

ATHENS COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 23, 2026 – 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. Margaret Demko, Board Vice President, called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.
2. Arian Smedley did roll call.

CONNER	Present
DEMKO	Present
GÜT-ZIPPERT	Present
JOLLEY	Present – virtual
LEWIS	Present
OCHES	Present
SABAIDUC	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 Services & Support
Angela Patrick	MUI Coordinator
Joe Rosler	Bus Driver / Teamsters
Tim Jones	SSA / PGO
Mandi Knowlton-Cain	SSA / PGO

3. Dr. Lewis read the Mission Statement.
4. Oches motioned to approve the amended agenda, which added the contract with Walky Talky and the updated Administrative Policy 4.

MOTION#: 6-23-26-1
MOTION: OCHES
SECOND: SABAIDUC
AYES: CONNER, DEMKO, GÜT-ZIPPERT, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES, SABAIDUC
CARRIES: YES

5. New Business:

Items for review and discussion:

- a. Board members reviewed the Beacon School 2025-2026 Yearbook (Enclosed). Dr. Davis stated it is prepared every year as a way to celebrate the previous school year and is provided to all students of the school.
- b. Dr. Davis provided the board members with an update on Rays Days! Summer Camp (Exhibit 1, Pages 1-2), which is in its second week. The pictures highlighted training week, which included a parent every day coming in to share about their child's needs, and the first week of camp. He also highlighted stats and dates of camp. He invited board members to stop by any time to see the camp in action.
- c. Dr. Davis provided the board members an update on Community & Career Exploration Program (Exhibit 2, Page 3). He added this is a program of the Office of Integrate Athens. This week had 8 participants who had some work experience. The next session, after camp, is designed to support those with no work experience.
- d. Dr. Lewis motioned to approve updated policies for approval (Exhibit 3, Pages 4-19).

Discussion: Dr. Davis walked the board members through the changes in each of the policies.

MOTION#: 6-23-26-2
MOTION: LEWIS
SECOND: GÜT-ZIPPERT
AYES: CONNER, DEMKO, GÜT-ZIPPERT, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES, SABAIUDUC
CARRIES: YES

- e. Board members discussed future meetings/trainings:
 - i. No meeting in July.
 - ii. Regular meeting: Tuesday, August 25, 2026, 6 p.m.

Motions for vote:

- a. Sabaiduc motioned to approve May Board Meeting Minutes (Exhibit 4, Page 20-25).

MOTION#: 6-23-26-3
MOTION: SABAIUDUC
SECOND: LEWIS
AYES: CONNER, GÜT-ZIPPERT, JOLLEY, LEWIS, SABAIUDUC
ABSTAIN: DEMKO, OCHES
CARRIES: YES

- b. Oches motioned to approve agreement with Athens-Meigs Educational Service Center for OT services for the 2026-2027 academic year at Beacon School, pending Prosecuting Attorney's approval (Exhibit 5, Page 26-28).

MOTION#: 6-23-26-4
MOTION: OCHES
SECOND: GÜT-ZIPPERT
AYES: CONNER, DEMKO, GÜT-ZIPPERT, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES, SABAIDUC
CARRIES: YES

- c. Sabaiduc motioned to approve agreement with Athens-Meigs Educational Service Center for PT reimbursement for the 2026-2027 academic year, pending Prosecuting Attorney's approval (Exhibit 6, Page 29-33).

MOTION#: 6-23-26-5
MOTION: SABAIDUC
SECOND: OCHES
AYES: CONNER, DEMKO, GÜT-ZIPPERT, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES, SABAIDUC
CARRIES: YES

- d. Dr. Lewis motioned to approve renewed agreement with the Athens County Family & Children First Council (FCFC), pending Prosecuting Attorney's approval (Exhibit 8, Pages 34-39).

MOTION#: 6-23-26-6
MOTION: LEWIS
SECOND: GÜT-ZIPPERT
AYES: CONNER, DEMKO, GÜT-ZIPPERT, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES
ABSTAIN: SABAIDUC
CARRIES: YES

- e. Oches motioned to approve renewed Admission Agreements with the Ohio developmental centers, pending Prosecuting Attorney's approval (Exhibit 9, Pages 40-49).

MOTION#: 6-23-26-7
MOTION: OCHES
SECOND: SABAIDUC
AYES: CONNER, DEMKO, GÜT-ZIPPERT, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES, SABAIDUC
CARRIES: YES

- f. Dr. Güt-Zippert motioned to approve agreement with Walky Talky for Speech Language Pathology services for the 2026-2027 academic year at Beacon School, pending Prosecuting Attorney's approval. (Exhibit 19, Pages 87-97).

MOTION#: 6-23-26-8
MOTION: GÜT-ZIPPERT

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

- g. Dr. Güt-Zippert motioned to approve Administrative Policy 4. Athens DD Privacy and Cybersecurity Program (Exhibit 20, Pages 98-99).

MOTION#: 6-23-26-9
MOTION: GÜT-ZIPPERT
SECOND: OCHES
AYES: CONNER, DEMKO, GÜT-ZIPPERT, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES, SABAIDUC
CARRIES: YES

6. Board Reports:

- a. Superintendent, Dr. Kevin Davis (Exhibit 10, Pages 50-51).
Report stands. Dr. Davis shared a proposal developed by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) outlining a plan for addressing challenges in DD boards in 10 Southeast Ohio counties. The proposal offloads the waiver responsibilities (including the match) from the county board to the state. Dr. Davis highlighted their language, which states the DD system in Ohio is under significant financial strain. He also highlighted the line that states, “this proposal is not about eliminating county boards.” Lastly, he highlighted this does not represent a mandate. He added this document has been shared with the SSA department, and with legislators.

He shared MEORC will be meeting with the DODD director tomorrow to provide our input on this proposal.

He stated this is a lot of information and none of it is final. He added this information may change multiple times before it is finalized. He welcomed any questions or comments from board members.

- b. Director of Finance, Scott Zielinski (Exhibit 11, Pages 52-60).
Report stands. He highlighted we have operated our first month without Carol Janes-Tinkham. He gave a shout-out to Amy Sheridan, her replacement, for how well she has been doing.

Dr. Davis also encouraged the board members to check out Carol’s Corner, which is now complete.

- c. Director of Human Resources, Tristin Lawrence (Exhibit 12, Pages 61-70).
Report stands. She provided an update to her board report – all positions for camp have been hired, and so there is no longer an active search for these positions.

- d. Director of Service and Support, Stephanie Kendrick (Exhibit 13, Pages 71-73).
Report stands. She introduced a new SSA, Mandi Knowlton-Cain, who was in attendance. She also announced Jason Bourne has been hired as an SSA, which means the department is now fully staffed.
- e. Assistant Principal, Jamie Bartee (Exhibit 14, Page 74-76).
Report stands.
- f. Director of Facilities and Transportation, Chris Linscott (Exhibit 15, Page 77).
Report stands.
- g. MUI Coordinator, Angela Patrick (Exhibit 16, Page 78).
Report stands.
- h. Director of Integrate Athens, Autumn Brown (Exhibit 17, Pages 79-81).
Report stands.
- i. Assistant Superintendent, Arian Smedley (Exhibit 18, Pages 82-86).
Report stands. She highlighted the successful Athens County Youth Summit, which was hosted in our building. She gave a shout-out to the team at the ACBDD who helped make it all happen and run smoothly.

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. Jolley said he has not heard much from the association's perspective. He said he appreciated Dr. Davis's transparency in sharing the document with the board and with staff. He added he has some concerns about the structure, mainly that family members are not represented on COG's. He also welcomed any questions or comments, and he would happily share any input with the association.

Regarding comments from the Board, Demko shared she was invited to speak at the Statehouse to share concerns about Senate Bill 315, which talked about removing family paid caregiver support. This is an education session for legislative representatives.

Regarding comments from the Board, Dr. Güt-Zippert noticed a typo in the dates listed in the "upcoming events" section. The dates for Beacon's In-Service should be 8/18-21/26; and the date for the first day for Beacon students should be 8/24/26.

10. Conner motioned to adjourn at 6:38 p.m.

MOTION#: 6-23-26-10

MOTION: CONNER

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