

ROSS COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Meeting Minutes

November 13, 2025

CALL TO ORDER: Baylee Butler called the meeting to order at 6:00PM.

ROLL CALL: Board Members in attendance were Hunter Robinson, William Showman, Randi Uhrig, Baylee Butler, and Katie Guba. Dan Riddle and Amy Beam were excused.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Life Exploration Program – Emily Ewing – Emily provided an overview of the Life Exploration Program for Pioneer School graduates with a slide show:

- The program gives students opportunities for hands-on job and life skills training in the community (e.g., maintenance at Ross County Parks, bath bomb production at Maggie's Aromatics, customer service at Café ChilliCoffee).
- Students rotate through various local businesses, supported by therapists and job coaches, and work on skills tailored to specific job requirements.
- Community response has been overwhelmingly positive with more businesses reaching out to participate
- This program has led to noticeable improvements in students' engagement and independence.

B. Dr. Fish – Sibling of the Year Award – Kara Brown –

- Kara showed her award she received for being the recipient of Dr. Tom Fish Sibling of the Year Award for being recognized for her work as a SIB Shop Facilitator.
- SIB Shops provide support for siblings of children with disabilities, fostering community, understanding, and peer relationships.
- Activities include games, discussions, crafts, and guest speakers (therapists) tailored by age groups.
- The program has grown from 4-30 participants, offering a place for siblings to connect and share experiences.

C. Announcement – Ross County has the Special Olympics Statewide Athlete of the Year, Noah Hiles.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Katie Guba made a motion to approve the minutes for October 9, 2025, as presented: seconded by Randi Uhrig. Motion Carried Unanimously. Katie Guba made a motion to approve the minutes for November 4, 2025, as presented; seconded by Hunter Robinson **Motion Carried Unanimously**.

APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES: Expenditures for October 2025 were reviewed. William Showman made a motion to approve the reports as presented; seconded by Randi Uhrig. **Motion carried unanimously.**

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Superintendent's Report – Ms. Beeler presented information on organization activities since the last board meeting:

- Visited Project Search at Berger Hospital; Continuing Project Life.
- Interviews, hiring and orientation with new staff including Instructor Assistants, SSA's and SSA Assistants.
- Presented at Ross County Special Education Network meeting. Met with Chillicothe Transit regarding bus stop at Admin Building; Kiwanis & Kiwanis Board meetings; SOCOG Meetings; Pioneer School Bazaar; Local Superintendents Meetings; Statewide Superintendents Meetings; Management Team meetings; Individual Weekly meetings with new supervisors; Several Local Superintendent meetings regarding proposed legislation and property taxes; Finance Committee Meetings; Halloween Parade; Opening Night for Ross County Trailblazers; Boosters Meeting; Family Children First Council Meetings; Submitted Grant Application for Tech Cred Grant; Attended 4 hours of AI Training at Ohio University Chillicothe; Conflict Management Training.

B. Landrum Youth Empowerment Center Updated – Jared Halm, Business Manager provided an update on the bid process; Approval received from OMAS which was TAT Realty, LLC.; Working with engineering group to draft contract and schedule the work.

NEW BUSINESS Continued

A. Finance Committee Recommendations – Finance committee met November 13, 2025, at 8:30AM. Katie Guba provided highlights from that meeting including levy postponed due to adequate cash reserves and 27 pay periods in 2026, expected to balance in following years.

Katie Guba made motion to approve Operating Budget, 10-Year Cost Projection and Cash Estimate, Salary by Program with COLA Projection, and Residential Fund Budget; seconded by Hunter Robinson. **Motion carried unanimously.**

B. Executive Session – Katie Gruba made a motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to ORC 121.22 (G)(1) to consider the employment, evaluation and compensation of public employee; seconded by William Showman seconded motion.

Went into executive session at 6:36PM.

Roll Call to go into Executive Session: Hunter Robinson, Randi Uhrig, Katie Gruba, Baylee Butler, and William Showman.

Roll Call to come out of Executive Session: Hunter Robinson, Randi Uhrig, Katie Gruba, Baylee Butler, and William Showman.

Exited executive session at 7:02PM.

ADJOURNMENT: Katie Guba made motion to adjourn, and William Showman seconded at 7:02PM.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held December 11, 2025, at The Pioneer School at 11268 County Road 550. Ethics Committee Meeting will be held at 5:30PM.

Respectfully submitted by:



Katie Guba, Secretary