



Board of Juvenile Justice
Thursday, December 18, 2014
3408 Covington Highway, Decatur, GA 30032

Opening Remarks

Chair Elaine P. Snow called to order the meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice. The meeting was held at the Department of Juvenile Justice Headquarters in Decatur, GA.

DJJ Staff Present: Commissioner Avery D. Niles; Assistant Commissioner Mark Sexton; Sharon Starks; Director Jim Shuler; Janssen Robinson; Associate Superintendent Audrey Armistad; Director John T. Smith; Director Ricky Rich; Deputy Commissioner Jeffrey Chandler; Deputy Commissioner Shawanda Reynolds-Cobb; Deputy Commissioner Miguel Fernandez; Deputy Commissioner Sarah Draper; Deputy Commissioner Carl Brown; Deputy Commissioner Michael McNeely; Director Nadine Crocker; Manager Harold Cooper; Deputy Director Courtney Ware; Sabrina Davis-Fuller; Darien Watson; Adam Barnett; Chrissy Kaczyski; Director Latera Davis; Director Danny Horne; Monique Grier; CFO Sonja R. Allen; Deputy CFO Drew Townsend; Anna Brown; Director Lisa Casey Bryson; Director Tracy Masters; Jennifer Deweese; Chris Jones; Melanie Lovett; Kimberly Marshall; Director Allyson Richardson; Ombudsman Debbie Carter; Director Theodore Carter, Jr.; AJ Sabree; Tania Appling; Bernard Andrews; Andrew Laarhoven; Director Mike Barton; Chaplain Danny Horne; Margaret Miller; Dr. Michelle Staples-Horne; Director Rob Andrews; Anna Brown; and Assistant Deputy Commissioner Joe Vignati.

Others Present: Amy Radley, Attorney General's Office; John B. Edwards, Jr., private citizen; Shaunae Motley, Quest for Change; Jody Bradham, TalentQuest; Helen Sloat, Nelson Mullins; Gernelle Lewis, DJJ Citizens Academy and Jean Aaron DJJ Citizens Academy

Secretary's Report: Chair Snow asked Secretary Kennedy to conduct the Roll Call. The following members were present: Willie C. Bolton; Thomas Coleman; John B. Edwards; Angie Holt; Secretary Adam Kennedy; Julia Neighbors; Chair Elaine P. Snow; Fred Stephens and Dick Yarbrough. Advisory Council Member Quintress Gilbert was present as well.

Chair Snow asked for a motion to amend the current agenda. Secretary Kennedy made a motion to amend the agenda to add an item regarding the permanent appointment of the current Commissioner. The motion was seconded by Board Member Edwards and carried unanimously.

Chair Snow asked for a motion to approve the current agenda as amended. A motion was made by Board Member Holt and Secretary Kennedy. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Snow asked for a motion to approve the Minutes of the October 23, 2014. A motion to approve was made by Board Member Yarbrough and seconded by Board Member Holt. The motion carried unanimously.

Secretary Kennedy made a motion to approve Avery D. Niles as the permanent Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice. The motion was seconded by Board Member Coleman and carried unanimously. The letter from the Governor's Office approving the appointment is attached at **Addendum A**.

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Niles discussed the following topics:

- The new partnership with the Atlanta Track Club at Metro RYDC
- The Ribbon Cutting at the Milledgeville ITU
- Board Member training in February 2015

Director Ricky Rich gave an update on the Office of Investigations. For additional details, see **Addendum B**.

Deputy Commissioner Michael McNeely gave updates from the Office of Training.

Chief Financial Officer Sonja Allen briefed the Board on the FY2015 Amended Budget and the FY2016 Budget Requests. For additional details, see **Addendum C**.

Recognition was given to the following individuals:

- All DJJ Board Members for excellent service to the Department of Juvenile Justice in 2014
- Board Member Willie Bolton's retirement Clarke County
- Board Member John B. Edwards was commended for being recognized by Governor Deal for Outstanding Contribution to Law Enforcement
- Human Resources Manager Harold Cooper for excellent leadership in their division
- Adam Barnett for his work as team captain on the PREA Audit in which DJJ was 100% compliant.
- Tania Appling, Latera Davis and Cathy Smith- Curry for their work in getting the Citizens Academy up and running.

Board of Education

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

Associate Superintendent Armistad briefed the Board on the following topics:

- Introduction of Dr. Anna Brown, Curriculum Specialist
- Introduction Rob Andrews, CTAE Director
- High School Graduation Writing Test Results (See **Addendum D** for additional details)
- Special Education Compliance Results (See **Addendum E** for additional details)
- Winter Graduation Ceremony

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 Coleman and seconded by Board Member Holt. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair's Comment

The April Board Meeting will be held in Glennville, Georgia. More details at a later time.

Old Business

There was no Old Business before the Board.

New Business

The next Citizen Academy will be in Macon, Georgia. More details at a later time.

The next meeting will be held on January 22, 2015 at the DJJ Headquarters.

The meeting was adjourned.

Elaine P. Snow, Chair
Board of Juvenile Justice

Avery D. Niles, Commissioner
Department of Juvenile Justice

Adam Kennedy
Board Secretary