



**Regular Board Meeting  
February 26, 2026**

**Donzella Administration Building – 1275 Lakeside Avenue E, Cleveland, OH 44114  
and broadcasted live via Zoom – 5:30 pm**

**1. Opening**

**A. Convene**

The regular Board meeting was called to order by President, Steve Scheidt at 5:30pm.

**B. Roll Call**

Members present: Alaina McCruel, Cynthia Schulz, Stephen Scheidt, Sara Steimle, Derek Topola

Members-absent: Alison Frazier

**2. Minutes**

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the organizational meeting of the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities held January 22, 2026, a copy of which is made a part of the permanent record of this meeting, be accepted as directed by the President, without objection, and approved as published.

Motion by Steve Scheidt, second by Alaina McCruel.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Aye: Lisa Hunt, Mozelle Jackson, Alaina McCruel, Steve Scheidt, Cynthia Schulz, Sara Steimle

Board member, Cynthia Schulz asked to amend the Minutes for January 22, 2026, to add a statement to her “Nay” vote on Item 5D, Adoption of Governing Rules and Regulations – 2026 Cuyahoga DD Policy Manual. Ms. Schulz stated that she objected to the policy because the Board has the obligation to approve compensation, increases, bonuses, and base salary. President Steve Scheidt acknowledged her position. Because Ms. Schulz did not state that reason during the January meeting, the January minutes were not revised. Her position is noted on the record here, as part of the discussion of those January minutes.

**3. Swear in Newly Appointed Member**

**A. Swear in Derek Topola**

Superintendent Gibbs congratulated and President, Steve Scheidt welcomed Derek Topola to the Board.

**4. Organization of the 2026 Board**

**A. Nomination and election of officers**

RESOLVED, that the persons named below be elected to the office set opposite their name to serve until the Organizational Meeting of the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities in January of 2027, or until their successors have been elected and qualified.

Secretary: Sara Steimle

Motion by Derek Topola, second by Alaina McCruel.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Aye: Alaina McCruel, Steve Scheidt, Cynthia Schulz, Sara Steimle, Derek Topola

Superintendent Gibbs congratulated Sara Steimle and thanked her for her willingness to serve.

### **5. Donations**

RESOLVED, that the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities gratefully accepts one monetary donation of \$250.00 and ten equipment donations of unspecified value to the OT/PT Lending Library.

Motion by Steve Scheidt, second by Alaina McCruel.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Aye: Alaina McCruel, Steve Scheidt, Cynthia Schulz, Sara Steimle, Derek Topola

Superintendent Gibbs expressed thanks and noted that the \$250 contribution was donated by former Cuyahoga DD HR Director, John McLaughlin, in memory of Betty Barnett who was a longtime Cuyahoga DD employee. She stated, "We are grateful not only for the donation, but for the recognition of one of our staff who was so dedicated to our mission."

### **6. Financial Statements**

RESOLVED, that the Operating Fund Statement and the Statements of Revenue and Expenditures - Planned and Actual for the year-to-date period ending January 31, 2026, be accepted and filed for audit; the payment of vouchers for the period January 1, 2026 to January 31, 2026 be ratified; and that all statements and voucher summaries are made a part of the permanent record of this meeting.

Motion by Sara Steimle, second by Steve Scheidt.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Aye: Alaina McCruel, Steve Scheidt, Cynthia Schulz, Sara Steimle, Derek Topola

Superintendent Gibbs gave a summary of the financial statements noting significant variances. We opened the month with a cash balance of \$107,165,820. Our total revenues were \$602,630, and our expenditures were \$29,728,233, for a cash balance ending of \$78,040,217.

### **7. Announcements**

President, Steve Scheidt turned the meeting over to Superintendent, Dr. Amber Gibbs who gave the following announcements:

- Superintendent Gibbs thanked Mozelle Jackson for her 8-years of outstanding service as a member of Cuyahoga DD's Board. Cuyahoga DD will be sending a gift of appreciation to Mozelle, and the Board wishes her the best in all her future endeavors.
- Superintendent Gibbs shared that a 30-second commercial spot highlighting Cuyahoga DD was broadcast during WKYC's coverage of the Olympics Men's Hockey Gold Medal Game. The spot has also been shown elsewhere on WKYC.
- Superintendent Gibbs concluded her series of 2026 Budget Presentations to Cuyahoga DD staff and providers.
- As an annual and ongoing part of our DD Awareness Month outreach, a 4-page advertisement insert will be included in Cleveland Magazine's March issue. Each year we choose a theme for the inserts and this year's theme is a "About Us" which aligns with our goal of increasing the awareness of Cuyahoga DD in the community.
- Superintendent Gibbs announced that our Behavioral & Health Supports Department has events scheduled for skill-building in relationships. Sessions will be held at our Big Creek location for people with DD to learn about healthy relationships and managing emotions.
- Superintendent Gibbs announced that Cuyahoga DD's 2026 Community Development Grant award recipients have nearly all been chosen and grant awardees' names will be released when finalized. \$193,000 in grants awards will be distributed to over 24 organizations who want to make their programming and spaces more accessible and inclusive.
- On February 25, Cuyahoga DD partnered with the annual Cleveland Monsters' Sensory Friendly Night at Rocket Arena. We gave away 150 free tickets to individuals we serve and their families. Cuyahoga DD representatives were on hand to discuss our services and to promote our universal changing table. Former Cuyahoga DD Library Facilitator, Brigid Balogh, was recognized by Cleveland Monsters for her athletic and community achievements.
- On March 6, March 12 and March 16, a series of Employment Collaborative Hiring Events will take place. For more information contact Jared Daly.
- Superintendent Gibbs gave an update on the upcoming levy for Cuyahoga DD. A date for when the levy is approved to be on the ballot has not been determined. Superintendent Gibbs will keep us updated and informed about the levy timeline as information is given to her by the County.

## **8. Discussion Topics**

**A. Housing Options Update** - presented by Lina Workman (Residential Services), Mary Scanlon (Housing Coordinator) and Melanie Rak (Chief Program Officer)

Presentation slides are attached to these minutes.

**DD Awareness Month** - Superintendent Amber Gibbs then turned the meeting over to Elizabeth Day, Director of our Public Information and Communications Department, who gave the following announcements about DD Awareness Month:

- March 1 marks the start of DD Awareness Month and Cuyahoga DD will be sponsoring and supporting events throughout the month.
- We are once again partnering with K&D to light up the Terminal Tower in plumberry lighting on the night of Monday, March 30.
- A group representing Cuyahoga DD will participate in the annual, statewide DD Advocacy Day in Columbus on Wednesday, March 4.
- Our annual Legislative Breakfast will be held on Friday, March 6 at our Lakeside building. We anticipate 60 attendees and 7 legislators who will participate in the event.

- For a fourth year we have partnered with *Cleveland Magazine* on the 4-page insert, as mentioned in Superintendent Gibbs' *Announcements*, which was poly-bagged to over 30,000 subscribers, providing vital information about Cuyahoga DD's mission.
- Written profiles on people we serve will appear in the *Today's Family Magazine (March 2026 issue)* and *Northeast Ohio Parent* magazine, among other publications. Television profiles will also be shown on WKYC's *Heartstrings*, Spectrum News 1 and *New Day Cleveland* on Fox 8.
- A comprehensive advertising campaign has been developed which reaches our constituents via tv, billboards, transit, radio, digital and print media. We are also a sponsor of WKYC's Paralympics coverage this year. Our campaign is estimated to create 9,208,855 impressions with a cost-per-impression of less than one cent (.65 cents per impression).

Board member, Cynthia Schulz suggested we include Rare Disease Day as part of our DD Awareness Month, or as a kick-off event to the month, as the date falls on February 28.

Presentation slides are attached to these minutes.

**B. Board Committees** – Board President, Steve Scheidt then turned the meeting over to all Board members for an open discussion about the possibility of forming and instituting Board committees as a supplement to regular, full Board activities. Potential Board committees discussed included Finance/Audit & Budget, Governance/Nominations, Compensation and Strategic Planning.

## 9. Status Reports

Superintendent Gibbs had no comments.

## 10. New Business

### A. Declaration of Surplus Property

RESOLVED, that the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities approves hereby and authorizes the Superintendent to declare the items listed in the attached documents titled 2.26.26 Surplus Property Memo, copies of which are made a part of the permanent record of this meeting, surplus or obsolete equipment that is no longer needed for public use, and to discard said items in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 307.12 (E) (I); and,  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent is authorized hereby to take any and all actions necessary to carry out these transactions.

Motion by Sara Steimle, second by Alaina McCruel.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Aye: Alaina McCruel, Steve Scheidt, Cynthia Schulz, Sara Steimle, Derek Topola

Superintendent Gibbs commented that Cuyahoga DD is not allowed to discard or sell surplus equipment bought with County money without Board approval.

## 11. Comments from the Floor

There were no comments from the floor.

**12. Adjournment**

RESOLVED, that the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities hereby adjourns.

Motion by Alaina McCruel, second by Steve Scheidt.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Aye: Alaina McCruel, Steve Scheidt, Cynthia Schulz, Sara Steimle, Derek Topola

Time adjourned: 7:20pm.

**Next Meeting** – March 26, 2026 at 5:30 pm, Donzella Administration Building, 1275 Lakeside Ave E, Cleveland, OH 44114 and broadcast via Zoom. Zoom link will be shared on the Cuyahoga DD website at [cuyahogadd.org](http://cuyahogadd.org) at least three days prior to the meeting.

Certified by:

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Stephen Scheidt, President

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Sara Steimle, Secretary