

ATHENS COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 24, 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. Dr. Jason Jolley, Board President, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. Arian Smedley did roll call.

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

Staff / Others in Attendance:

Dr. Kevin Davis	Superintendent
Arian Smedley	Assistant Superintendent
Scott Zielinski	Director of Finance
Stephanie Kendrick	Director of Services & Support
Chris Linscott	Director of Facilities & Transportation
Becky Martin	Director of Education / Principal
Jamie Barte	Assistant Principal
Autumn Brown	Director of Integrate Athens
Time Jones	Service & Support Administrator, PGO
Brie Stamm	Instructor, ABEA
Doug Mitchell	Transition Coordinator, ABEA

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

MOTION#: 3-24-26-1
MOTION: LEWIS
SECOND: OCHES
AYES: CONNER, DEMKO, GÜT-ZIPPERT, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES, SABAIDUC
CARRIES: YES

5. New Business:

Items for review and discussion:

- a. Dr. Davis walked the board members through the 2025 Annual Report (Enclosed). He highlighted the numbers from 2025, as well as the Strategic Plan Progress Update. Board members complimented the report.
- b. Dr. Davis walked the board members through the ACBDD's Special Edition (Enclosed). He shared this is published in collaboration with Ohio University's E.W. Scripps School of Journalism and The Post. Special thanks go out to Professor Bill Reader, who has embedded this project into one of his classes. Dr. Davis highlighted a story featuring Board Member Oches. Board members complimented the publication.
- c. Dr. Davis walked the board members through the ACBDD's Fall / Winter Newsletter (Enclosed). He shared the publication is a collection of social media announcements. It is helpful to have the various developments in one document for historical purposes. Board members complimented the publication.
- d. Dr. Davis walked the board members through the Athens Employee Engagement Regional Comparison Survey Results (Exhibit 1, Pages 1-5). He started by offering some context. With the help of MEORC, the agency has conducted Staff Engagement Surveys for the past eight years. These surveys measure staff engagement year to year. In addition to comparing our agency to ourselves year to year, MEORC also compares the county boards they support to each other. This report focuses on comparing the ACBDD with the other counties that also do staff engagement surveys and also have schools. The report outlined ACBDD's strengths, areas for improvement, and a list of suggested action steps.

Oches pointed out item 2a, which focused on whether staff thought the agency was fiscally stable. In 2023, this was identified as an Opportunity for Improvement. At that time, less than half of the staff believed the agency was fiscally stable. In 2025, 81% said they thought it was fiscally stable. Oches said he wanted to recognize the effort put in to address this opportunity for improvement.

Board members expressed appreciation for getting a full picture, both how we do internally and how we compare to similar agencies.

- e. Board members discussed future meetings/trainings:
 - i. Training: Tuesday, April 28, 2026, 5 p.m. – Accreditation
 - ii. Regular meeting: Tuesday, April 28, 2026, 6 p.m.

Motions for vote:

- a. Demko motioned to approve 2026 Organizational Meeting Minutes (Exhibit 2, Pages 6-9).

MOTION#: 3-24-26-2

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

- b. Demko motioned to approve January Board Meeting Minutes (Exhibit 3, Page 10-15).

MOTION#: 3-24-26-3
MOTION: DEMKO
SECOND: OCHES
AYES: CONNER, DEMKO, GÜT-ZIPPERT, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES, SABIDUC
CARRIES: YES

- c. Oches motioned to approve resolution expressing appreciation to the Albany VFW for hosting and organizing the eighth annual Polar Bear Plunge and their subsequent donation to the Beacon School PTA (Exhibit 4, Page 16).

Discussion: Dr. Davis shared this year's event raised just over \$11,000, which brings the total raised for the Beacon PTA to approximately \$105,000. This year's proceeds will go toward the purchase and installation of shade structures on the playground and for a replacement swing set. An appreciation event will be scheduled at a later date.

MOTION#: 3-24-26-4
MOTION: OCHES
SECOND: GÜT-ZIPPERT
AYES: CONNER, DEMKO, GÜT-ZIPPERT, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES, SABIDUC
CARRIES: YES

- d. Demko motioned to approve providing \$5,000 in local match toward the 2026 Mobility Management Grant, managed by HAPCAP (Exhibit 5, Pages 17-18).

Discussion: Dr. Davis shared the amount requested this year is \$3,000, with an additional request to consider providing \$5,000 instead, citing rising program costs. He added we have already budgeted for the \$3,000, which has been in place for many years. However, he added we do have enough funds to cover the \$5,000. Demko shared this is an important investment in our community for those we serve, thus supports increasing the contribution to \$5,000. Dr. Lewis shared she has been a beneficiary of their services and also supports the increase. Dr. Jolley asked if the increased match translates to an increase to their grant. We did not have official word on this, but our assumption is that there is no increase to the grant amount.

MOTION#: 3-24-26-5
MOTION: DEMKO
SECOND: LEWIS

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

- e. Oches motioned to approve renewal of Aramark, Beacon School's food service provider (Exhibit 6, Page 19-21).

MOTION#: 3-24-26-6
MOTION: OCHES
SECOND: DEMKO
AYES: CONNER, DEMKO, GÜT-ZIPPERT, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES, SABAIUDUC
CARRIES: YES

- f. Dr. Lewis motioned to approve a renewed COMCorps Agreement, pending prosecuting attorney's approval (Exhibit 7, Page 22).

MOTION#: 3-24-26-7
MOTION: LEWIS
SECOND: SABAIUDUC
AYES: CONNER, DEMKO, GÜT-ZIPPERT, LEWIS, OCHES, SABAIUDUC
ABSTAIN: JOLLEY
CARRIES: YES

- g. Dr. Güt-Zippert motioned to approve working with Kramer Engineers to conduct an HVAC study of 801 W. Union Street (Exhibit 8, Pages 23-26).

Discussion: Dr. Davis shared this study will provide the agency with a comprehensive look at the building's HVAC system, which is now 46 years old. In addition, the study will include a coordinated plan for improvements that will extend the life of the overall system.

MOTION#: 3-24-26-8
MOTION: GÜT-ZIPPERT
SECOND: OCHES
AYES: CONNER, DEMKO, GÜT-ZIPPERT, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES, SABAIUDUC
CARRIES: YES

- h. Demko motioned to approve naming space in the administrative wing as "Carol's Corner," to recognize Carol Janes-Tinkham's 46 years of service, as she is set to retire this summer (Exhibit 9, Page 27-28).

Discussion: Dr. Davis shared this is an initiative to celebrate Janes-Tinkham's 46 years of service to the ACBDD. Given the unique length of service, we wanted to do something special to recognize it. The plan is to renovate her current work space into a waiting area for parents, providers, or others waiting to meet with someone. We will hang a plaque that reads, "Welcome to Carol's Corner."

MOTION#: 3-24-26-9
MOTION: DEMKO
SECOND: SABAIDUC
AYES: CONNER, DEMKO, GÜT-ZIPPERT, JOLLEY, LEWIS, OCHES, SABAIDUC
CARRIES: YES

6. Board Reports:

- a. Superintendent, Dr. Kevin Davis (Exhibit 10, Pages 29-51).
Report stands. Dr. Davis added an overview of the American Women Quarter Program, which highlights specific achievements among American women. One of the 20 women honored this way included Stacey Park Milbern, an accomplished advocate and proponent of disability justice for individuals with developmental disabilities.
- b. Director of Education, Becky Martin (Exhibit 11, Page 52-54).
Report stands. Martin added that Dr. Davis shared this same overview of the program and presented quarters to the entire Beacon team. In addition, she highlighted prom on April 10.
- c. Director of Finance, Scott Zielinski (Exhibit 12, Pages 55-63).
Report stands.
- d. Director of Human Resources, Tristin Lawrence (Exhibit 13, Pages 64-70).
Report stands.
- e. Director of Facilities and Transportation, Chris Linscott (Exhibit 14, Pages 71-72).
Report stands.
- f. MUI Coordinator, Angela Patrick (Exhibit 15, Page 73).
Report stands.
- g. Director of Service and Support, Stephanie Kendrick (Exhibit 16, Pages 74-76).
Report stands.
- h. Director of Integrate Athens, Autumn Brown (Exhibit 17, Pages 77-82).
Report stands. She highlighted some cross-department collaboration between Integrate Athens and Beacon. Through the Bridges to Success program, a young adult student is participating in fieldtrips focused on job skill development. This student has been going to Bagel Street Deli to gain work experiences. Linscott gave a shout-out to the drivers for helping to make the fieldtrips possible.

Demko complimented the success of the DD Awareness Fest, which was on March 3.

- i. Assistant Superintendent, Arian Smedley (Exhibit 18, Pages 83-94).
Report stands. She provided an update on the next Family Forum. The next forum on
Guardianship & Supported Decision Making has been rescheduled for April 8.

7. No comments from Visitors relative to the agenda.

8. No comments from Unions relative to the agenda.

9. No comments from the Board.

10. Conner motioned to adjourn.

MOTION#: 3-24-26-10

MOTION: CONNER

SECOND: LEWIS

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

CARRIES: YES