



Board of Juvenile Justice
Thursday, April 12, 2018
Decatur, GA
9:00 am

Opening Remarks

Chair Snow called to order the meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice at 9:02 am. The meeting was held at the Holiday Inn Statesboro-University, Statesboro, GA.

DJJ Staff Present: Commissioner Avery D. Niles, Chief of Staff Joe Vignati, Associate Superintendent Jean Lee, Deputy Commissioner Shawanda Reynolds-Cobb, Deputy Commissioner John Pearson Sr., Deputy Commissioner Catina Martin-Fenner, Deputy Commissioner Pamela Johnson, Assistant Commissioner Sean Hamilton, Edith E. Darden, Director John T. Smith, Mary Catherine Heard, General Counsel Cindy Wang, Chaplain Danny Horne, Director Latera Davis, Director Scott Cagle, Chief Financial Officer Andrew Laarhoven, Deputy Commissioner Margaret Cawood, Assistant Deputy Commissioner Victor Roberts, Kim Todd, Director Mike Barton, Ombudsman Herman Archie, Deputy Chief Financial Officer Bakia Parrish, Director Lisa Bryson, Dr. Rufus Johnson, Tania Appling, Scott Mall, Debaja Coleman, Bill Martin, Montrail Mitchell, John Parker,

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

Secretary's Report: Secretary Adam Kennedy conducted the Roll Call. The following members were present: Richard Ambrose, Willie Bolton, Lisa Colbert, Angie Holt (teleconference), Adam Kennedy, Julia Neighbors, Elaine Snow, Kelly Stewart (teleconference), Sandra H. Taylor, James K. Valbrun (teleconference), Dick Yarbrough, Judge Quintress Gilbert

Chair Snow asked for a motion to approve the current agenda. A motion was made by Board Member Bolton and seconded by Board Member Ambrose. The motion carried unanimously. Chair Snow asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2018 Board Meeting. A motion was made by Board Member Kennedy and seconded by Board Member Taylor. 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. Commissioner Niles presented his report to the Board.

The following topics were discussed:

Commissioner Niles introduced JPM Bill Martin from Bulloch County. JPM Martin addressed the Board.

Director Scott Cagle addressed the board with information regarding ACA accreditation and the results of audits conducted at a few of the facilities. The results stated the agency was 100% in compliance.

Commissioner Niles announced new leadership. Assistant Commissioner Sean Hamilton, Deputy Commissioner Pamela Johnson addressed the Board. Director Lisa Casey-Bryson spoke on her upcoming retirement from the agency.

Assistant Commissioner/Chief of Staff Joe Vignati provided an update on secure facilities leadership changes. Board Member Bolton asked about the security officer staffing levels. Commissioner recognized Mr. Bolton's work with DJJ and Wilkes RYDC.

Commissioner Niles mentioned the article that was written by Board member Yarbrough on the youth that spoke at the February board meeting.

Board member Bolton commented on the Wilkes Open House.

Ombudsman Herman Archie gave a brief update about the Rockdale RYDC Family Day event. Next family engagement event will be held at the Macon YDC in May. Vice Chair Taylor talked about the Carrolton CSO community event.

Governmental Affairs Director John Smith provided a legislative update.

Chief Financial Officer Andrew Laarhoven mentioned that there were no financial audit findings. There were a couple of management level comments.

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 Colbert and seconded by Board Member Kennedy. The motion carried unanimously.

Board of Education

Associate Superintendent Jean Lee discussed Advanced ED accreditation process and GA Milestones testing. She also mentioned teacher vacancies and retention percentage. The State appropriated additional funds for math and science teacher salaries.

Judge Colbert mentioned the film "Raised in the System" and suggested wider distribution to staff and public.

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

Old Business

No old business

Comments:

Chair Snow thanked everyone for their participation. She addressed Director Lisa Casey-Bryson and wished her a great retirement. Chair Snow thanked Board Member Bolton for his consistent work with the agency. She thanked Judge Gilbert for traveling so far often to attend the Board meetings.

New Business

No new business

Chair Snow announced that the next Board Meeting would be held on Thursday, May 24, 2018 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
Board of Juvenile Justice