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**Board of Juvenile Justice &
Board of Education / Joint Board Meeting
Thursday, April 13, 2023
Board Meeting Minutes
Statesboro Campus
(Audio/Zoom Conference)**

Opening Remarks:

On Thursday, April 13, 2023, Vice Chair Willie Bolton called the joint board meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and Board of Education to order at approximately 11:00 AM. The meeting was held in person and via audio/Zoom conference at the Statesboro Campus.

DJJ Staff Present: Interim Commissioner Shawanda Reynolds-Cobb, DJJ Executive Team Members, and various DJJ Staff Members.

Other attendees included: Senior Assistant Attorney General Tina Piper and Assistant Attorney General Kathleen Jacobs (Law Department).

Invocation: Board Member Garland Hunt

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Board Secretary Adam Kennedy

Roll Call: (Conducted by Board Secretary Adam Kennedy – in-person) Members present were, Vice-Chair Willie C. Bolton (in-person), Danny Blackmon (in-person), Lisa Colbert (in-person), John Edwards (in-person), Quintress Gilbert (Zoom), Joyette Holmes (in-person), Garland Hunt (Zoom), and Fred Stephens (Zoom). Quorum was declared.

Approval of Meeting Agenda: Motion to approve by Board Member Colbert and seconded by Board Member Edwards. Approved unanimously.

Approval of Meeting Minutes March 23, 2023: Motion to approve by Board Member Holmes, seconded by Board Member Hunt, and approved unanimously.

Interim Commissioner Shawanda Reynolds-Cobb Report:

Commissioner Reynolds-Cobb thanked the staff at the facilities who work so diligently supervising the youth in the Department's custody and care. She also recognized the staff who arranged the board meeting in Statesboro. Commissioner thanked the Board for their continued support to DJJ.

DJJ will start on-line testing next week.

Further, Commissioner mentioned that there was some major storm damage to the Milledgeville facility a few weeks ago. The staff made sure that the youth were safe and that no one was injured.

Education Update:

Dr. Letunya Walker presented on the education dashboard data for April 2023.

Dashboard data covers February, March, and April. There is an increase of middle school and high school students in the system. In May there will be more students graduating. There are 25 staffing vacancies for teachers and 31 vacancies in clerks/aides and instructors.

For the Education Transition Centers (ETCs) – Bibbs, Chatham and Muscogee— Each student in these facilities will leave with a high school diploma or a GED. Each ETC operates on the same principles, but each has their own unique identity offering a family-oriented environment to ensure students are given every opportunity to be successful in their lives.

Announced the graduation on May 12, 2023, and that the speaker will be Board Member Holmes.

Division Update:

Chris Wilson presented on the Security Risk Group updates for DJJ.

Deputy Commissioner of Treatment and Care Margaret Cawood presented the Legislative Update. DJJ Chaplain Emily Kelly served as the Senate's Chaplain for the day, giving the morning devotion and prayer. DC Cawood reviewed the status of the bills of interest to DJJ.

Old Business – None.

New Business – Retirement announcement for Mr. Rodney Dinkins. Commissioner Reynolds-Cobb and the Board Members showed their appreciation for everything that Mr. Dinkins has done during his 30 years with DJJ.

Vice-Chair Bolton's Comments:

Vice Chair Bolton ended with asking everyone to please tell staff how much they are appreciated from the bottom to the top. Showing appreciation is good for morale.

Executive Session:

Secretary Kennedy moved to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters. The motion was seconded by Board Member Holmes and approved unanimously (Secretary Kennedy, Vice-Chair Bolton, Board members Colbert, Edwards, Gilbert, Holmes, Hunt, and Stephens).

Motion to Adjourn:

Upon return to the regular session, Secretary Kennedy moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Board Member Edwards and approved unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned.

Willie Bolton, Vice Chair
Board of Juvenile Justice

Shawanda Reynolds-Cobb, Commissioner
Department of Juvenile Justice

Adam Kennedy, Secretary
Board of Juvenile Justice