HIGHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF DD

MARCH 15, 2022

6:00 PM REGULAR BOARD MEETING

LOCATION: Highland County Board of DD

The Highland County Board of Developmental Disabilities met in a regular session at 6:00 pm, Tuesday, March 15, 2022 at the Highland County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Board Members present: Kim Adams, Paul Pence, Michael Richards, John Levo,

Elizabeth Fryman, and Cheryl Lyle. Absent: Matthew Roberts

Others present were Debra Buccilla, Superintendent, Sherry Burns, Executive Administrative Assistant, Nathan Boatman, Community First Coordinator, Molly Warnock, Community First Director, Lori Moore, Business Director, Bret Malone, Educational Director and Phil Loudin, Operations Manager.

**ROLL CALL:** Paul Pence, present; John Levo, present; Michael Richards present; Matthew Roberts, absent, Elizabeth Fryman, present, Kim Adams, present; Cheryl Lyle, present.

**ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**: NA

**Reports:**

**The minutes of the** February 15, 2022 Organizational meeting were reviewed and approved in a motion by John Levo, seconded by Kim Adams. Roll call. Motion carried.

**Roll Call: Paul Pence yea; Michael Richards, yea; John Levo, yea; Elizabeth Fryman, yea; Kim Adams, yea; Cheryl Lyle, yea.**

**The minutes of the** February 15, 2022 Regular meeting were reviewed and approved in a motion by John Levo, seconded by Kim Adams. Roll call. Motion carried.

**Roll Call: Paul Pence yea; Michael Richards, yea; John Levo, yea; Elizabeth Fryman, yea; Kim Adams, yea; Cheryl Lyle, yea.**

**New Vendors:** Jacklyn Brodeck Photography, Ben Gilkison (Contractor) and B & C Communications

A motion was made by Paul Pence to approve the new vendors as presented, seconded by Cheryl Lyle. Roll Call. Motion carried

**Roll Call: Paul Pence yea; Michael Richards, yea; John Levo, yea; Elizabeth Fryman, yea; Kim Adams, yea; Cheryl Lyle, yea.**

**Transfers:** None

**Monthly expenditures for March 2022** were reviewed and approved in a motion by John Levo seconded by Paul Pence. Roll call. Motion carried.

**Roll Call: Paul Pence yea; Michael Richards, yea; John Levo, yea; Elizabeth Fryman, yea; Kim Adams, yea; Cheryl Lyle, yea.**

**Monthly expenditures for March Merchants 2022** were reviewed and approved in a motion by Cheryl Lyle seconded by Michael Richards. Roll call. Motion carried.

**Roll Call: Paul Pence abstain; Michael Richards, yea; John Levo, yea; Elizabeth Fryman, yea; Kim Adams, yea; Cheryl Lyle, yea.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Covid Protocol Update – Debra Buccilla**

In accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) new guidance, masks will be optional for preschool and office staff. We will continue to follow the Ohio Department of Health Maps for any Covid Exposure incident.

**Remote Meeting Authorization- Debra Buccilla**

Governor Dewine signed the HB 51 into law which made provisions permitting public bodies to hold meetings remotely by electronic means. The bill contained an emergency clause, meaning the law would take effect immediately upon the Governor’s signature. County Boards are now authorized to conduct their meetings remotely just as they did earlier in the pandemic. This authorization will expire at the end of June. It is hoped that this will be extended indefinitely as the winter months are the most vulnerable.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Special Olympics Updates – Nathan Boatman**

* Our 2022 Basketball season was put on hold in January because of Covid, but we were able to play three games in February with two wins and one loss.
* We participated in a Youth Special Olympic event with 69 youth athletes that also included 1st to 5th graders from five schools in Highland County.
* We currently offer Basketball, Bocce, Bowling, Flag Football, Track and Field, Unified Golf, Unified Softball, Competitive Cheers and Swimming with 112 athletes participating in the different events.
* The People First of Highland County is a group of Self-Advocates, speaking up on issues affecting individuals with developmental disabilities. We currently participate in the DD Awareness/Advocacy Day, attend monthly meeting the first Wednesday of every month at 4:30 pm, attend SOCOG meeting every third Tuesday of the month, and People First Ohio Board Meetings each month.

**Pre-School Absences- Debra Buccilla/Bret Malone**

Hills & Dales has had several closures this school year due to positive COVID results and quarantining. There has been 4 days missed because of staff illness. Closures due to calamity and extending Christmas break amounted to 4 days. We have utilized remote learning for approximately 4 days.

Families pay $13.27 per day for preschool. There are 34 students who pay to attend the Hills and Dales preschool program who would be eligible to receive a small refund for tuition paid. Tuition is $205/month. This cost includes participation in the preschool program, transportation, breakfast, lunch, and snack each day.

Families could be reimbursed for 2-18 days missed and receive refunds from $46.48 to $238.86 depending on past exposure and quarantining requirements.

Paul Pence made a motion to approve the 2021/2022 tuition reimbursement with additional language in the Preschool Handbook for 2022/2023 concerning Tuition reimbursement, seconded by Cheryl Lyle. Roll Call. Motion carried.

**Roll Call: Paul Pence yea; Michael Richards, yea; John Levo, nay; Elizabeth Fryman, yea; Kim Adams, yea; Cheryl Lyle, yea.**

**Public School Relief Monies- Debra Buccilla**

Public Schools received a bonus from relief monies that was awarded to the school systems. We would like to provide a similar bonus for our Preschool Staff for the beginning of 2022/2023 school year.

Kim Adams made a motion, seconded by Cheryl Lyle for the Preschool Staff to receive a bonus of $2,000 dollars at the beginning of the 2022/2023 school year taken from the Endowment Fund.

**Roll Call: Paul Pence yea; Michael Richards, yea; John Levo, yea; Elizabeth Fryman, yea; Kim Adams, yea; Cheryl Lyle, yea.**

**Homemaker Personal Care (Direct Care Staff) increased 6.5%- Debra Buccilla**

The 6.5% supplemental increase would amount to approximately $1 per hour increase for the Direct Professional Staff (DPS). Highland Independent Provider increase would be $148,821.

**Other Discussion**

In our discussion with our Attorney, Steve Postalakis, he suggested that we do not do Supplemental Contracts for additional duties, but to do a stipend. Also, for PERS and STRS the retirement is based on salary and not years of service.

It was also suggested that since Paul Pence is President of Merchants Bank, that all expenditures for Merchants be separated from regular monthly expenditures and voted upon separately. Mr. Pence would abstain on this vote.

Michael Richards made a motion to adjourn the HCBDD meeting at 7:07 pm, seconded by Paul Pence.

Prepared by: Sherry Burns, Executive Administrative Assistant

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Elizabeth Fryman, Board President

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Cheryl Lyle, Recording Secretary