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**Board of Juvenile Justice &  
Board of Education / Joint Board Meeting  
Thursday, December 14, 2023  
Board Meeting Minutes  
(In-Person and Zoom Conference)**

**Opening Remarks:**

**Call to Order:** On Thursday, December 14, 2023, Chair Sandra Taylor called the joint board meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and Board of Education to order at approximately 10:05 am. The meeting was held in-person and by Zoom at the Robert Hatcher Senior Conference Center in Macon, Georgia.

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

**Invocation:** Chaplain Emily Kelly

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by Secretary Adam Kennedy.

**Roll Call:** Conducted by Secretary Kennedy: Chair Sandra Taylor (in-person), Vice-Chair Willie Bolton (in-person), Quintress Gilbert (in-person), Margaret Kaiser (Zoom), Tim McCulley (Zoom), Penny Penn (in-person), and Danny Blackmon (in-person). A quorum was declared.

**Approval of Meeting Agenda** – A motion was made to approve the meeting agenda by Vice-Chair Bolton and seconded by Board Member Blackmon. The agenda was approved unanimously.

**Approval of October 26, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes** – A motion was made to approve the minutes by Board Member Gilbert and seconded by Board Member Blackmon. The minutes were approved unanimously.

### **Commissioner's Report:**

- The Commissioner thanked the staff for their hard work and dedication in how much they advocate for youth. She also thanked the Board for continuously advocating for and supporting staff and the DJJ youth.
- The Commissioner talked about the student graduation ceremony that will occur after the board meeting.
- She also talked about a housing summit that the Reentry team participated in and Café Momentum coming to Georgia and what that means for the youth. Thanks to the Re-Entry Team for all the hard work they put in to make this a possibility.
- There have been graduations both on the community side as well as for secure facilities.
- DJJ continues to partner with its sister agencies to provide resources and services to the youth.
- DJJ continues to focus on recruiting for Metro RYDC and other facilities.
- The Commissioner talked about the update to the gang prevention presentation.
- Video of year-end review was played.
- Presentation of recognition certificates to staff with 25 years of experience and more with the State:
  - o Cathy Smith-Curry, Director of Reentry Services
  - o Rusty Rodgers, Deputy Commissioner of Community Services
  - o Latera Davis, Deputy Commissioner of Professional Development and Standards
  - o Pamela Hill, Deputy Commissioner of Secure Facilities
  - o Mattie Robinson, Executive Assistant to the Commissioner

### **Education Update – Zane Shelfer, Deputy Superintendent**

- Data Dashboard – Fall Semester Graduation – December 2023
  - o 22 high school diplomas
  - o 22 GED diplomas
  - o 7 Technical certificates of credit
- There will be a graduation ceremony for all the graduating students.

### **Old Business:**

- Following up on gang prevention with a presentation given by Manager Haley Beckham, Office of Investigations, Special Investigations Unit.

### **New Business:**

- The Board resolution for Eastman RYDC was presented by Director of Operations, Building Services, Sabrina Bell. (Director Joan Quinn-Cannon was unable to attend.) This Resolution would authorize the Commissioner to effectuate the transfer of custody of the property known as the Eastman RYDC

over to the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Development Disabilities. Motion to approve was made by Secretary Kennedy and it was seconded by Vice-Chair Bolton. The Resolution was approved unanimously.

**Chair's Comments:**

Chair Taylor thanked staff for the great presentations and their hard work. She also acknowledged all of the Commissioner's work and the positive impact that she has had on the agency.

The next meeting will be January 25, 2024, at 10:00 am at the Central Office.

A motion to adjourn was made by Board Member McCulley and seconded by Board Member Penn. The meeting was adjourned.

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Sandra H. Taylor, Chair  
Board of Juvenile Justice

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Shawanda Reynolds-Cobb, Commissioner  
Department of Juvenile Justice

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Adam Kennedy, Secretary  
Board of Juvenile Justice