

THE PERRY COUNTY BOARD OF DD
BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 16, 2024

Sarah A. Winters Building, 601 Senior Drive, New Lexington, Ohio 43764

I. President Rachel Barnhart called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

II. ROLL CALL:	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED	UNEXCUSED
Rachel Barnhart	X			
Kevin Howell	X			
Fritzie Nitschke		X	X	
Matt Sheridan	X			
Denise Dupler	X			
Sky Gettys		X	X	
Karen Chennells	X			

Others in attendance: David Couch, Caley Boyden, Ashley Reed, Shelly Lackey, and Chrissy Berkheimer.

III. RECOGNITION:

Res. 2024-10-01

Karen Chennells moved to recognize Chrissy Berkheimer for being awarded the leader in excellence. Chrissy is being recognized for being a true leader in excellence by demonstrating personal integrity and professional ethical conduct, by exhibiting passion for her job, the PCBDD community, and by going above and beyond to support others in the way she lives through the PCBDD mission. Chrissy's efforts, enthusiasm and passion drive her success and impact the success of the PCBDD. Kevin Howell seconded the motion.

Discussion: Rachel shared she couldn't have stated the motion any better. Board members all congratulated Chrissy.

Motion Passed by majority vote.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Res. 2024-10-02

Matt Sheridan moved to approve the October regular board meeting agenda and any additions, as submitted. Karen Chennells seconded the motion.

Discussion: No additions.

Motion Passed by majority vote.

V. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Res. 2024-10-03

Kevin Howell moved to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2024, PCBDD regular board meeting, as presented. Matt Sheridan seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Motion Passed by majority vote.

VI. **BOARD REPORTS:**

A. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT – DAVID COUCH - Verbal Report

David’s report was included in the packet. Jenny’s MUI report was included in the packet. David shared that there are several OACB things in his report for Board members. There are vacancies in OACB for the Board of Trustees. If you are interested in a position, we can assist you with the application process if you like. Sky served as a trustee a few years ago, so if you want to know what it is like ask him. Voting will take place tonight for the Delegate Assembly. There were two resolutions emailed to Board members. Resolution 1: provides language changes to the OACB by-laws. It also contains a copy of the OACB by-laws.

Resolution 2: establishes a policy position on the “14c” issue, a Department of Labor certification allowing for the payment of sub-minimum wages.

No updates on the levy, no reports from the Prosecutor. No providers indicated they wanted to take over the basketball program. We will continue to work with PerCo. David included in his report the updated timeline for the Transitional Assistant Superintendent. These updates were made at the Board’s direction at the September board meeting. New Lexington received a grant from the State of Ohio that they are using to complete their plans for the Workforce Development Center. This is located at the former elementary school by the football field. They began the program in response to us approaching them about incorporating a program to help students gain skills to work in the DD field. Included in their plans is a state-of-the-art training center for people with disabilities and those who are interested in supporting them. An emphasis will be on the implementation of technology, both for use with daily living as well as for Direct Support Professionals. Both the facility and programming will be adaptive to support opportunities for students with disabilities to access the programs offered. A wellness space will be available to the community as well as a health clinic. Our involvement with NL Schools in this as well as other programs we collaborate on are and will open doors to many more opportunities for the people we support.

B. CHILDREN’S PROGRAM DIRECTOR’S REPORT – ASHLEY REED

Ashley’s report was included in the packet. Ashley shared the pictures were from their department ADA. She shared it was a great day full of learning about each other and how they could help each other grow.

C. SSA ADMINISTRATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT – CHUCK DAVIS

Chuck's report was included in the packet. David noted that the picture in the report shows how much an individual can grow. She participates in the ALA Volunteer program, Pioneering Possibilities, and a variety of things throughout the community.

D. COMMUNITY SUPPORTS DIRECTOR'S REPORT - SHELLY LACKEY

Shelly's report was included in the packet. No discussion.

E. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORTS DIRECTOR'S REPORT – JESSICA STROUP

Jessica's report was included in the packet. David shared the 3rd Quarter Strategic Plan Progress report details that was handed out to Board members.

VII. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES:

Res. 2024-10-04

Karen Chennells moved to approve financials and expenditures, as presented. Denise Dupler seconded the motion.

Discussion: The financials and expenditures were included in the packet. The levy money was delayed but has been received so it will be shown in next month's reports. PERS is still incorrect. Caley shows the amount that should have been paid in her report. She will update next month if the amount is changed to reconcile with the Auditor. Caley shared that \$500,000 was not transferred to MEORC, the amount transferred was \$400,000. She shared that if the Board wanted to transfer the other \$100,000 we could or we could do this later, if needed. Principal and interest payment was made for the SAW building.

Motion Passed by majority vote.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS: None

IX. NEW BUSINESS:

Res. 2024-10-05

Kevin Howell moved to approve the following delegates to the 2024 OACB (Ohio Association of County Boards) Delegate Assembly on Wednesday, December 4, 2024, (time 6:00 pm) virtual or located in Columbus, Ohio. Karen Chennells seconded the motion.

Discussion: Rachel Barnhart nominated Sky Gettys as the delegate. Rachel Barnhart shared she would be the alternate delegate if Sky could not attend, Board members agreed.

Motion Passed by majority vote.

Res. 2024-10-06

Karen Chennells moved to approve the contract with LOL in Nature for January 1 to December 31, 2025, for professional services not to exceed \$100,000.00, as presented. Matt Sheridan seconded the motion.

Discussion: LOL has provided Nature Based Enrichment services for three years. We intended to direct these services toward training our staff to provide these services, but our efforts have not worked out. We simply do not have the capacity to take on the services. The current contract focuses on providing the services and discontinues the training efforts. This has been very helpful in diverting youth from institutional placements. Denise asked if the cost of the contract is the same as previous years, David shared no, last contract was \$75,000 as we were trying to train some of our staff to take over and those staff have since left the agency and nobody in the agency has the capacity to take on these duties. Shelly shared that this puts them back into Summer Camp. Rachel questioned if this was for groups and individuals, David shared that this covers the cost of both scenarios. Karen shared how beneficial this service is for individuals.

Motion Passed by majority vote.

Res. 2024-10-07

Kevin Howell moved to provide \$25,000.00 to New Lexington Schools for participation in childcare services. Karen Chennells seconded the motion.

Discussion: As discussed in September this will be a benefit to assist in retaining employees with young children. This amount will provide funding for the service to continue through the summer months when school is not in session. We will be able to access 11spots by January 1. I am requesting the Board to commit the funds for participation. An agreement will provide the formal avenue for the service if we are willing to commit the funds. David wants to have a solid partnership with New Lexington schools. David shared we have nine people children that could go into the service today. We also have one staff member that is due with a child in December. This service might help retain her in her position, which she is very good at. Kevin asked if this was for 2025-2026 and David shared yes it would be. The main cost would cover keeping the service open in the summer months for staff. Matt questioned if this would be a taxable benefit to employees, David shared he was not sure how that would work.

Motion Passed by majority vote. (Rachel Barnhart abstained)

Res. 2024-10-08

Matt Sheridan moved to provide \$5,000.00 to New Lexington Schools to support a position to oversee Big Brothers Big Sisters and integrate ALA students into the program. Kevin Howell seconded the motion.

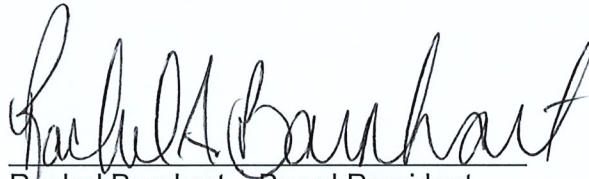
Discussion: New Lexington Schools will integrate BBBS programs into the school day and after school programs. Sharing funding opens the door for specifically integrating Academy for Leadership Abilities students into their Lunch Buddies, mentorship, and other programs. If we choose not to be involved the opportunity will still be there, but I don't expect it will be targeted in the way I think it can be most helpful. Shelly shared that the person they are hiring for this position is from New Lexington and already has relationships built with the students.

Motion Passed by majority vote. (Rachel Barnhart abstained)

X. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

XI. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Karen Chennells moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:30 pm.



Rachel A. Barnhart

Rachel Barnhart – Board President



Denise Dupler – Board Secretary