HIGHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF DD

December 14, 2021

6:00 PM REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Hills and Dales Gym

The Highland County Board of Developmental Disabilities met in a regular session at 6:15 pm, Tuesday, December 14, 2021. Board Members present: Karen Adams, Elizabeth Fryman, Michael Richards, and Cheryl Lyle (6:28pm). Absent: Matthew Roberts, John Levo, Paul Pence

Others present were Debra Buccilla, Superintendent, Jennifer Goodwin, Investigative Agent, Kelli Williamson, SSA Director, Lori Moore, Business Director, Suzie Janasov, Early Childhood Director, Larry Gray, Operations Director, Kraig Walker, Community First Director, Becky Pollard, RN, Phil Loudin, Operations Manager, Molly Warnock, Community First Transition Coordinator

**ROLL CALL:** Elizabeth Fryman, present, Karen Adams, present, Michael Richards, present, Cheryl Lyle, present.

**ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**: NA

**Reports:**

**The minutes of the** November 16, 2021, Regular Board Meeting were reviewed and approved in a motion by Elizabeth Fryman, seconded by Cheryl Lyle. Roll Call. All yea, motion carried.

**Roll Call: Elizabeth Fryman, yea, Karen Adams, yea; Michael Richards, yea; Cheryl Lyle, yea.**

**New Vendors:**  NA

**Transfers:** None

**Monthly expenditures for December 2021** were reviewed and approved in a motion by Michael Richards, seconded by Elizabeth Fryman. Roll Call. All yea, motion carried.

**Roll Call: Elizabeth Fryman, yea, Karen Adams, yea; Michael Richards, yea; Cheryl Lyle, yea.**

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

* Debra introduced Molly Warnock as the New Community First Director and Phil Loudin, Operations Manager. Molly will take over the role due to Kraig’s departure. Phil will be assisting more with Operations to assist Bret as Larry moves on.
* Debra reported that DODD Director Jeff Davis is retiring at the end of December. Kimberly Hauck has been appointed as the new director effective 1/1/22.
* Judge Greer has appointed Kim Adams to the board beginning in 2022. She will begin board orientation with Debra in the coming weeks.
* There are several staff out ill, and we continue to struggle with illness, but have not had to shut down the preschool.
* There was a virtual all staff meeting held on 12/3/21 and it was shared that staff would be receiving a 3% raise. Many staff expressed thanks to the board for this increase.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**HVAC Control Updates- Larry Gray**

* HVAC system bid from Siemens to bring the system up to date is $15,220. Requested approval from the board to move forward.

**HVAC Control Updates to not exceed $16,000** was reviewed and approved in a motion by Cheryl Lyle, seconded by Elizabeth Fryman. Roll Call. All yea, motion carried.

**Roll Call: Elizabeth Fryman, yea, Karen Adams, yea; Michael Richards, yea; Cheryl Lyle, yea.**

**Operation Overview and Updates – Larry Gray**

* Larry provided an update on all major projects that have occurred during his nine years as Operations Director including: HVAC system improvements, upgrade of septic system, LED lighting, electrical panel upgrades, new on demand water heaters, parking lots paved and sealed, purchase of four newer small buses, IT upgrades, administration office renovation and storage building repairs.
* Housing improvements completed around $800,000 to include home development and building of the Greenfield home through Capital funds.
* Larry thanked the board for the past nine years of oversight and approvals to make these many updates.

**Community First Overview and Update – Kraig Walker**

* 15 students participated in Summer Youth Work Experience
* 67 students participated in Pre-Employment Transition Services.  We are now serving Hillsboro, Bright Local, Fairfield, Greenfield, Lynchburg, Hillsboro Christian Academy, 2 CTC schools, 3 Clinton County Schools, homeschool and specialized schools.  There are currently 43 students this school year.
* 9 were opened with Job Development and there have been 6 successful closures.
* 33 Artists have been attending Up & Beyond Art Studio.  They were only able to show in two art festivals this year, due to the pandemic.
* 15 Self-Advocates are involved with People First of Highland County.  2 Highland County members are now serving on the People First of Ohio board.
* There are 125 athletes with our Special Olympics program.  Bocce started in 2021 and the basketball program is beginning practices this month.  Most competitions were cancelled in 2021.
* In 2022 – Molly Warnock will become the Director, with Jacob Alexander moving to a manager position.  Nathan Boatman will assume more responsibilities with advocacy at the regional and state level.
* Kraig thanked the board for the oversight and appreciated their support over his 22 years at the county board.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Tuition Reimbursement for Preschool – Debra Buccilla**

* Debra requested to table this discussion for a later time in 2022. Further discussion will occur after the holidays to see where things fall and if tuition reimbursement is necessary. Agreed to table discussion to a later meeting.

**Public School Partnership – Debra Buccilla**

* Debra shared that Bret met with school superintendents related to out of county services for schooling, which was a topic a few years back.
* Debra noted that this was still in the discussion stage but wanted to bring the topic to the board for consideration of the county board providing the physical space and renovation of the space as the county board’s contribution to the project.
* There is a scheduled meeting on 12/15/21 to discuss further with the Special Education Directors.
* The space would be in the back of the Hills and Dales building which was vacated by Highco.
* Requested approval for up to $150,000 from the development fund for renovations if this moves forward.

**Public School Partnership** was reviewed and approved not to exceed $150,000 in a motion by Cheryl Lyle, seconded by Michael Richards. Roll Call. All yea, motion carried.

**Roll Call: Elizabeth Fryman, yea, Karen Adams, yea; Michael Richards, yea; Cheryl Lyle, yea.**

**Other Discussion**

* Debra Buccilla presented Board President Karen Adams with a token of appreciation for her 13 years of service to the board.
* Debra Buccilla shared thanks and appreciation to Larry Gray, Operations Director and Kraig Walker, Community First Director, as they move forward to new positions. A short tribute video was played. Best wishes to them both.

**Executive Session: NA**

Elizabeth Fryman made a motion to adjourn the Highland County Board Meeting at 7:20 pm, seconded by Michael Richards. All yea. Motion carried.

Prepared by: Jennifer Goodwin, Investigative Agent

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Karen Adams, Board President

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Cheryl Lyle, Recording Secretary