



Board of Juvenile Justice
Thursday, December 8, 2016
DJJ Headquarters
10:00 AM

Opening Remarks

Vice-Chair Sandra Heath-Taylor called to order the meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice. The meeting was held at the DJJ Headquarters, 3408 Covington Highway, Decatur, GA 30032.

DJJ Staff Present: Commissioner Avery D. Niles, Assistant Commissioner J. Mark Sexton, Assistant Commissioner Keith Horton, Deputy Commissioner Shawanda Reynolds-Cobb, , Director Scott Cagle, Director Scott Mall, Associate Superintendent Richard Behrens, Assistant Deputy Commissioner Debbie Carter, Assistant Deputy Commissioner Theodore Carter, Jr., Chaplain Danny Horne, Deputy Commissioner Sarah Draper, Assistant Deputy Commissioner Margaret Cawood, Yasmin Othman, Deputy Commissioner Sean Hamilton, Carrie Hamilton-Shavers, Deputy Chief Financial Officer Drew Townsend, Director John T. Smith, Director Andrew Laarhoven, Deputy Commissioner Joe Vignati, Dr. Letunya Walker, General Counsel Cindy Wang, Janssen Robinson, Associate Superintendent Catina Martin-Fenner, Terry Isaac, Director Virginia Phifer, Director Lisa Casey-Bryson, Jim Shuler, Doricia Thompson, Gail T. Smith

Others Present: Chief Financial Officer Sonja R. Allen-Smith, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget; Amy Radley, Attorney General's Office; Kelly Dudley, Georgia Department of Agriculture; Terrence Wilson, Barton Center; Brian Lawler, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget

Secretary's Report: Secretary Adam Kennedy conducted the Roll Call. The following members were present: Willie C. Bolton, Lisa Colbert, Thomas Coleman, Adam Kennedy, Julia Neighbors, Penny Penn, Dick Yarbrough, Spurgeon Ambrose, and Sandra Heath-Taylor. Also present was Advisory Council member Quintress Gilbert.

Vice-Chair Taylor asked for a motion to approve the current agenda. A motion was made by Board Member Kennedy and seconded by Board Member Colbert. The motion carried unanimously.

Vice-Chair Taylor asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the October 27th 2016 Board Meeting. A motion was made by Board Member Coleman and seconded by Board Member Yarbrough. 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:

- The Commissioner reminded the Board of Board photos and the 911 memorial unveiling after the meeting
- The Commissioner recognized former Chief Financial Officer Sonja Allen-Smith who now works for the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget.
- The Commissioner also introduced the new incoming Chief Financial Officer Kelly Dudley, coming from the Georgia Department of Agriculture
- The Commissioner also announced additional staff changes. He welcomed new Human Resource Director Virginia Phifer.
- Board Member James Valbrun has been re-appointed by the Governor to the Board.
- The Commissioner announced the holiday lunch for the Board and staff, the youth graduation set for December 15, 2016, and officer graduations on December 16, 2016. He also informed the Board that Channel 46 News was working on a series on juvenile justice reform.
- The Commissioner asked for a moment of silence for the officers shot in Americus.
- The Commissioner gave a brief legislative update and mentioned the Governor's special recognition of DJJ's juvenile justice reform efforts.

Vice-Chair Taylor 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 Coleman. The motion carried unanimously.

Board of Education

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

- Dr. Behrens gave an update of Infinite campus parent registrations, introduction of staff and an overview of the blended curriculum model **(Addendum A)**
- Family Engagement Coordinator Gail T. Smith presented to the Board **(Addendum B)**
- Deputy Commissioner of Community Services Joe Vignati discussed family engagement in communities
- Questions were answered about the following
 - Youth preparing and taking the ACT
 - Youth receiving laminated pocket copies of diplomas
 - Periodic updates parental engagement efforts in Infinite Campus and parents
 - Re-Entry efforts for youth entering the workforce, Goodwill presenting at next Board meeting

Vice-Chair Taylor 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 Colbert and seconded by Board Member Kennedy. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair's Comments

Vice-Chair Taylor commented on the following topics:

- Commended staff on Board Training in Athens
- Reminded Board members of Board pictures being taken and holiday luncheon
- Discussed community training at next Board meeting
- Discussed assisting youth with record expungement and corrections

Old Business

Board Member Bolton commended the staff on their accomplishments over the past year
Board Member Yarbrough commended staff on Board training

New Business

No new business

Vice-Chair Taylor announced that the next Board Meeting would be held on Thursday, January 26th, 2017 at DJJ Headquarters, 3408 Covington Highway, Decatur, GA 30032 at 10:00 AM.

The meeting was adjourned.

Sandra H. Taylor, Vice-Chair
Board of Juvenile Justice

Avery D. Niles, Commissioner
Department of Juvenile Justice

Adam Kennedy
Board Secretary