

ATHENS COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, Dec. 16, 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	Absent
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
Chris Linscott	Director of Transportation / Facilities
Stephanie Kendrick	Director of Service & Support Administration
Clayton Ray	SSA, PGO
Brittany Stammler	Instructor, ABEA – virtual
Doug Mitchell	Transition Coordinator, ABEA
Raz Sabaiduc	Community member

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

MOTION#: 12-16-25-1
MOTION: LEWIS
SECOND: OCHES
AYES: BOND, DEMKO, GÜT-ZIPPERT, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES
CARRIES: YES

5. New Business:

Items for review and discussion:

- a. Demko motioned to approve ATCO Legacy Fund recommendations (Exhibit 1, Page 1).

Discussion: Dr. Davis walked the board members through the exhibit, which outlined highlights from this year's funding cycle. This cycle received 12 proposals. The selection committee recommended supporting 10, either fully or partially. After this cycle, the fund will have approximately \$32,000 remaining. There was brief discussion about whether funds will be spent in Athens County. It was shared the RFP specifically mentioned this requirement. There was also discussion about priorities for the next cycle, and it was recommended thoughts on this be brought back up prior to the development of the 2026 RFP.

MOTION#: 12-16-25-2
MOTION: DEMKO
SECOND: BOND
AYES: BOND, DEMKO, GÜT-ZIPPERT, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES
CARRIES: YES

- b. Board members discussed the 2025 Staff Engagement Survey Results (Exhibit 2, Pages 2-16).

Discussion: Dr. Davis shared this survey has been conducted for the last seven years and is designed to gauge employee engagement. He walked the board members through the exhibit, which included a high-level comparison over the last few years. Most notably, the 2025 results identified zero opportunities for improvement and 17 strengths, which is a significant improvement from last year's results. He also noted that every response improved from last year and only three did not meet the benchmark. Lastly, he highlighted the comments. He mentioned in 2023, the survey results included 21 pages of comments. This year had one page of comments. He walked through some of those comments with the board. Board members offered congratulations on the survey results and said it should be celebrated.

- c. Board members reviewed the 2025 All Staff In Service Survey Results (Exhibit 3, Pages 17-26).

Discussion: Dr. Davis shared this survey has been conducted for the last few years and is designed to track the employee's experience with these events. He walked the board members through the exhibit, which included a high-level comparison over the last few years. He noted the majority of responders rated the event a 4 or 5 (out of 5). In addition, he walked through the remaining results, including some of the comments, with the board.

- d. Dr. Güt-Zippert motioned to approve the policy update (Exhibit 4, Pages 27-31).

Discussion: Dr. Davis provided some background information on the policy update. He shared this new policy came from an assessment and review of the FSS program. After an assessment of the program by the Healthy Futures Workgroup, it was recommended to change the program, since the state no longer funds the program. With a fully locally funded program, the agency has

more flexibility to outline the rules and processes. This new program (and policy) is designed to better meet individual needs throughout the year.

MOTION#: 12-16-25-3
MOTION: GÜT-ZIPPERT
SECOND: DEMKO
AYES: BOND, DEMKO, GÜT-ZIPPERT, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES
CARRIES: YES

- e. Dr. Lewis motioned to approve the proposed playground project (Exhibit 5, Pages 32-34).

Discussion: Dr. Davis shared every year of the Polar Bear Plunge, the school is asked what project the proceeds from the fundraising event would go toward. For 2026, the school has identified a need on the playground, specifically provided shade and replacing some equipment. The cost for this project exceeds the amount that is historically raised. Dr. Davis asked the board to discuss whether there is interest in supporting this project (all or in part), with the understanding the agency would cover any excess costs over the donated proceeds.

MOTION#: 12-16-25-4
MOTION: LEWIS
SECOND: BOND
AYES: BOND, DEMKO, GÜT-ZIPPERT, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES
CARRIES: YES

- f. Board members reviewed board questions for bulletin board (Exhibit 6, Page 35).

Discussion: Dr. Davis shared where the bulletin board would be and the reason for this project, which is to improve communication and transparency.

- g. Board members discussed reminders on future meetings/trainings:
 - i. Organizational meeting: Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2026, 6:00 p.m.
 - ii. Regular meeting: Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2026, 6:15 p.m.

Motions for vote:

- a. Oches motioned to approve the 2026 Program Calendar for 260-day employees (Exhibit 7, Page 36).

MOTION#: 12-16-25-5
MOTION: OCHES
SECOND: GÜT-ZIPPERT
AYES: BOND, DEMKO, GÜT-ZIPPERT, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES
CARRIES: YES

- b. Dr. Lewis motioned to approve the October Board Meeting Minutes (Exhibit 8, Pages 37-42).

MOTION#: 12-16-25-6

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

- c. Bond motioned to approve payment up to \$15,000 to Athens County Commissioners for 2023-2024 State Audit Costs (Exhibit 9, Page 43).

Discussion: Dr. Davis shared every year the agency is asked to pay its portion of the county audit. This has historically been approximately 15% of the overall cost. We have not received the invoice, but for planning purposes, we are estimating the cost and requesting approval for up to 15% of the historical cost (up to \$15,000). If it is more than this amount, we will come back to the board.

MOTION#: 12-16-25-7
MOTION: BOND
SECOND: LEWIS
AYES: BOND, DEMKO, GÜT-ZIPPERT, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES
CARRIES: YES

- d. Oches motioned to approve payment to Complete Bus for repairs to Bus 8 (Exhibit 10, Page 44-45).

Discussion: Dr. Davis reminded board members of the recent accidents involving Beacon School buses (both deemed not our fault). One bus was declared totaled, unfortunately. The other bus can be repaired. The cost for the repair may exceed \$10,000. For this reason, we are seeking approval to repair it as soon as possible (at whatever the cost) to ensure we have adequate vehicles.

MOTION#: 12-16-25-8
MOTION: OCHES
SECOND: DEMKO
AYES: BOND, DEMKO, GÜT-ZIPPERT, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES
CARRIES: YES

- e. Dr. Güt-Zippert motioned to approve Transportation Plan, which outlines timeline for purchasing one additional bus and four new vehicles (Exhibit 11, Pages 46-50).

Discussion: Dr. Davis walked the board members through the plan as presented initially in 2024. This plan outlined the need to purchase a new vehicle and the need to replace four other vehicles in the future. He then shared the updated plan, which includes purchasing a new bus in 2026 (a year earlier than initially planned due to the totaled bus) and moving forward with the plan to replace four vehicles. He added these costs are already planned for and would come out of the capital improvement fund. There was brief discussion about the process for purchasing.

MOTION#: 12-16-25-9

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

- f. Dr. Lewis motioned to approve contract with Primary Solutions, pending Prosecuting Attorney's approval (Exhibit 12, Pages 51-57).

MOTION#: 12-16-25-10
MOTION: LEWIS
SECOND: BOND
AYES: BOND, DEMKO, GÜT-ZIPPERT, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES
CARRIES: YES

- g. Oches motioned to approve 2026 OACB membership fee (Exhibit 13, Pages 58-59).

MOTION#: 12-16-25-11
MOTION: OCHES
SECOND: GÜT-ZIPPERT
AYES: BOND, DEMKO, GÜT-ZIPPERT, LEWIS, OCHES
ABSTAIN: JOLLEY
CARRIES: YES

- h. Demko motioned to approve the use of federal subgrant funds from Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) during calendar year 2026, including the submission of the required OnePlan and subsequent funding application (Exhibit 14, Page 60).

MOTION#: 12-16-25-12
MOTION: DEMKO
SECOND: LEWIS
AYES: BOND, DEMKO, GÜT-ZIPPERT, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES
CARRIES: YES

- i. Bond motioned to approve 2026 ISF allocation (Exhibit 15, Pages 61-62).

MOTION#: 12-16-25-13
MOTION: BOND
SECOND: OCHES
AYES: BOND, DEMKO, GÜT-ZIPPERT, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES
CARRIES: YES

- j. Dr. Güt-Zippert motioned to approve the 2026 operating budget (Exhibit 16, Page 63-64).

Discussion: Dr. Davis walked the board members through budget. He highlighted this is the first time expenses are projected to exceed revenues. He added revenues are conservative and expenses are a high estimate. This is done every year. Another thing to note is that the agency is moving forward with its board-approved succession plan, which results in three duplicate

positions to ensure a smooth transition. Once these positions are fully transitioned, three positions will be eliminated from the budget. Lastly, the 2025 budget ended in the black, which was a better-than-projected outcome. Given these three facts, the budget should remain healthy in 2026. He added the carry over, waiver reserve and capital funds are all healthy, as well. Lastly, he highlighted the waiver appropriation, which represents an adequate amount to ensure that the services for which the Medicaid expenditures are made. There was brief discussion about moving funds in and out of the capital fund.

MOTION#: 12-16-25-14
MOTION: GÜT-ZIPPERT
SECOND: OCHES
AYES: BOND, DEMKO, GÜT-ZIPPERT, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES
CARRIES: YES

- k. Oches motioned to approve the ACBDD's use of funds in calendar year 2026 to pay the nonfederal share of Medicaid expenditures as required by sections 5126.059 and 5126.0510 of the ORC. The amount appropriated for 2026 shall be \$7,272,546.63, which represents an adequate amount to ensure that the services for which the Medicaid expenditures are made will be available in Athens County in a manner that conforms to all applicable state and federal laws. This appropriated amount represents an ongoing financial commitment of the ACBDD (Exhibit 17, Page 65).

MOTION#: 12-16-25-15
MOTION: OCHES
SECOND: LEWIS
AYES: BOND, DEMKO, GÜT-ZIPPERT, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES
CARRIES: YES

6. Board Reports:

- a. Superintendent, Dr. Kevin Davis (Exhibit 18, Pages 66-94).
Report stands. He added information being shared by the OACB called "The Mandate for Change," which is focused on future planning and priorities. This is designed to address challenges in the field that have been known for some time. The document, which is in its draft form, is being developed by OACB leadership and Superintendents, so we do have input into the document. The document outlines several concepts that are expected to help build sustainability in the system. Many we agree with and believe should have been implemented years ago. There are a few concepts that cause concern. Concept 22 states that all CBs with education programs must require their LEAs to pay for any excess cost, or the programs close. We are not in support of this particular concept given the challenges we would have in accomplishing this. Other concepts that are eliminated but open to further discussion also give us concern. One states to close all CB school and another similarly states to close all CB preschools. We want to be on record that we do not support these particular concepts, and these are not coming from us (the ACBDD). Dr. Jolley, who serves as the OACB Vice President, shares similar concerns. He expressed his desire to see focus on local autonomy and serving individuals and their families.

Dr. Davis shared conversations are expected to continue in 2026. The final product is expected to be presented to DODD. What DODD does with it is unknown. But before anything is finalized, we will be sure to provide our input and feedback.

- b. Director of Education, Becky Martin (Exhibit 19, Page 95-96).
Report stands.
 - c. Director of Finance, Scott Zielinski (Exhibit 20, Pages 97-118).
Report stands.
 - d. Director of Human Resources, Tristin Lawrence (Exhibit 21, Pages 119-122).
Report stands.
 - e. Director of Facilities and Transportation, Chris Linscott (Exhibit 22, Pages 123-124).
Report stands. He added Bus 8, the one in need of repair, is expected to be delivered tomorrow. He thanked the board for their support.
 - f. MUI Coordinator, Angela Patrick (Exhibit 23, Page 125).
Report stands.
 - g. Director of Service and Support, Stephanie Kendrick (Exhibit 24, Pages 126-128).
Reports stands.
 - h. Director of Integrate Athens, Autumn Brown (Exhibit 25, Pages 129-132).
Report stands.
 - i. Assistant Superintendent, Arian Smedley (Exhibit 26, Pages 133-137).
Report stands. She highlighted a shout-out to Doug Mitchell, Transition Coordinator, who is back to work full-time after leave. His focus is on helping those who are graduating, ensuring they have a plan in place for after graduation.
7. No comments from Visitors relative to the agenda.
8. No comments from Unions relative to the agenda.
9. Regarding comments from the Board, Oches celebrated the passage of the levy. He mentioned Sabaiduc, future board member, served as the committee chair. Dr. Jolley also reminded the Polar Bear Plunge is coming up. The date for 2026 is Feb. 21.
10. Bond motioned to adjourn at 7:18.

MOTION#: 12-16-25-16
MOTION: BOND
SECOND: OCHES

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