



**Board of Juvenile Justice &  
Board of Education  
Joint Meeting  
Thursday, February 24, 2022  
Decatur, GA  
Board Meeting Minutes  
(Audio/Zoom Conference)**

**Opening Remarks**

On Thursday, February 24, 2022. Chair Sandra Taylor called the meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice to order at 10:00 AM. The meeting was held as an 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 (Law Department) and public guests.

**Invocation:** Chaplain Danny Horne

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by Chair Sandra Taylor.

**Roll Call:** Members present were Chair Sandra Taylor, Vice-Chair Willie C. Bolton, Secretary Adam Kennedy, Chief Gary Yandura, Penny Penn, Thomas Coleman, Joyette Holmes, Kathryn Powers, Danny L. Blackmon, Angie Holt, Fred Stephens, and Judge Lisa Colbert. Judicial Advisory Member Judge Quintress Gilbert participated. Quorum was declared.

**Agenda approval:** Chair Taylor called for a motion to approve the February 24, 2022 agenda. The motion was made by Vice-Chair Bolton, seconded by Board Member Yandura, and approved unanimously.

**Minutes approval:** Chair Taylor called for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2022 board meeting. The motion was made by Board Member Penn, seconded by Board Member Coleman, and approved unanimously.

## **Commissioner's Report**

### **Quarterly Town Hall Meetings**

Commissioner Oliver updated the Board regarding DJJ's town hall meetings held on February 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of the meeting is to effectively communicate with DJJ staff to provide updates and feedback regarding the agency. The Commissioner stated that the agency would continue to engage with the DJJ staff quarterly.

### **Basic Juvenile Correctional Officer Training Class (BJCOT)**

The Commissioner congratulated BJCOT Class #250 for completing training. Their graduation was held on February 11, 2022, at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center. Valencia Cobb, Wilkes RYDC Assistant Director of Programming, served as commencement speaker. Class #251 will begin on February 28, 2022.

### **Farewell – Sean Hamilton**

The Commissioner informed the Board that Assistant Commissioner (AC) Sean Hamilton's final day with DJJ will be February 28, 2022. The Commissioner congratulated AC Hamilton and praised him for his faithful service to DJJ and wished him luck in his future endeavors.

### **J. Daniel Shuman (Former DJJ Board Chair)**

On February 18, 2022, the Commissioner along with former DJJ Commissioner Albert Murray and Secretary Kennedy conducted a program via Zoom honoring former DJJ Chair J. Daniel Shuman, who passed away on January 2, 2022. Eva Lou Shuman (Daniel Shuman's wife) was sent a plaque in his honor.

### **13<sup>th</sup> Annual Polar Plunge**

On February 19, Team DJJ participated in the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Polar Plunge held at Lake Acworth in Acworth, Georgia. The Polar Plunge is one of the largest fundraising events through the Law Enforcement Torch Run Program (LETR) efforts. All proceeds raised help to provide 26,620 Special Olympics Georgia athletes free year-round sports training. The Commissioner thanked Director of Professional Development and Standards Latara Davis and Director of Victim and Volunteer Services DeBaja Coleman for helping coordinate the event. He also thanked DJJ staff members who participated.

### **Promotion Announcement**

The Commissioner announced the promotion of Shawanda Reynolds-Cobbs to the position of Assistant Commissioner/Chief of Staff, effective March 1, 2022. He also announced the promotion of Allyson Richardson to Deputy Commissioner of the Division of Administrative Services, effective March 1, 2022.

## **Legislative/Budget Update**

The Commissioner stated the House was asked to place the rate increase for residential providers back in the budget due to an oversight. He said the Senate should be voting on the amended budget on February 28, 2022. The Commissioner stated the mental health parity bill and House Bill 272 continue to be monitored.

Chair Taylor congratulated Commissioner Oliver for being presented with Senate Resolution 435 by State Senator Emanuel Jones and the Georgia Senate.

## **Divisional Reports**

### **Board of Education (BOE)**

#### **Data DashBoard**

Deputy Superintendent (DS) 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 to fill vacant positions.

#### **Questions/Comments (Dashboard)**

Chair Taylor asked whether DJJ is competitive with other local school systems regarding teacher salaries.

Board Member Stephens asked whether there are more vacancies in the rural areas.

### **Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund Overview**

DS Shelfer introduced ESSER Coordinator Dr. Rufus Johnson. Dr. Johnson provided an update regarding funding and program expenditures for ESSER I, ESSER II, and ESSER III – Coronavirus Aids Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The deadline to spend funds: ESSER I (September 2022), ESSER II (September 2023), and ESSER III (September 2024).

### **Division of Professional Development**

DJJ's Project Manager Niki Martinez discussed DJJ's new learning management platform for all employees, contractors, vendors, and volunteers, "The HUB." This new platform will strengthen and streamline the registration process as well as improve the agency's classroom and virtual training experience. She discussed The HUB's features and benefits of the new platform.

**Comments:** Chair Taylor sent her condolences to Board Member Edwards for the loss of his brother.

**Old Business:** No new business.

**New Business:** No new business.

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled meeting will be March 24, 2022, at 10:00 AM, DJJ Central Office, Decatur, GA, via audio/Zoom conference.

The motion to adjourn was made by Secretary Kennedy, seconded by Board Member Holmes, and adopted unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:57 AM.

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Sandra H. Taylor, Chair  
Board of Juvenile Justice

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Tyrone Oliver, Commissioner  
Department of Juvenile Justice

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Adam Kennedy, Secretary  
Board of Juvenile Justice