

REGULAR MEETING Minutes May 21, 2026

Board Members Present: Dean Fadel; Katherine Kelly; Marci Straughter; Karen Wilkins

Board Members Virtual: Gene Harshaw; Becky Swartz

Board Members Excused: Michael Underwood

Staff Present: Dot Yeager; Lee Childs; Angie Franke; Gwynn Kinsel; Kathy Lawton;
Larry Macintosh; Amy Magginis; Elizabeth Roberto; Jennifer Schueneman

The Regular meeting of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities was called to order by **Board President Dean Fadel**.

MINUTES

Ms. Swartz moved to approve the regular meeting minutes held on April 23, 2026, second by Ms. Straughter. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote of yes: Harshaw; Kelly; Straughter; Swartz; Wilkins and Fadel.

Agency Updates by Superintendent/CEO Dot Yeager

Budget & Finance:

Superintendent/CEO Dot Yeager provided agency finance updates through April, 2026. To date we have received 4.5% of revenue, approximately \$11 Million. Expenditures are at 24.6%, approximately \$71 Million. Real Estate Tax collection has not been processed, which is anticipated to be approximately \$100 Million around mid-June. Our cash reserves are enough to get us through at this time.

Human Resources Report:

Superintendent/CEO Dot Yeager provided agency Human Resource updates through April, 2026. The Human Resources report is typical for new hires, resignations and retirements are as expected. May 20th we held an 'All Manager' meeting on the Supervisor Roadmap Curriculum and our Agency Values. Thanks to Ryan Phillips and Jennifer Schueneman for coordinating the discussions and staff survey related to values.

Early Childhood
& Family Center
2879 Johnstown Rd.
Columbus, OH 43219
614-475-0564

Early Childhood Learning
Community
4141 Rudy Rd.
Columbus, OH 43214
614-451-6418

Intake
1600 Watermark Dr.
Columbus, OH 43215
614-342-5490

Service Coordination
1600 Watermark Dr.
Columbus, OH 43215
614-464-2743

Transportation
2879 Johnstown Rd.
Columbus, OH 43219
614-475-5910

West Central School
1481 W. Town Street
Columbus, OH 43223
614-276-8231

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Advocacy

Self-Advocacy Advisory Committee

The SAAC met on Thursday, May 14, 2026. Ryan Phillips, Director of Communications, Advocacy and Community Relations led the group. Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities presented on the benefit of utilizing a Support Broker.

Save the Dates:

Franklin County DD Clippers Day at Huntington Park (day game)

Thanks to County Administrator Wilson for his support

July 30 at 12:05pm

2026 Franklin County DD Provider Fair

September 9 at the Ohio State Fairgrounds

2026 Community Star Awards - Nominations are OPEN!

October 7 at Mitchell Hall on the Columbus State Community College campus

2026 3rd Annual Franklin County DD Trunk or Treat (Oct. 28)

Administration Parking lot (more details to come!)

Summer Safe Waters Class registration

Registration filled up within a few hours! Franklin County DD is once again partnering with Columbus Public Health to provide Summer Safe Water classes. These FREE classes are for children ages 4-18 years old who have little to no water experience. Classes will introduce students to water in a safe, controlled environment within a warm-water therapy pool. These are not full swim lessons, but an intro program to teach children ages 4-18 skills to improve safety in and around water. Caregivers will also learn important safety information. (We have over-registered the classes but are managing)

Family Support

Family Support meetings are held by the Superintendent for family members of individuals who are served by Franklin County DD. Recently, we have added alternating evening meetings for those who have difficulty attending the scheduled daytime meetings, Superintendent Yeager held a virtual evening-time Family Support meeting on April 29 at 6 p.m. Attendees were appreciative of the available evening time.

2026 Family Support Meetings that remain are:

Daytime (12 p.m.) meetings will be held: 7/1; 9/2 and 11/4.

Evening (6 p.m.) meetings will be held: 6/10; 8/12; 10/14; and 12/9

48th Annual Graduation Ceremony at West Central School – May 27

Barb Sapharas is the sibling of a person with intellectual disabilities. She is retired from Cuyahoga County DD after 36 years of service and is now an Ohio Ambassador of 'Charting the Life Course'. Barb will provide the commencement address for the 28 graduates from West Central school. Graduation ceremonies are planned for May 27 at 6:30 p.m. at the school located at 1481 W. Town Street, Columbus.

Operation Feed campaign

Ryan Phillips, Director of Communications, Advocacy and Community relations will head the agency's Operation Feed Campaign this year. Our staff have always been a strong supporter of Operation Feed,

an annual county-wide fund raising effort with Mid-Ohio Food Collective. Our campaign will run from May 4 through May 22.

Public Employee/Service Recognition Week – May 4th through 8th

We have celebrated our Administrative, Transportation, West Central School and Early Childhood staff throughout the week of May 4-8th. Service Coordination has decided to bump their date of recognition until June, in hopes of warmer weather for an outdoor gathering. We appreciate all of our staff and thank them for their strong, consistent work at Franklin County DD.

RESOLUTIONS

(Due to virtual attendance by several board members, it is required to conduct a roll-call vote for each resolution.)

- a. Ms. Wilkins moved to ratify bill payments approved by the Superintendent as distributed to the Finance Committee on May 21, 2026, second by Ms. Straughter. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote of yes: Harshaw; Kelly; Straughter; Swartz; Wilkins and Fadel.
- b. Ms. Straughter moved to authorize the Superintendent to renew an agreement with Childhood League, in an amount not to exceed, \$1,396,790, from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027, second by Ms. Kelly. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote of yes: Harshaw; Kelly; Straughter; Swartz; Wilkins and Fadel.
- c. Ms. Wilkins moved to authorize the Superintendent to enter an agreement with Hattie Larlham Center for Children with Disabilities for early intervention and early childhood education services (Dahlberg), in an annual amount not to exceed \$2,621,104, for the period beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027, second by Ms. Straughter. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote of yes: Harshaw; Kelly; Straughter; Swartz; Wilkins and Fadel.
- d. Ms. Wilkins moved to authorize the Superintendent to enter an agreement with Hattie Larlham Center for Children with Disabilities for community based recreation experiences for adult, in an annual amount not to exceed \$404,200 for the period beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027, second by Ms. Straughter. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote of yes: Harshaw; Kelly; Straughter; Swartz; Wilkins and Fadel.
- e. Ms. Wilkins moved to authorize the Superintendent to enter an agreement with Easter Seals for early intervention and early childhood education services, in an annual amount not to exceed \$1,536,822 for the period beginning July 1, 2026 and ending July 31, 2027, second by Ms. Straughter. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote of yes: Harshaw; Kelly; Straughter; Swartz; Wilkins and Fadel.
- f. Ms. Wilkins moved to authorize the Superintendent to enter an agreement with Ohio State University Nisonger Center for early intervention and preschool services, in an annual amount not to exceed \$1,614,436 for the period beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027, second by Ms. Straughter. Motion carried by roll call vote of yes, with abstention by Kelly noted: Harshaw; Kelly (abstain); Straughter; Swartz; Wilkins and Fadel.
- g. Ms. Wilkins moved to authorize Superintendent to renew agreement with Children's Center for Developmental Enrichment for early intervention services beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027 for total amount not to exceed \$126,000, second by Ms. Straughter. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote of yes: Harshaw; Kelly; Straughter; Swartz; Wilkins and Fadel.

- h. Ms. Wilkins moved to authorize Superintendent to renew agreement with Nationwide Childrens Hospital (RINCH) for early intervention services beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027 for total amount not to exceed \$480,816, second by Ms. Straughter. Motion carried by roll call vote of yes, with abstention of Mr. Harshaw noted: Harshaw (abstain); Kelly; Straughter; Swartz; Wilkins and Fadel.
- i. Ms. Wilkins moved to authorize Superintendent to enter into a facilities usage agreement with Nationwide Childrens Hospital for Buddy camp during the Summer, 2026, for a fee to be paid in the amount of \$20,000, second by Ms. Straughter. Motion carried by roll call vote of yes, with abstention of Mr. Harshaw noted: Harshaw (abstain); Kelly; Straughter; Swartz; Wilkins and Fadel.
- j. Ms. Wilkins moved to authorize the Superintendent to renew an agreement with OSU School of Health and Rehabilitation Services (OSU SHRS) for aquatics support at West Central School, in an amount not to exceed \$58,122 for the period beginning June 1, 2026 and ending May 31, 2027, second by Ms. Straughter. Motion carried by roll call vote of yes, with abstention by Kelly noted: Harshaw; Kelly (abstain); Straughter; Swartz; Wilkins and Fadel.
- k. Ms. Wilkins moved to renew the agreement with Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio for adult literacy services in an amount not to exceed \$50,000, for the period beginning June 1, 2026 and ending on May 31, 2027, second by Ms. Straughter. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote of yes: Harshaw; Kelly; Straughter; Swartz; Wilkins and Fadel.
- l. Ms. Wilkins moved to authorize the Superintendent amend the 2025 agreement with Bridgeway Academy, extending the term of the agreement by two months, with a new end date of July 31, 2026, second by Ms. Straughter. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote of yes: Harshaw; Kelly; Straughter; Swartz; Wilkins and Fadel.
- m. Ms. Wilkins moved to accept the bid from Setterlin, for door repairs at ECLC, 4141 Rudy Road, Columbus, with a base bid not to exceed \$108,064 and a contingency of \$15,000, second by Ms. Straughter. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote of yes: Harshaw; Kelly; Straughter; Swartz; Wilkins and Fadel.

Unfinished Business - none

New Business

Ms. Wilkins moved to approve the resolution for Anne Albrecht to serve as Early Childhood Education Assistant Director of Enrollment and Subs under the Alternative Administrative Specialist License, effective April 13, 2026, second by Ms. Straughter. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote of yes: Harshaw; Kelly; Straughter; Swartz; Wilkins and Fadel.

Self-Advocate Update

Christine Brown provided an update to the Board on legislative issues going on in the state that can really impact services for people, HR 1 at federal government, how to sustain services with expected Medicaid cuts. HB 581 Connie's Law is on its fourth hearing and we will continue fighting. In the future, after October, we will start planning a speaker related to Voter Accessibility Law (revising the access for people with disabilities and personal medical disabilities could get through the line

quicker). Summer Games; OACB and Federal Government and how to sustain services with federal acts.

Board President Dean Fadel mentioned that OACB, is part of a Legislative initiative focus on Early Intervention and know the population is growing, making sure there is enough funding. It is important that we get the funding needed now, but also as we grow.

Regarding the November 2026 Election Candidate Forum planned for Thursday, August 20, 2026 from 12-4 p.m. at the Fawcett Center, Christine mentioned that there are no answers yet from Husted and Brown, or from the two governor candidates on if they will attend. Christine also stated that Vivek Ramaswamy has made proposals to eliminate property tax and income taxes, so "we have a fight coming."

Announcements

Board member Marci Straughter shared her upcoming travel itinerary: she will travel with Jeanne Stuntz; Lisa Combs and Steve Oster to the Self-Direction conference in Minneapolis. She plans to speak on using Uber and will speak with Steve Oster and Jeanne Stuntz on a panel. After that, Ms. Straughter plans to attend the Innovation series and then teach at the next Project STIR training. In July, Ms. Straughter is planning to go to Capitol Hill in Washington D.C.

Hearing of the Public

Board President Fadel adjourned the meeting with a motion from Ms. Wilkins and Ms. Straughter.

Respectfully submitted,



Karen Wilkins, Secretary

KW/am