

Avery D. Niles, Commissioner



DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

3408 Covington Highway ▪ Decatur, Georgia ▪ 30032
Telephone: (404) 508-7200, Fax: (404) 508-7340

Board of Juvenile Justice
Wednesday, February 25, 2015

UGA Conference & Hotel Center
1197 South Lumpkin Street
Athens, Georgia 30605

Opening Remarks

Vice Chair Sandra Taylor called to order the meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice. The meeting was held at the UGA Conference & Hotel Center, 1197 South Lumpkin Street, Athens, Georgia 30605.

DJ Staff Present: Commissioner Avery D. Niles; Assistant Commissioner Mark Sexton; Director Tracy Masters; Deputy Commissioner Michael McNeely; Deputy Commissioner Carl Brown; Deputy Commissioner Sarah Draper; Deputy Commissioner Shawanda Reynolds-Cobb; Deputy Commissioner Miguel Fernandez; Associate Superintendent Audrey Armistad; CFO Sonja R. Allen-Smith; Chaplain Danny Horne; Acting Director Andrew Laarhoven; Director Ricky Rich; Sharon Starks; Janssen Robinson and Edith Guilford.

Others Present: Mindy Park, Attorney General's Office; and Melissa Hargrove.

Secretary's Report: Vice Chair Taylor asked Secretary Kennedy to conduct the Roll Call. The following members were present: Spurgeon Ambrose; Willie C. Bolton; Thomas Coleman; John B. Edwards; Secretary Adam Kennedy; Julia Neighbors; Franklin Rozier; Fred Stephens; Kelly Stewart and Sandra Taylor. Advisory Council Member Quintress Gilbert was present as well.

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

Vice Chair Taylor asked for a motion to approve the Minutes of the January 22, 2015 Board Meeting. A motion to approve was made by Board Member Ambrose and seconded by Board Member Bolton. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Niles discussed the following topics:

- The next Citizen's Academy will be held in April 2015 in the Bibb County/Macon, Georgia area. The agenda will be sent to the Board Members in March 2015.
- Upcoming budget presentation to the Senate Sub-Committee.

Deputy Commissioner Michael McNeely gave an overview of the Office of Training. For additional details, please see Addendum A.

Deputy Commissioner Sarah Draper gave a brief overview on the steps the agency has taken in our efforts to gain accreditation with the American Correctional Association (ACA).

Board of Education

Vice Chair Taylor asked for a motion to adjourn from the regular DJJ Board and reconvene as the DJJ School Board. A motion was made by Secretary Kennedy and seconded by Board Member Stewart. The motion carried unanimously.

Associate Superintendent Armistad briefed the Board on the following topics:

- An audit of the Office of Education's federal grants will take place on April 14, 2015. Associate Superintendent is confident that we are in compliance.
- The Office of Education has hired two Parental Coordinators.
- The opening of the Education Transition Center in Savannah, Georgia. This will be for youth under DJJ supervision in the community.
- House Bill 91, which covers the elimination of the Georgia High School Graduation Test. If passed, this bill will provide procedures for former students who did not pass one or more parts of the test to petition to obtain a high school diploma.
- Recent meeting with the State Superintendent. DJJ will soon have a liaison within the Georgia Department of Education.
- SACS reaccreditation in 2016.

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 Edwards and seconded by Board Member Ambrose. The motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chair's Comment

Vice Chair Taylor thanked Deputy Commissioner McNeely for the training the Board received on February 24, 2015. She stated the Board appreciated the opportunity to interact with each other as well as the DJJ staff.

Old Business

There was no Old Business before the Board.

New Business

The April Board Meeting will be held in Statesboro, Georgia on Thursday, April 16, 2015.

The next Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 26, 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