

TUSCARAWAS COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

DATE: Regular Meeting, Monday, March 24, 2025

PLACE: Service & Support Center, 610 Commercial Avenue SW, New Philadelphia, Ohio

TIME: 5:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER: President

1.1 ROLL CALL: Executive Administrative Director

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	
Kathleen Arthurs		x	
Lucinda Bihari		x	(excused)
Julie Brinkman	x		
Thomas Fantin	x		
Andrea Legg	x		(electronic participation)
Heather O'Connor	x		
Ryan Yoss		x	(excused)

1.2 REVIEW OF TuscBDD MISSION AND VISION

- **Mission:** Enhancing Lives
- **Vision:** Inspiring Innovation

1.3 ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA

- Motion 1 under Financial Report was revised.
- Motions 3, 4, and 5 under New Business were added and all remaining motions were renumbered.
- Motion 6 under New Business was revised.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Recommendation to adopt a motion to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2025 Board meeting.

Motion: **Thomas Fantin**

Second: **Heather O'Connor**

Roll Call:

	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>
Kathleen Arthurs	absent	
Lucinda Bihari	absent	
Julie Brinkman	x	
Thomas Fantin	x	
Andrea Legg	x	
Heather O'Connor	x	
Ryan Yoss	absent	

The President declares the motion **carried**.

II. FINANCIAL REPORT

1. Monthly Reconciliation

The financial report for February was provided for review. The noteworthy items were highlighted in the report. Expenditures exceeded revenues by a significant amount in February as there was a large payment made for the fiscal year 2025 third quarter Medicaid waiver match. The highest source of revenue for February was in the Refunds and Reimbursements line item which is largely attributable to the school attendance from November and December. Revenue from the Ohio Department of Education doubled this month compared to February 2024 due to higher enrollment numbers at the school. The ARPA grant was fully expended and all money has been drawn down from the state. The year-to-date spent in Contract Services appears to be high at this point in the year since some contracts are paid on the front end; however, this number should level out as the year progresses. The significant expense noted in the Capital Improvement Projects line item included the installation of lightning rods on all buildings which was required to renew our property insurance.

Recommendation to adopt a motion to approve the financial statement as presented which includes the approval of total expenditures in the amount of \$1,645,221.06 for the month of February.

Motion: **Heather O'Connor**

Second: **Andrea Legg**

Roll Call:

	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>
Kathleen Arthurs	absent	
Lucinda Bihari	absent	
Julie Brinkman	x	
Thomas Fantin	x	
Andrea Legg	x	
Heather O'Connor	x	
Ryan Yoss	absent	

The President declares the motion **carried**.

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS

ETHICS COMMITTEE:

1. Presentation of Items Approved by the Ethics Committee

Recommendation to adopt a motion to approve the list of direct service payments as presented in accordance with standards in ORC §5126.033 as reviewed and approved by the Ethics Committee.

Motion: **Heather O'Connor**

Second: **Thomas Fantin**

Roll Call:

	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>
Kathleen Arthurs	absent	
Lucinda Bihari	absent	
Julie Brinkman	x	

Thomas Fantin	x
Andrea Legg	x
Heather O'Connor	x
Ryan Yoss	absent

The President declares the motion **carried**.

IV. OLD BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

V. NEW BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

1. Director of Youth Services Position and Table of Organization Revision

This 210-day position will oversee the school and work closely with the Dean of Students to provide additional training on school administration. This position will also serve in a broader role with all youth-based programs and will oversee the preschool program, which is currently handled by the ECOESC, resulting in cost savings for TuscBDD.

Recommendation to adopt a motion to approve the position description for a Director of Youth Services, thereby adding this position to the table of organization and authorizing the Superintendent to post and fill the position.

Motion: **Heather O'Connor**

Second: **Andrea Legg**

Roll Call:	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>
Kathleen Arthurs	absent	
Lucinda Bihari	absent	
Julie Brinkman	x	
Thomas Fantin	x	
Andrea Legg	x	
Heather O'Connor	x	
Ryan Yoss	absent	

The President declares the motion **carried**.

2. Revision to Pay Ranges for Non-Union Employees

Recommendation to adopt a motion to approve the revision to the pay ranges for non-union employees to include the addition of a pay range for the position of Director of Youth Services as presented.

Motion: **Thomas Fantin**

Second: **Heather O'Connor**

Roll Call:	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>
Kathleen Arthurs	absent	
Lucinda Bihari	absent	
Julie Brinkman	x	
Thomas Fantin	x	
Andrea Legg	x	

X

absent

The President declares the motion **carried**.

3. School Safety Grant Funding

We have the opportunity to apply for grant dollars to improve student safety. The Tuscarawas Sheriff's Office conducted a walkthrough of Starlight School and provided us with a report. Quotes are currently being gathered on an updated PA system, window clings, additional panic buttons, and mag locks. The grant application will be submitted prior to the end of May.

Recommendation to adopt a motion to authorize the Superintendent to apply to the Ohio Attorney General's Office for a project-based school safety grant up to a maximum of \$40,000 for safety improvements at Starlight School.

Motion: **Andrea Legg**

Second: **Thomas Fantin**

Roll Call:

Yea Nay

Kathleen Arthurs

absent

Lucinda Bihari

absent

Julie Brinkman

X

Thomas Fantin

X

Andrea Legg

X

Heather O'Connor

X

Ryan Yoss

absent

The President declares the motion **carried**.

4. Supplemental Appropriations

Money for Special Olympics still remained in our Special Activities line item, and supplemental appropriations are needed in order to get that money out of our fund and sent to Special Olympics. Nate Kamban also explained that the ARPA grant has been fully expensed as of February 2025, so a supplemental appropriation is needed in order to advance back the money to the General Fund that was used to cover the grant expenses prior to receiving the grant funds.

Recommendation to adopt a motion to approve the following supplemental appropriations:

FROM: E-1910-U025-U05 Special Activities Unappropriated Balance	TO: E-1910-U025-U06 Special Activities Transfer Out	AMOUNT: \$100.00
FROM: E-1420-S050-S40 General Fund Unappropriated Balance	TO: E-1420-S050-S45 General Fund Special Olympics	AMOUNT: \$100.00
FROM: E-1415-S040-S99 ARPA Unappropriated Balance	TO: E-1415-S040-S50 ARPA Advance Out	AMOUNT: \$521,000.00

Motion: **Thomas Fantin**

Second: **Heather O'Connor**

Roll Call:

	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>
Kathleen Arthurs	absent	
Lucinda Bihari	absent	
Julie Brinkman	x	
Thomas Fantin	x	
Andrea Legg	x	
Heather O'Connor	x	
Ryan Yoss	absent	

The President declares the motion **carried**.

5. Transfer of Funds

Recommendation to adopt a motion to approve the following transfer of funds:

FROM: E-1910-U025-U06 Special Activities Transfer Out	TO: R-1420-S050-S44 General Fund Transfers	AMOUNT: \$100.00
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Motion: **Thomas Fantin**

Second: **Heather O'Connor**

Roll Call:

	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>
Kathleen Arthurs	absent	
Lucinda Bihari	absent	
Julie Brinkman	x	
Thomas Fantin	x	
Andrea Legg	x	
Heather O'Connor	x	
Ryan Yoss	absent	

The President declares the motion **carried**.

6. Advance of Funds

Recommendation to adopt a motion to approve the following advance of funds:

FROM: E-1415-S040-S50 ARPA Advance Out	TO: R-1420-S050-S56 General Fund Advance In	AMOUNT: \$521,000.00
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Motion: **Heather O'Connor**

Second: **Thomas Fantin**

Roll Call:

	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>
Kathleen Arthurs	absent	
Lucinda Bihari	absent	
Julie Brinkman	x	

Thomas Fantin	x	
Andrea Legg	x	
Heather O'Connor	x	
Ryan Yoss	absent	The President declares the motion carried .

7. Superintendent Contract Negotiation Resolution

Recommendation to adopt a motion to enter into a contract with Haynes Kessler Myers & Postalakis, Incorporated to partner with Attorney Stephen Postalakis as the Board's legal representation to assist in the superintendent contract negotiation process in accordance with Board Policy 1.8.

Motion: **Andrea Legg**

Second: **Thomas Fantin**

Roll Call:	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>	
Kathleen Arthurs		absent	
Lucinda Bihari		absent	
Julie Brinkman	x		
Thomas Fantin	x		
Andrea Legg	x		
Heather O'Connor	x		
Ryan Yoss		absent	The President declares the motion carried .

8. Donation

Recommendation to adopt a motion to accept the following donation and to utilize it for its specific purpose as designated by the donor:

- \$500.00 in-kind donation from First Federal Community Bank to TuscBDD for the use of their Financial Education Center for the August staff in-service

Motion: **Thomas Fantin**

Second: **Heather O'Connor**

Roll Call:	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>	
Kathleen Arthurs		absent	
Lucinda Bihari		absent	
Julie Brinkman	x		
Thomas Fantin	x		
Andrea Legg	x		
Heather O'Connor	x		
Ryan Yoss		absent	The President declares the motion carried .

9. 2024 TuscBDD Annual Report (discussion only)

Kerri Silverthorn presented the TuscBDD 2024 Annual Report highlighting accomplishments related to the strategic plan objectives for 2024. A copy of the complete report was included

in the Board books and is available to the public at our website: www.tuscbdd.org.

VI. PERSONNEL

1. Personnel Actions: none

VII. REPORTS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

1. **Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities Pipeline Newsletters** – These can be accessed online at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/pipeline/Pages/Pipeline-Quarterly.aspx> (*Copies are also available upon request.*)
2. **Federal/State Updates**
 - **Property Tax Reform:** Reducing tax burden is a big topic at the state and federal level. TuscBDD has been evaluating the need to replace our tax levies to take them from the old value when they were originally passed decades ago to replace them to the current values which would help our fiscal sustainability. Recently, the Ohio House of Representatives passed House Bill 28 which would eliminate the ability of local taxing authorities to request property tax replacement levies. This will now move on to the Senate. Legislators are also discussing the elimination of continuing levies which would affect two of TuscBDD's levies.
 - **DD Advocacy:** Significant cuts to Medicaid are being threatened at the national level. This could include the possibility that our FMAP is reduced which would have a significant impact on our budget as it would increase the amount county boards would be required to contribute at a local level. There is a great deal of advocacy going on by individuals served and their family members as they testify at the state level on what these cuts would mean to the critical services they receive. If you know of anyone willing to provide testimony if called upon by OACB, please let Nate Kamban know, and your name will be added to the list OACB is maintaining.
3. **Local Updates**
 - **Board Member In-Service:** Board members will receive a survey in the coming weeks to help identify in-service topics for 2025. Nate Kamban shared that the UI/MUI rule is currently being reviewed at the state level. One potential change to this rule is the removal of the requirement that Board members are trained annually on this topic. It is proposed that Board members would only need to complete this training upon their initial appointment.
 - **Succession Planning:** To ensure continuity of services, many positions at TuscBDD develop succession planning documents. Nate Kamban's most recent update included revisions based on further research of the Ohio Administrative Code that outlines qualifications for superintendents.
 - **Early Intervention Service Coordination:** The coordination of Early Intervention is currently divided amongst three agencies in Tuscarawas County. TuscBDD provides the services, but prior to coming to us they go through referral and service coordination with Ohio Guidestone. Some county boards have combined service coordination and service delivery under their Early Intervention program which streamlines this process for families. Ohio Guidestone would like to

consider TuscBDD taking over the administration of the service coordination of Early Intervention as soon as July 1, 2025. There are additional details that still need to be worked out including the need to ensure the cost neutrality of this change as a grant is provided by the state to cover this service, but discussions continue as TuscBDD sees the benefit of this for families.

4. **Good News Moment – FANS Network Update:** The FANS Network held a focus group to learn what types of activities and planned events the community participants preferred. Prior to June of 2024, all activities were virtual with limited participation and no provider engagement. The feedback showed that providers preferred smaller-scale, in-person activities that are held weekly. Upon implementing these recommendations, the FANS Network significantly increased engagement in activities and has expanded the type and frequency of events. This information is reflected on page 9 of TuscBDD’s 2024 annual report. Kerri Silverthorn shared that Tuscarawas County is one of the only counties left in Ohio that has a FANS Network.

Heather O’Connor stepped out at 6:05 and returned at 6:07 pm

5. The Superintendent updated the Board on the status of threatened litigation.

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS

1. Major Unusual Incident (MUI) Report
2. Newspaper Articles

IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

X. ADJOURNMENT

1. Adopt a motion to adjourn.

Motion: **Thomas Fantin**

Second: **Heather O’Connor**

Roll Call:

	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>
Kathleen Arthurs	absent	
Lucinda Bihari	absent	
Julie Brinkman	x	
Thomas Fantin	x	
Andrea Legg	x	
Heather O’Connor	x	
Ryan Yoss	absent	

The President declares the motion **carried**.

Time: **6:07** p.m.

“This is a true and accurate record of the meeting of March 24, 2025.”


Julie Brinkman, President


Kathleen Arthurs, Recording Secretary

This is not a verbatim transcript of the March 24, 2025 Board meeting.

2025-0324 minutes