS
SECOND: GÜT-ZIPPERT
AYES: BOND, CONNER, DEMKO, GÜT-ZIPPERT, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES
CARRIES: YES

- b. Bond motioned to approve June Ethics Committee Meeting Minutes (Exhibit 8, Page 61).

MOTION#: 8-28-25-4
MOTION: BOND
SECOND: OCHES
AYES: BOND, CONNER, DEMKO, GÜT-ZIPPERT, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES
CARRIES: YES

- c. Bond motioned to approve June Board Meeting Minutes (Exhibit 9, Page 62-67).

MOTION#: 8-28-25-5
MOTION: BOND
SECOND: GÜT-ZIPPERT
AYES: BOND, CONNER, DEMKO, GÜT-ZIPPERT, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES
CARRIES: YES

- d. Güt-Zippert motioned to approve July Special Board Meeting Minutes (Exhibit 10, Pages 68-69).

MOTION#: 8-28-25-6

MOTION: GÜT-ZIPPERT
SECOND: BOND
AYES: BOND, CONNER, DEMKO, GÜT-ZIPPERT, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES
CARRIES: YES

- e. Bond motioned to approve ACBDD's contribution of \$20,000 for the Fall 2025 ATCO Legacy Fund grant cycle, with the priority area of supporting inclusion of individuals with I/DD (Exhibit 11, Pages 70-73).

Discussion: Dr. Davis highlighted the sections that are new, which were recommendations from the ATCO Legacy Fund Selection Committee. There was some discussion about the requirement to provide outcome reporting.

MOTION#: 8-28-25-7
MOTION: BOND
SECOND: DEMKO
AYES: BOND, CONNER, DEMKO, GÜT-ZIPPERT, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES
CARRIES: YES

- f. Oches motioned to approve purchase of mower from CEC Turf & Tractor for grounds maintenance (Exhibit 12, Pages 74-75).

Discussion: Dr. Davis shared the new zero-turn mower would replace an older, malfunctioning mower. There was brief discussion about exploring alternative equipment.

MOTION#: 8-28-25-8
MOTION: OCHES
SECOND: LEWIS
AYES: CONNER, DEMKO, GÜT-ZIPPERT, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES
NO: BOND
CARRIES: YES

- g. Bond motioned to approve the practice of the ACBDD to round all pay rates up to the nearest whole cent (Exhibit 13, Page 76).

MOTION#: 8-28-25-9
MOTION: BOND
SECOND: GÜT-ZIPPERT
AYES: BOND, CONNER, DEMKO, GÜT-ZIPPERT, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES
CARRIES: YES

- h. Güt-Zippert motioned to approve ABEA contract (Exhibit 14, Pages 77-155).

Discussion: Dr. Davis walked the board through the summary page that highlights the changes. He added everyone was very pleased with the outcome and how the whole process went.

MOTION#: 8-28-25-10
MOTION: GÜT-ZIPPERT

SECOND: BOND
AYES: BOND, CONNER, DEMKO, GÜT-ZIPPERT, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES
CARRIES: YES

6. Board Reports:

- a. Superintendent, Dr. Kevin Davis (Exhibit 15, Pages 156-160).
Report stands. He took a moment to introduce Jamie Bartee, the new Assistant Principal. He shared we are very happy to have her on board. He gave her an opportunity to introduce herself. She stated she is very happy to be with the organization and expressed appreciation for the opportunity.
- b. Director of Education, Becky Martin (Exhibit 16, Page 161-162).
Report stands. She also expressed appreciation for working with Bartee. She added the school is looking for one more paraprofessional. Once this hire is complete, the school will be fully staffed.
- c. Director of Finance, Scott Zielinski (Exhibit 17, Pages 163-183).
Report stands. Bond asked a question about a payment for internet for Beacon. Zielinski explained this is correct, due to the way the internet is set up for the building.
- d. Director of Human Resources, Tristin Lawrence (Exhibit 18, Pages 184-189).
Report stands.
- e. Director of Facilities and Transportation, Chris Linscott (Exhibit 19, Pages 190-192).
Report stands. Dr. Jolley expressed his appreciation to Linscott for handling the last-minute changes to transportation and communicating with families.
- f. MUI Coordinator, Angela Patrick (Exhibit 20, Page 193).
Report stands.
- g. Director of Service and Support, Stephanie Kendrick (Exhibit 21, Pages 194-195).
Report stands. She provided an update on an item in her report. The three SSA openings are now down to two, as an offer was recently accepted. Interviews are scheduled for the remaining two openings.
- h. Director of Integrate Athens, Autumn Brown (Exhibit 22, Pages 196-198).
Report stands.
- i. Assistant Superintendent, Arian Smedley (Exhibit 23, Pages 199-202).
Report stands.

7. No comments from Visitors relative to the agenda.

8. Regarding comments from Unions relative to the agenda, Heather Clemons, ABEA Union President, echoed Dr. Davis's comments about ABEA negotiations. It went very smoothly. PGO President Clayton Ray shared they are eager for the SSA openings to be filled.

9. No comments from the Board.

10. Oches motioned to enter into Executive Session per ORC 121.22 (G)(2) to consider the purchase and sale of property for public purposes at 6:52 p.m.

MOTION#: 8-28-25-11
MOTION: OCHES
SECOND: BOND
AYES: BOND, CONNER, DEMKO, GÜT-ZIPPERT, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES
CARRIES: YES

11. Bond motioned to approve the ACBDD Administration to formally request the Athens County Commissioners transfer the deed for the ACBDD's bus garage, located at 9033 Lavelle Road in Athens, to the Athens County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

MOTION#: 8-28-25-12
MOTION: BOND
SECOND: GÜT-ZIPPERT
AYES: BOND, CONNER, DEMKO, GÜT-ZIPPERT, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES
CARRIES: YES

12. Bond motioned to adjourn.

MOTION#: 8-28-25-12
MOTION: BOND
SECOND: CONNER
AYES: BOND, CONNER, DEMKO, GÜT-ZIPPERT, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES
CARRIES: YES