



Board of Juvenile Justice
Thursday, April 13, 2017
Statesboro, GA
9:00 AM

Opening Remarks

Chair Elaine Snow called to order the meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice at 9:13 am. The meeting was held at the Springhill Suites Conference Center, Statesboro, GA.

DJJ Staff Present: Commissioner Avery D. Niles, Assistant Commissioner Keith Horton, Chief of Staff Joe Vignati, Associate Superintendent Jean Lee, Dr. Rufus Johnson, Director John T. Smith, Deputy Commissioner Margaret Cawood, Director Virginia Phifer, Chaplain Danny A. Horne, Director Lisa Bryson, Deputy Commissioner Catina Martin-Fenner, Tania Appling, Asst. Director John Pearson, Director Scott Mall, Director Montrail Mitchell, Director Debaja Coleman, Director Latera Davis, Meagan Terry, Deputy CFO Drew Townsend, Deputy Commissioner Shawanda Reynolds-Cobb, Asst. Deputy Commissioner Debbie Carter, Deputy Commissioner Sean Hamilton, Counsel Cindy Wang, Edith E. Guilford, Kim Todd

Others Present: Director Homer Bryson, GEMA/Homeland Security; Rebecca Dobras, Attorney General's Office

Secretary's Report: Secretary Adam Kennedy conducted the Roll Call. The following members were present: Elaine Snow, Richard Ambrose, Willie C. Bolton, Lisa Colbert, Adam Kennedy, Julia Neighbors, John Edwards, Dr. Thomas Coleman, and Sandra Heath-Taylor.

Chair Snow asked for a motion to approve the current agenda. Prior to the motion to approve the agenda for the April 13, 2017 meeting, Commissioner Avery D. Niles requested that the Board amend the agenda to include an executive session to discuss personnel matters. Vice-Chair Taylor moved for the executive session, which was seconded by Secretary Kennedy and approved unanimously by the Board.

Chair Snow asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2017 Board Meeting. A motion was made by Board Member Coleman and seconded by Board Member Bolton. The motion carried unanimously

Commissioner's Report

The Commissioner Report was previously submitted to the Board via email and it was included in the Board materials.

The following topics were discussed:

Commissioner Avery D. Niles had previously submitted his written report (included in materials). DJJ Legislative Affairs Director John Smith gave a brief overview of the 2017 Legislative Session. He discussed appropriations for DJJ and the various bills that passed which will impact the juvenile justice system.

DJJ Training Academy Director Debaja Coleman and Professional Development Unit Manager Tania Appling presented on the BJCOT, BJPOT, BCST, and leadership training curricula **(Addendum A)**. There was a discussion on the EPICS training, and the Commissioner expressed some concerns. Board Member Neighbors would like to know the results of the training focus group surveys. Commissioner Niles suggested a possible offsite visit to Macon YDC/RVDC for interested board members. Bolton commented on the name of the leadership training series.

DJJ HR Director Virginia Phifer gave a brief presentation on the make-up of the DJJ work force and recruitment efforts **(Addendum B)**. Secretary Kennedy inquired about the number of vacancies and he would like a breakdown of the vacancies by each facility. Ms. Phifer gave a couple of examples of the turnover rates. There was also a brief discussion regarding the youthful age of the officers in comparison to the youthful offenders in DJJ's care. Board Member Bolton suggested having uniformed staff at the job fairs.

This concluded the Commissioner's report.

Chair Snow asked for a motion to adjourn from the regular DJJ Board Meeting and reconvene as the DJJ School Board. A motion was made by Board Member Kennedy and seconded by Board Member Bolton. The motion carried unanimously.

Board of Education

During the DJJ Board of Education meeting, the following topics were discussed:

Ms. Jean Lee, Associate Superintendent introduced herself.

Dr. Rufus Johnson gave a short overview of the Georgia Preparatory Academy's strategic plan. Board Member Coleman discussed recruitment efforts at various schools.

Chair Snow asked for a motion to adjourn from the DJJ School Board and reconvene as the regular DJJ Board. A motion was made and seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair's Comments

Chair Snow thanked the board members who attended the meeting. Board Member Colbert thanked the Commissioner and staff for the visit to the Augusta YDC.

Old Business

No old business

New Business

No new business

Comments:

Secretary Kennedy mentions the mural to recognize Savannah area individuals having a positive impact on the youth, which will also feature Savannah RYDC Director Rodney Dinkins.

Chair Snow announced that the next Board Meeting would be held on Thursday, May 25, 2017 at DJJ Headquarters, 3408 Covington Highway, Decatur, GA 30032 at 10:00 AM.

The meeting was adjourned.

Elaine P. Snow, Chair
Board of Juvenile Justice

Avery D. Niles, Commissioner
Department of Juvenile Justice

Adam Kennedy
Board Secretary