

Resource Information

Pickaway County Board of
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Pickaway County Developmental
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Board Members
Jessica Mullins (President)
Gwen Wolford (Vice President)
Denise Kuhnheim (Secretary)
Kristen Gardner
Greg Miller
Jeff Rawlins
Matt Tootle

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Upcoming Events

Night to Shine

Sponsored by the Tim Tebow
Foundation
and hosted by
Vineyard Circleville
Friday, February 12th
6-9 pm
Brooks-Yates School
200 E. High St. Circleville
All are Welcome!



Teays Valley Local School District signs contract for BYS relocation

The Pickaway County Board of Developmental Disabilities approved a plan in October 2015 to relocate its Brooks-Yates School (BYS) program into a public school district building in the county. The plan was developed by a team of 32 community stakeholders, who were charged with addressing all possible issues and concerns about the feasibility of relocating the school program.

Now, in the first days of 2016, the Board has announced that a contract for the relocation of BYS has been signed with the Teays Valley Local School District. With this agreement, Teays Valley and BYS leaders will begin the process of transforming Brooks-Yates School into a self-contained, sustainable setting for the continued delivery of high-quality learning experiences for children with developmental disabilities.

"Much work needs to be done to get the relocated school ready for the 2016-17 school year," said Mike Pelcic, superintendent of the Pickaway County Board of Developmental Disabilities. "So it is great news that a contract has already been signed and work can begin."

Pelcic said Teays Valley Local School District is a premiere education organization that values its traditions and long history of excellence. "Teays Valley's commitment to academic excellence and development of the individual potential of ALL students makes it a perfect partner for BYS and the Board of Developmental Disabilities," Pelcic said.

The Board's decision to relocate Brooks-Yates School – which has given Pickaway County children with developmental disabilities access to quality education for more than 50 years – reflects its determination to improve school district support and services to retain students in integrated district settings, and to provide better learning opportunities for all children with developmental disabilities.

With its relocation, BYS will continue to provide a placement option for children with developmental disabilities as it works in partnership with Teays Valley to provide a free and appropriate education for all Pickaway County students who meet the eligibility requirements. The relocation of BYS will benefit its students in a number of ways – by allowing them to build relationships through social groups and "buddy programs," by supporting efforts to teach life skills for greater independence, and by increasing funds for personalized, customized school district support and services.

*Greater equity.
Better access.
More success.
Education for All!*



Board Talk

Winter
2016

A Pickaway County Board of Developmental Disabilities Newsletter

What's New:

Superintendent's Corner

Have you ever joined an organization, community group or team? As a child, you may have joined scouting or played on a sport team. Later in life, you may have participated in a civic organization, a club, a new church, or volunteered. What was your experience? Your first impression of how you were treated was important in your decision to continue. If you were made to feel welcomed, you were more likely to continue to attend. If you felt like an outsider, you may not have returned.

We are one year away from celebrating the 50th anniversary of the legislation creating county boards of developmental disabilities. County boards' services have evolved drastically over the years by adopting new models and philosophies for services and supports. The next evolutionary change, however, does not involve services; instead it is a cultural shift in how we include people with disabilities. We envision a community where all people are welcomed. To bring this vision closer to reality, the Board is employing a Community Connections Coordinator who will champion this new initiative.

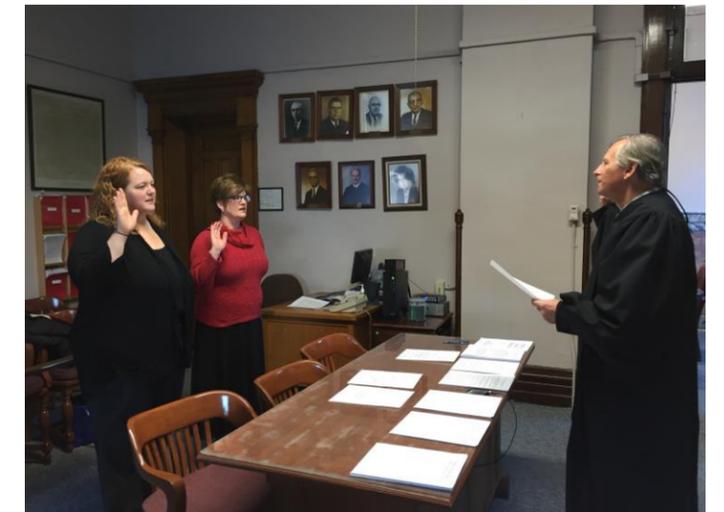
The Community Connections Coordinator will provide education and awareness of services provided by the Board and will create opportunities for individuals and families to live, learn, work and participate in the

community. This person will also be responsible for facilitating opportunities for community members, organizations, businesses, churches, and community groups to partner with the county board. With dedication and partnership with the Pickaway County community, we hope to create a more welcoming environment for everyone!



-Finding qualified providers is a difficult job, especially in a rural setting like Pickaway County. In 2016, PCBDD hopes to begin offering greater assistance to providers seeking certification, including offering various required trainings free-of-charge and spending more time one-on-one with potential providers trying to navigate the certification system. In addition, PCBDD will launch several awareness initiatives to recruit qualified professionals to the field. To start this enhanced interaction, PCBDD is providing an internship opportunity for Ruth Van Sandt, an Ohio Christian University student who is acts as an independent provider for part-time employment. Ruth will assist the Board in identifying opportunities for improving the certification process and recruiting additional providers from Ohio Christian University.

-On January 19th, Judge Jan Michael Long renewed appointment of Board members Kristen Gardner and Denise Kuhnheim. Kristen started her Board affiliation in 2015, filling a vacated seat mid-term. Denise is beginning her final four-year term with the Board, and is the mother of a son who receives services. PCBDD thanks them for their dedication both to the Board and those served.



-Early Intervention is again taking an active role in the Community Baby Shower, which is on March 11th at 1:00 PM at the main branch of the Pickaway County District Public Library. The community shower is open to anyone expecting a child or who have had a child in the last six months. Developmental Specialists will share information about services, and attendees receive door prizes.

To submit story ideas, news releases, or suggestions, please contact:

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Pick-Ross and Brooks-Yates Students Team Up for Learning and Fun



Brooks-Yates School students may have found the best way to enjoy a cold winter day when they visit the pool at the YMCA. The room is toasty, the water is warm, and the kids are having a wonderful time. Every other Tuesday, children from Brooks-Yates School are paired with students from Pickaway-Ross Career and Technology Center's Sports Medicine course for swimming, and a look around the room shows that everyone is having fun.

What swimming time looks like varies a bit from kid to kid. Colleen Murane has worked with Madeline Mascari since swimming time started, but Madeline will only venture to the first step of the pool. Colleen

likes the challenge of finding ways to help Madeline become more comfortable around water. Sometimes they splash a bit, and Madeline likes to throw things in the pool. Even though Colleen is in the water and Madeline sits in a chair, Colleen still works on interacting with Madeline and encouraging her. Colleen says she loves this work and enjoys getting to know Madeline better.

Tiffany McCoy is paired with another student who was a bit resistive to swimming in the beginning. Her buddy, Damian Willoughby, screamed when he came in the room of the pool. Today Damian jumped in and spent the entire hour swimming like a fish! This is a big deal for Damian, and everyone at the pool was excited for him. Tiffany says this makes her feel great because he seems to trust her more when they're in the water, and all the time she spent working with him is paying off!

The single degree between these two classes of students is Jada Truex, who provides physical therapy to Brooks-Yates children and is the instructor for Pick-Ross' Sports Medicine class. Having observed previous swim times, Jada thought Brooks-Yates staff could use a few extra hands to assist in the water. She enlisted the help of her students, who acknowledge that spending time with children with disabilities is an important component to success in their future careers. Student Trevor Lane points out that he will certainly be working with other children with disabilities in his future, and having time with his buddy makes him more comfortable. Plus it's fun! Although his typical buddy wasn't at the pool today, Trevor got to hang out with JT and make a new friend!



Hannah Burgett has Upward Spirit



For anyone who knows Hannah Burgett, (and lots of people know her!), cheerleading is a natural fit for her bouncy personality. Hannah is always in motion, so cheering comes naturally to her. Hannah is participating in the Upward Sports Cheerleading Program through Circleville's Church of the Nazarene, and mother Carrie Burgett says that Hannah's integration into this group was a seamless. The coach and teammates were excited to have Hannah on the squad, and Hannah is proving her dedication through weekly practices and games. She is making new friends and finding more confidence. Most importantly for Carrie, she and Hannah both feel supported and wanted by the Upward program. As a parent to a child with special needs, Carrie says that she is always concerned that people won't give Hannah a chance to try something new or get involved in an activity. Carrie has been told before that Hannah was unable to participate in events of interest. Now, thanks to the cooperation of Upward, Hannah is now adding her bright spirit to the Spirit Squad!

Congratulations! Alex Jarvis Wright Signs with College

Alex is getting ready to graduate from high school this coming year and, unlike many seniors, he knows exactly what he is going to do once wraps up his final year at Logan Elm. In December, Alex signed with the Savannah State Tigers' baseball team where he was recruited as a pitcher. Alex is taking the entire college experience seriously, and is excited to study marine biology. He says that he loves the water and science, so this seemed like a logical path forward.

The Bridges to Transition program has played an important role in Alex's trajectory towards higher education. Bridges services are typically used to provide job-related services for people with developmental disabilities who are looking for employment. In Alex's case, his needs were different than most of the students accessing the Bridges program. Alex knew he wanted to continue his education and sports involvement. Bridges to Transition was able to pay for a portion of his tuition that was not covered by grants or his athletic scholarship.

Alex says that he is nervous but excited about heading to college. He is moving a long way from Pickaway County, but his father is going with him to make sure Alex adjusts and can navigate college life with success. Alex reports that he is proud of his accomplishments so far, and is excited to start this next adventure!



In December, Alex signed on as a pitcher for Savannah State Tigers.