

Logan County Board of Developmental Disabilities Elects Officers for 2017 & Discuss Assisting with Disability Park Plans.

The Logan County Board of Developmental Disabilities reappointed two board members on Thursday, January 19, 2017. Mrs. Liz Bibart and Mr. Art Harper were reappointed to the board by the Logan County Commissioners. During the annual organizational meeting, Mrs. Bonnie Versele was reelected board president, Ms. Valerie Robb was reelected board vice president, and Mr. Frank Giannola was reelected recording secretary. Mrs. Debra Morrison, Human Resources/Executive Secretary and Notary Public gave the Oath of Office. The following board members will continue to sit on the executive finance committee: Mrs. Bonnie Versele, Mr. Scott Steiner, and Mr. Art Harper. They will meet the third Tuesday of the month at noon. The following board members will continue to sit on the ethics committee: Ms. Bridget Hawkins, Mr. Art Harper, and Mr. Frank Giannola and they will continue to meet at 5:00 pm the third Thursday of the month, prior to the LCBDD board meetings.

Superintendent Bauer discussed a presentation given to the Bellefontaine Joints Recreation District by students in the Dare to Be Aware Club. Members of the youth club pitched a proposal to get a playground that is fully accessible to children with disabilities at a city park. The Dare to Be Aware Club consists of 18 typical and special needs students from Bellefontaine Intermediate School, with two adult advisors. They focus on raising awareness and fostering inclusion of students with learning disabilities, such as autism, cognitive delays or dyslexia. These children talked about how expensive this inclusive equipment is and their plans to hold fund raisers and apply for grants to assist with this project. Chris Myers, Superintendent of the Parks said he is fully behind the students' efforts. The children talked about their desire to play at the city parks alongside their siblings and friends with different abilities. It was pointed out that the playgrounds in most local schools provide no equipment to support an inclusive play area. The LCBDD board said they want to support the efforts of this project. One proposal to support the fully accessible playground is to direct all the boards fundraisers toward this effort. The board will further discuss this effort at future board meetings.

The board also discussed the efforts to install new inclusive equipment at the Discovery Center. Several yards of concrete was poured last fall and the playground equipment is ready to be installed this Spring.

New business before the board was the approval of the Logan County Preschool & K-12 Special Education Services contract for 2017 passed by a unanimous resolution. The board also passed a unanimous resolution to approve the 2017 Financial Mission and Goals.

The LCBDD will host the annual Elected Officials breakfast on March 2nd this year recognizing Developmental Disability Awareness Month. The theme for awareness this year is "Side by Side". The board will also celebrate 50 years of County Boards of DD. This year marks a significant milestone — the 50th anniversary of the founding of Ohio's 88 county boards of DD by the Ohio General Assembly. Since 1967, county boards have been unified in their overarching mission to support Ohioans with developmental disabilities. The guest speaker will be Director John Martin of Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities.

In other matters before the board they discussed the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities survey to identify topics related to DD and the best service delivery system for the 4 hours of annual training required for board members. Superintendent Bauer encouraged the board to complete the quick survey so they could give valuable input on training preferences.

Superintendent Bauer gave a financial recap of the Logan County Board of Developmental Disabilities for 2016. LCBDD utilized 81.46 percent of its general fund budget and 75.01 percent of the community support fund in 2016. The organization also collected 107.42 percent of its general fund and 91.36 percent of the community support fund. The expenses in the general fund are .09 percent lower than this time last year and the revenue in the general fund are .04 percent lower than this time last year.

The public is invited to attend our meetings. The next Finance Committee Meeting will be held February 13th @ noon at the LCBDD Board office conference room, 1851 St. Rt. 47, Bellefontaine Ohio. The next Board meeting, will be held on February 16th @ 5:30 pm at the LCBDD Board office conference room, 1851 St. Rt. 47, Bellefontaine Ohio.

Deb Morrison
Human Resources/
Executive Secretary