



OFFICE OF LEGAL SERVICES

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**Board of Juvenile Justice &
Board of Education / Joint Board Meeting
Thursday, February 27, 2025
Board Meeting Minutes
(In-Person and Zoom Conference)**

Opening Remarks:

Call to Order: On Thursday, February 27, 2025, Chair Sandra Taylor called the joint board meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and Board of Education to order at approximately 10:02 AM. The meeting was held in-person and by Zoom.

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

Other Attendees: Senior Assistant Attorney General Amy Radley. Guests in the audience and on Zoom.

Invocation: Chaplain Emily Kelly

Pledge of Allegiance: Board Member Garry McGiboney

Roll Call: Conducted by Board Member Fred Stephens (in-person) in Secretary Adam Kennedy's absence, Chair Sandra Taylor (in-person), Vice-Chair Willie Bolton (in-person), Judge Lisa Colbert (virtual), Senior Judge Quintress Gilbert (in-person), Scotty Hancock (virtual), Garland Hunt (virtual), Timothy McCulley (virtual), Dr. Gary McGiboney (In-person), Michael Murphy (in-person), and Penny Penn (in-person). A quorum was declared.

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

Approval of December 12, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes – A motion was made to approve the minutes by Board Member Gilbert and seconded by Board Member Murphy. Board Member McGiboney abstained. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Commissioner's Report:

- Extended a welcome to Dr. Garry McGiboney as a new member of the Board.
- A Virtual Town Hall Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 4, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.
- There was a graduation of BJCOT class of 77 graduates.
- Deputy Commissioner of Professional Development and Standards Latera Davis will be leaving DJJ and going to work with Commissioner Oliver at the Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC).
- Video to recap the accomplishments of the year of 2024 at DJJ was played for the Board and audience.

Divisional Updates:

Education: (Dr. Letunya Walker, Deputy Superintendent)

- Dr. Walker submitted a proposal for review and approval of the 2025-2026 school calendar. A motion was made by Vice-Chair Bolton and seconded by Board Member Murphy. The School Calendar for 2025-2026 was approved unanimously.
- A presentation was given by the Family Engagement Coordinator, Gail Smith.
 - o Family & Community Engagement (FACE) Overview
 - o Purpose of Family Engagement in Education
 - o The Potential: Impact of Family Engagement
 - o The Problem: System Barriers
 - o Video of Dr. Karen Mapp, Sr. Lecturer on Education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education
 - o The Plan: Smart Goals for 2024 - 2025

Secure Facilities: (Assistant Deputy Commissioner Audrey Stokes)

- There was an Overview of Regional Youth Detention Centers (RYDC).
 - o Overview of Leadership
 - o Catchment Areas
 - o Overview of Population
 - o Overview of Offenses by Gender and Age
 - o Overview of Bed Capacity at each facility
 - o Historical Perspective of Facility Evolution: 1997 – Present
 - o Youth Services at RYDC and YDC
 - o Facility Youth Councils
 - o Advisory Councils
 - o Volunteer Services
 - o Staff Recognition – “Celebrating our Wins”

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- New Board Member Dr. Garry McGiboney.

Chair's Comments:

- Chair Taylor thanked all the presenters and welcomed Dr. McGiboney to the Board.

The next board meeting will be held at Central Office on April 24, 2025, at 10:00 AM.

A motion was made to adjourn by Board Member Penn and seconded by Vice-Chair Bolton. Meeting Adjourned.

Sandra H. Taylor, Chair
Board of Juvenile Justice

Shawanda Reynolds-Cobb Commissioner
Department of Juvenile Justice

Fred Stephens, Board Member (in Secretary Kennedy's absence)
Board of Juvenile Justice