



**Board of Juvenile Justice
Thursday, April 22, 2021
Decatur, GA
Board Meeting Minutes
DJJ Central Office and via Audio/Zoom Conference**

Opening Remarks

On Thursday, April 22, 2021. Chair Sandra Taylor called the meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice to order at 10:00 AM. The meeting was held at DJJ Central Office and via audio/Zoom conference.

DJJ Staff Present: Commissioner Tyrone Oliver, Deputy Superintendent Zane Shelfer, DJJ Executive Team Members, and various DJJ Staff Members.

Attendees included: Assistant Attorney General Amy Radley (in person) and public guests (remote attendance).

Invocation: Chaplain Danny Horne

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Board Member Gary Yandura.

Roll Call: Members present were Chair Sandra Taylor (in-person), Vice-Chair Willie C. Bolton (via Zoom), Secretary Adam Kennedy (via Zoom), Danny Blackmon (in-person), Angie M. Holt (via Zoom), Margaret Kaiser (in-person), Dr. Thomas Coleman (in-person), Judge Lisa Colbert (via Zoom), and Chief Gary Yandura (in-person). Judicial Advisory Members Judge Quintress Gilbert (in-person) and Judge Steven Teske (via Zoom) participated. Quorum was declared.

Agenda approval: Chair Taylor called for a motion to approve the April 22, 2021 agenda. The motion was made by Board Member Kaiser, seconded by Board Member Yandura, and approved unanimously.

Minutes approval: Chair Taylor called for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 25, 2021 board meeting. The motion was made by Board Member Blackmon, seconded by Board Member Colbert, and approved unanimously.

Commissioner's Report

COVID-19 Update

Commissioner Oliver updated the Board regarding the number of DJJ staff members and youth who have tested positive for COVID-19. He stated that the Department is in the process of vaccinating youth 18 and older on a voluntary basis. The Commissioner also mentioned plans to administer the Pfizer vaccine to youth 12 to 16 once it becomes available, and if the youth would like to receive the vaccine.

Special Recognitions

Commissioner Oliver introduced Katrina Patterson as DJJ Office Human Resources Interim Director until further notice.

He also announced the retirement of DJJ Re-entry Services Director Dr. Keith Jones. He read a proclamation honoring Dr. Jones and thanked him for his dedicated service to the State of Georgia.

This concluded the Commissioner's Report.

Chair Taylor called for a motion to adjourn the regular DJJ Board Meeting and reconvene as the DJJ School Board. A motion was made by Board Member Coleman, seconded by Board Member Yandura, and approved unanimously.

Board of Education

Deputy Superintendent Zane Shelfer shared information about the education data dashboard, including the percentage of the student body with special education needs. DJJ is currently in the process of setting up interviews for vacant positions.

Cognia Accreditation

Deputy Superintendent Shelfer announced that the Cognia Accreditation Committee voted on March 31, 2021, to continue the Georgia Preparatory Academy's accreditation for five more years (2026). During the accreditation process, he stated that the committee applauded the stakeholders' support and pride in the school system, student center support, and advocate/teacher support.

Comments (BOE): Chair Taylor thanked and commended Deputy Superintendent Shelfer and his team for their hard work.

Chair Taylor called for a motion to adjourn from the DJJ School Board and reconvene as the regular DJJ Board. A motion was made by Board Member Blackmon, seconded by Board Member Coleman, and approved unanimously.

Comments: Chair Taylor thanked everyone for attending the first in-person board meeting since February 2020.

Old Business: No old business

New Business: No new business

Executive Session:

Chair Taylor called for motion to move into executive session to discuss personnel matters. The motion was made by Board Member Kaiser, seconded by Board Member Coleman (and Vice-Chair Bolton), and approved unanimously (Chair Taylor, Vice-Chair Bolton, Secretary Kennedy, Board members Blackmon, Holt, Kaiser, Coleman, Colbert, and Yandura).

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned after returning from executive session. The motion to adjourn was made by Board Member Holt and seconded by Board Member Blackmon and approved unanimously.

The next scheduled meeting will be May 27, 2021, at 10:00 AM, DJJ Central Office, Decatur GA.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 AM.

Sandra H. Taylor, Chair
Board of Juvenile Justice

Tyrone Oliver, Commissioner
Department of Juvenile Justice

Adam Kennedy, Secretary
Board of Juvenile Justice