

**Paulding County Board of Developmental Disabilities
Meeting Minutes**

March 19, 2026 - 4:00 p.m.

The March 19, 2026, Regular Board Meeting of the Paulding County Board of Developmental Disabilities was called to order at 4:01 p.m.

Roll call: Tim Sinn, Marcia Hernandez (absent), Stacy Mangette, Kevin Albright, Shenia Mesker, Lora Lyons (absent), Andrew Parker.

Agenda

To approve the March 19, 2026 meeting agenda:

Motion: 16

Motion: Kevin Albright

Second: Andrew Parker

Motion approved unanimously.

Minutes

To approve the February 19, 2026 meeting minutes:

Motion: 17

Motion: Kevin Albright

Second: Andrew Parker

Motion approved unanimously.

Financial Reports

To approve the February 2026 financial report:

Motion: 18

Motion: Kevin Albright

Second: Shenia Mesker

Motion approved unanimously.

Reports

Early Intervention:

- In Feb, we had 4 referrals. 1 moved out of county before we could see him, 1 parent stated they did not want services as we are not able to speak Spanish (refused interpretation), 1 is enrolled and 1 is going through enrollment
- Early Intervention continues to host a monthly playgroup open to all families in our community with children under the age of 5. A flyer is included
- We co-hosted a Parenting presentation with our local FCFC program and our infant mental health consultation organization (CRC). We had three families join virtually. This is something we would like to continue in the future.
- The County Board attended the Health and Business Fair on 3/18
- As a team the Early Intervention Program continues to look at ways we are able to do more outreach. If there are any suggestions, please let me know.

Superintendent:

March is recognized as National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, a time to raise awareness about the inclusion, contributions and achievements of people with developmental disabilities. The observance began in 1987 when Ronald Reagan proclaimed the month to encourage greater understanding and opportunities for individuals with disabilities. It is an opportunity for communities to recognize the importance of accessibility, inclusion, and respect for people of all abilities. We have a billboard featuring 4 individuals served that is again on Williams Street near Brookside Drive Thru. The Commissioners signed a resolution acknowledging the month and we submitted an article to the newspaper.

House Bill 420 received its first and second hearings in February. This bill would eliminate continuing levies by 2030. At the sponsor hearing, bill sponsors State Reps. Gary Click (R-Sandusky, Seneca) and Bernard Willis (R-Clark) stated the goals of the legislation are to make it easier to decrease taxes and harder to increase them, while

improving transparency and accountability to constituents. The current language of the bill would limit levy lengths to a maximum of 10 years.

Ohio House Joint Resolution 7 was introduced at the end of February. This proposal would eliminate property taxes on all owner-occupied homes, but maintain property taxes on commercial, residential, and agricultural. This proposal would have to pass the House and Senate before going to the ballot for voters to decide. With this proposal, local revenues would be negatively impacted, because the large base of collections (owner-occupied homes) would no longer be contributing toward levies. Another concern is for farmers and businesses who would carry the burden of new levies.

County board superintendents, along with OACB staff and its lobbying team began having legislative meetings focused on the fiscal sustainability of Ohio's developmental disabilities system. The meetings are part of an ongoing effort to educate lawmakers about the system's financial realities and share high-level concepts county boards are developing for potential policy proposals in the coming months. These meetings help ensure legislators who support DD issues or hold key decision-making roles understand the challenges facing the system and are prepared to support policies that benefit people with developmental disabilities, their families, and county boards.

We received notification of the names of the three individuals selected for the InterRAI sample. This is the new assessment that will replace the AAI and DDP assessments. The first group of assessors will receive InterRAI training in April, and the sample is expected to begin in May. SSAs will contact the individuals and their families to notify them of the selection and inform them that an assessor will be reaching out.

We have been working with the website designer to finalize information on the website rebuild. This has been a long process, but we are coming close to a final project. There are a few pieces of information we need to get him and then decide on information to include on the homepage.

Special Olympics:

Special Olympics Basketball Season 2025–2026 Summary

The Special Olympics basketball season began at the end of October with a clinic hosted by the Wayne Trace High School basketball teams. Our athletes had a wonderful time learning from the high school players. Each athlete also received a team shirt, which was partially funded through a generous donation from the Paulding Eagles.

Basketball:

This season we had a total of 22 athletes participating

Adult Team

The Adult Team consisted of 12 athletes:

- 1 athlete returned after taking a year off
- 2 athletes were new to the Cardinals but had previously participated in Special Olympics

The Adult Team finished the season with a 7–2 record. Both losses came against Mercer County (first game: 26–18, second game: 42–36), with the second loss occurring in the play-in game for the Regional Tournament.

In January, this team—along with two Wayne Trace students from our School-Age team—played a fun exhibition game against the Wayne Trace High School staff as an end-of-day reward for students. The STEM program created banners and “fat heads” for each athlete, the pep band performed, and cheerleaders from both teams were present. It was a fantastic experience for everyone involved.

Throughout the season, many opposing teams and spectators commented on this team's excellent sportsmanship and teamwork.

School-Age Team

The School-Age Team consisted of 10 athletes, including 4 new athletes this season.

While their final record was 3–5, the record does not reflect the tremendous growth the athletes made throughout the season. The team finished as Regional Runners-Up (2nd place) out of four teams. More importantly, the athletes built strong friendships and showed great improvement in their skills and confidence.

Because there are not many School-Age teams in our regional division, the team had the opportunity to gain additional playing experience by scrimmaging during halftime of the Wayne Trace vs. Paulding High School JV and Varsity Girls Basketball games.

Upcoming Events:

Stevie Kimple Classic

Jordan Barker, Hailey Harris, April Marsh, Bobby Scott, and Brandon Scott will represent Paulding County in the Stevie Kimple Classic at Hicksville High School on March 28. This Special Olympics fundraising event benefits five county programs: Defiance, Fulton, Henry, Paulding, and Williams.

Basketball Marathon

12 athletes have signed up and will be participate in the Basketball Marathon on April 3–4 at Payne Elementary.

Young Athletes Program

The Young Athletes program will return this spring during the month of April. Currently, 3 athletes are confirmed, with approximately 7 additional potential participants pending registration.

Cornhole

This fall I plan to bring Cornhole back at the local level. Last fall, Special Olympics Ohio offered it as a pilot program, and we hosted two events with good participation. This year, the goal is to host additional events to continue growing the program.

Looking Ahead:

I am hoping to add another new event for athletes next year. However, my priority is to ensure that our current programs remain strong and continue reaching as many athletes in our county as possible.

New Business

Resolution 03-2026-01: A Mandate for Change --- Discussion --- not moving forward at this time.

Property Tax Elimination Q&A Discussion.

Executive Session

To adjourn into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters:

Time: 4:46 p.m.

Motion: 19

Motion: Shenia Mesker

Second: Kevin Albright

Motion approved unanimously.

Exit

To come out of Executive Session and declaring no action taken.

Time: 4:57 p.m.

Motion: 20

Motion: Kevin Albright

Second: Andrew Parker

Motion approved unanimously.

Adjournment

To adjourn the March 19, 2026 regular Board meeting at 4:57 p.m.

Motion: 21

Motion: Shenia Mesker

Second: Kevin Albright

Motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Lora Lyons, Secretary