

The Mercer County Board of Developmental Disabilities held its regular meeting on February 23, 2026, in the conference room at the Administration Building at 7:30 p.m. with **President Teri Spoltman** presiding.

The meeting was called to order and a roll call revealed that a quorum was present.

Members Present: Karla Butler, Tori Heck, Jacque Leverette, Teri Spoltman, John Werling

Members Absent: Mona Berning, Mike Linton

Others Present: Sarah Flenar, Shawn Thieman

Consent Agenda (Attachment):

The Consent Agenda was accepted by a motion from **Karla Butler** and seconded by **Jacque Leverette**. Motion was carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

DODD Accreditation The Board received a one-year accreditation (with three years being the maximum). There was a citation related to Special Olympics volunteer training requirements, specifically that volunteers serving 40+ hours annually must complete certain training under an existing rule. In response, the Board will begin tracking volunteer hours, ensure volunteers exceeding 40 hours complete the required training, and exempt those under 40 hours from the training requirement.

Building project (maintenance garage) The maintenance garage project continues to show progress. Last week, steel support beams were installed to modify the structure and accommodate new garage doors. Rather than constructing a new facility, the Board is remodeling the existing Serenity Springs building, resulting in significant cost savings compared to new construction. A walkthrough of the updated space is planned once weather conditions improve.

NEW BUSINESS:

Multi Use Trailer Discussion focused on the success of the sensory trailer at the 2025 county fair and the challenges of borrowing a trailer from another county, including transportation, inventory control, and maintenance concerns. The proposed solution is to purchase a 20-foot enclosed, air-conditioned trailer with ramp access and multi-use capabilities for fairs, festivals, and other events, at an estimated net cost of \$20,000 after trade-in of current small trailer owned. Board members expressed strong support, citing the importance of quiet spaces for families and year-round flexibility. The Superintendent will finalize pricing, review the proposal with the management team, and seek formal approval at the next meeting if costs remain within the projected range.

Mercer County Fair Share the Ring events have been confirmed for 2026. The Board also discussed the new Grand Event Center at the fairgrounds and expressed hope that future phases will include accessible restrooms and a sensory room to better support individuals and families attending fair/events. The Board emphasized the importance of family restrooms with adult changing tables at local events. Board also discussed plans to include a sensory/quiet room and an accessible restroom with adult changing capability as part of the current maintenance garage building project.

Superintendent Discussion –Property Tax

The Board discussed the statewide petition to eliminate property taxes, noting that property taxes generate approximately \$25 billion in Ohio revenue and that replacing them would require significant increases in income or sales tax rates. Members also expressed concern about the potential loss of local control over school and DD board funding and will continue monitoring the petition's progress.

Motion was made to adjourn by John Werling and a seconded by Tori Heck. Motion was carried.

Meeting adjourned.

The next meeting will be held in the Board Room in the Administration Building at 7:30 pm on March 23, 2026.