

THE PERRY COUNTY BOARD OF DD
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
February 19, 2025
Sarah A. Winters Building, 601 Senior Drive, New Lexington, Ohio 43764

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

II. ROLL CALL: PRESENT ABSENT EXCUSED UNEXCUSED

Rachel Barnhart	X			
Kevin Howell	X			
Fritzie Nitschke	Arrived at 5:03pm			
Linda Whetstone	X			
Denise Dupler		X	X	
Karen Chennells	X			
Sky Gettys	X			

Others in attendance: David Couch, Chrissy Berkheimer, Jessica Stroup, Ashley Reed, Caley Boyden, Chuck Davis, Shelly Lackey, Whitney Beverlin, Charles Tolliver, Doane Livingstone, Katie Lamneck, and Lorrie Lamneck.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Res. 2025-02-01

Sky Gettys moved to approve the February regular board meeting agenda and any additions, as submitted. Karen Chennells seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Motion Passed by majority vote. (Fritzie Nitschke was not present)

****Pioneering Possibilities individuals present introduced themselves.**

IV. RECOGNITION:

Res. 2025-02-02

Kevin Howell moved to recognize the "DD Awareness Month Proclamation," as presented. Karen Chennells seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Motion Passed by majority vote.

V. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Res. 2025-02-03

Karen Chennells moved to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2025, PCBDD regular board meeting, as presented. Sky Gettys seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Motion Passed by majority vote. (Kevin Howell abstained)

Res. 2025-02-04

Sky Gettys moved to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2025, PCBDD organizational board meeting, as presented. Linda Whetstone seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Motion Passed by majority vote. (Kevin Howell abstained)

VI. BOARD REPORTS:

A. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – DAVID COUCH - *Verbal Report*

David's report was included in the packet. David reminded the Board that Jenny will host the MUI training in March. The November board meeting conflicts with the OACB Winter Conference. David asked board members if they wanted to change the date or proceed with the scheduled date. Board members agreed to look at their calendars and adjust the date at the March board meeting. It will be added to the April board meeting as a motion to officially change the date. Jenny's MUI report was included in David's report. January was a heavy month for MUIs and deaths. David shared we have an aging population and that it will come into play at some different times in the years ahead. Pending the board's approval in an upcoming motion, David shared he wishes to seek outside counsel for the upcoming levy. An executive session is scheduled for this evening to discuss the next steps for the Transitional Assistant Superintendent position. On March 7, 2025, OPRA and Pete Moore are coming to Perry County for a visit. From 12pm-1:30pm they will be meeting with the board and New Lexington schools. David extended the invitation to board members to attend if they were able to. David shared that PCBDD, and his name are making some rounds in Columbus. I have stood my ground in a situation I expect we will be involved in, both programmatically and fiscally, but it is not well received in some circles. Ohio's DD system was not designed to be a crisis system, nor does it function as one. However, the expectation has developed, and is being pushed at all levels, for PCBDD to respond as if we are a crisis response system. It involves politics, expectations and perceptions, and money, at both the state and local levels. David feels that people are trying to bend the DD system to their expectations, which will weaken and eventually destroy what is working at the local level. This situation has taken a better turn since he dug his heels in. Lastly, Caley and David visited the village of Glenford recently. They want to do some things to increase accessibility in their community. We are going to assist with funding for a few accessibility upgrades, probably less than \$2,000, but helpful to them. They also want to renovate a restroom facility to accommodate disability access. We may be able to assist with some of the accessibility efforts. Once they have a cost David shared that he will bring it to the board for consideration.

B. CHILDREN'S PROGRAM DIRECTOR REPORT – ASHLEY REED

Ashley's report was included in the packet. Karen shared that when Justin was here he really helped her son with employment applications and Kate Presley picked up right where he left off. Her son got his first job at Dairy Queen.

C. SSA DIRECTOR REPORT – CHUCK DAVIS

Chuck's report was included in the packet.

D. COMMUNITY SUPPORTS DIRECTOR REPORT - SHELLY LACKEY

Shelly's report was included in the packet. Shelly shared that respite is moving along.

E. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORTS DIRECTOR REPORT – JESSICA STROUP

Jessica's report was included in the packet.

VII. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES:

Res. 2025-02-05

Sky Gettys moved to approve expenditures, as presented. Kevin Howell seconded the motion.

Discussion: Caley shared that we are right on target for January. Note that we also had three pay periods in January. The \$7,000 for Max Tech will be reimbursed by the TechCred program. Caley noted that the MEORC account looks like we have spent more than double from two years ago, but she reminded the board that we had long-term placements. No questions about any of the expenditures.

Motion Passed by majority vote.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS: None

IX. NEW BUSINESS:

Res. 2025-02-06

Kevin Howell moved to approve the 2025 Superintendent's Professional Development Plan, as presented. Karen Chennells seconded the motion.

Discussion: Ohio DODD certification rules were revised effective July 4, 2013, to require the Board to annually approve a Professional Development plan for the Superintendent. The certification for Superintendent David Couch was renewed at the end of 2021 and will not expire until January 5, 2027.

Motion Passed by majority vote.

Res. 2025-02-07

Sky Gettys moved to authorize the Superintendent to engage legal services for preparing for a levy in the Fall, at a cost not to exceed \$5,000. Karen Chennells seconded the motion.

Discussion: Prosecutor Flautt prepared documents for us to be able to seek a levy in the fall of 2025. In December Caley and David attended a workshop on details and technicalities in the levy process at the annual Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) conference. It will be helpful to have legal counsel to guide our approach and in legal matters in this effort. Prosecutor Rugg agrees to us seeking outside counsel, as he is not an expert in this area of law.

Motion Passed by majority vote.

Res. 2025-02-08

Kevin Howell moved to approve the revisions to PCBDD Policy #208 Family Selected Supports. Details of these changes have been processed and approved through the PCBDD Policy Team and Senior Leadership Team, as presented. Linda Whetstone seconded the motion.

Discussion: The changes to policy and procedure: Refreshed and revised policy purpose language on the first page, removed waiver language that was no longer relevant, added that receipts for request or reimbursement need sent to MEORC, and added snacks and toys not related to a child's disability to the unallowable requests list.

Motion Passed by majority vote.

****At this point in the meeting, Caley Boyden, Finance Director presented levy numbers for Board members to look at so a motion could be made at the March meeting. (2.2 +.5)**

Res. 2025-02-09

Karen Chennells moved to adjourn to an Executive Session at 5:56pm to consider the employment of a public employee, the Transitional Assistant Superintendent. Kevin Howell seconded the motion.

Motion Passed by majority vote.

Return from Executive Session at 6:40 P.M.

Board shared with David that they are not interested in sharing a Superintendent. Recommended to interview the one candidate that applied. Board would like an Executive Session at the March board meeting for an interview with Board members.

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

XI. ADJOURNMENT: Sky Gettys moved to adjourn the board meeting at 6:47 pm.



Rachel Barnhart – Board President



Denise Dupler – Board Secretary