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**Board of Juvenile Justice &
Board of Education / Joint Board Meeting
Thursday, January 25, 2024
Board Meeting Minutes
(In-Person and Zoom Conference)**

Opening Remarks:

Call to Order: On Thursday, January 25, 2024, Chair Sandra Taylor called the joint board meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and Board of Education to order at approximately 10:03 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.

Guests: Guests joined both in person and via Zoom.

Invocation: Chaplain Emily Kelly

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Board Member Danny Blackmon.

Roll Call: Conducted by Secretary Adam Kennedy (Zoom): Chair Sandra Taylor (in-person), Vice-Chair Willie Bolton (Zoom), Danny Blackmon (in-person), Thomas Coleman (Zoom), John Edwards (Zoom), Quintress Gilbert (Zoom), Garland Hunt (in-person), Margaret Kaiser (Zoom), Tim McCulley (Zoom), Penny Penn (Zoom), Fred Stephens (in-person), and Lisa Colbert (Zoom). A quorum was declared.

Approval of Meeting Agenda – A motion was made to approve the meeting agenda by Board Member Blackmon and seconded by Board Member Stephens. The agenda was approved unanimously.

Approval of December 14, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes – A motion was made to approve the minutes by Vice Chair Bolton and seconded by Board Member Blackmon. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Commissioner's Report:

- The Commissioner recognized and commended the teams who participated in making the student graduation ceremony a success. There were 23 high school graduates, 22 GED diplomas, and seven technical certificates of credit that were given out.
- The Bob Richards (Rome) and Marietta Regional Youth Detention Centers (RYDCs) obtained national reaccreditation from the American Correctional Association (ACA). The teams that represent these facilities always do exceptionally well, and they were able to receive their reaccreditation.
- The Commissioner updated on the Gwinnett CSEC Center called "Grace's Place" named for the Grace Commission and spearheaded by First Lady Marty Kemp. On January 9, 2024, there was a ribbon-cutting ceremony with the First Lady to open the center. The CSEC center is not a DJJ facility, but our Engineering Team has been at the forefront of the design and construction of the facility, and they worked directly with the First Lady to accomplish this project.
- The Commissioner also updated the Board on the budget hearings. She commended CFO Steven Carter-Williams and his team for all the work that they have done in preparation of the budget hearings.
- She also recognized Margaret Cawood, the Legislative and Community Liaison who continues to represent the Agency even though she has retired.
- Congratulations goes out to Rusty Rodgers who was appointed to the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC), the Juvenile Justice Advisory Group. CJCC is a statewide executive branch agency that supports innovative programs and services to improve criminal justice and empower victims in the State of Georgia. Governor Kemp also allowed us to make other recommendations, so two former youths and one parent of a former youth will be serving on the Advisory Group as well.

Education Update – Zane Shelfer, Deputy Superintendent

- Deputy Superintendent Shelfer commended Dr. Letunya Walker for coordinating the graduation ceremony and making it a success.

Approval of the 2024–2025 School Calendar. A motion to approve the 2024-2025 school calendar was made by Secretary Kennedy and seconded by Board Member Colbert. The motion was approved unanimously.

Overview of the High School Equivalency (GED) Program

- A presentation was given by the GED Director Melissa Cannon on the Overview of the GED Program Pathway to Success – High School Equivalency Program (HSE)
 - o Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) Overview
 - o GED Testing
 - o GED Enrollment
 - o TABE Tests
 - o Graduates
 - Board Member Edwards and Secretary Kennedy requested a breakdown of the students to show their progress while they are with DJJ.

Legislative Update 2023 – 2024 Session – Margaret Cawood, Legislative & Community Liaison

- Legislative Schedule Overview
- Bills Discussed
 - o HB 462 – Raise the Age
 - o HB 544 – Use of Solitary Confinement
 - o HB 889 – Parental Waiver “Save my Young Life Act”
 - o HV 873 – Juvenile Treatment Court Division Programs
 - o SB 329 – Law Enforcement Unit Accreditation Act
- Watching
 - o Behavioral Health
 - o State Employees & Retirees

Government Budget Recommendations – Steven Carter-Williams, Chief Financial Officer

- Amended Fiscal Year 2024 (FY-Ending June 30, 2024)
- Fiscal Year 2025 (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025)
- Governor’s Recommendation – Capital Projects (AFY-2024 and FY-2025)

Old Business:

- There was no old business.

New Business:

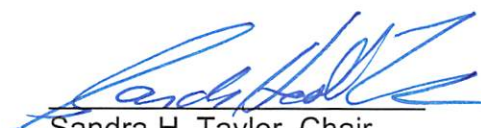

- Congratulations to Board Member Joyette Holmes who has been appointed by the Governor to the Board of Pardons and Paroles.

Chair's Comments:

- Chair Taylor asked that everyone put on their calendar February 22, 2024, which is the next Board Meeting to be held at Central Office at 10:00 AM.

Motion to adjourn by Board Member Blackmon and seconded by Board Member Hunt.
Motion was unopposed.

The meeting was adjourned.

	
Sandra H. Taylor, Chair Board of Juvenile Justice	Shawanda Reynolds-Cobb, Commissioner Department of Juvenile Justice


Adam Kennedy, Secretary Board of Juvenile Justice