



Board of Juvenile Justice
Thursday, January 28, 2016
DJJ Headquarters
10:00 AM

Opening Remarks

Chair Elaine Snow 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, Chief of Staff J. Mark Sexton, Assistant Commissioner Keith Horton, Sharon D. Starks, Matthew Montgomery; Janssen Robinson, Edith Guilford, Staff Attorney Jeffrey Coleman, CFO Sonja R. Allen-Smith, Cassandra Scott, Tara Green, Associate Superintendent Audrey Armistad, Deputy CFO Drew Townsend, Deputy Commissioner Shawanda Reynolds-Cobb, Regional Administrator Victor Roberts, Gavin Lewis, Director Scott Cagle; Regional Administrator Renee McClanahan, Director Sammie Roper, Director Latera Davis, Assistant Deputy Commissioner Theodore Carter, Jr., Director Nadine Crocker, Dr. Michelle Staples-Horne, Marcus Graves, Deputy Commissioner Sarah Draper, Chaplain Jonathan Wesley, Deputy Commissioner Miguel Fernandez, Special Assistant Carl Brown, Deputy Commissioner Dwayne Orrick, Regional Principal Muriel Horne, Syntria Holmes-Jackson, Dr. Letunya Walker, Assistant Deputy Commissioner Margaret Cawood, Director Catina Martin-Fenner, Director Joan Quinn-Cannon, Regional Principal Jerry E. Jones and Director Andrew Laarhaven.

Others Present: Tina Piper, Attorney General's Office; Dwayne Garris, State Fire Marshall's Office; Shedeedreonna Mallory, Private Citizen; Chase Thomas, Private Citizen; Carlos Valdez, Sr., Private Citizen; LaToya Gibbons, Private Citizen; Schnavit Bronson, Private Citizen; Christine Cash, Private Citizen; Kaye Minchen, Private Citizen; Jody Bradham, TalentQuest; Kaitlyn Barnes, Barton Child Law & Policy Center; Brian Lawler, Office of Planning and Budget and Melissa Hargrove, Noresco.

Secretary's Report: Secretary Adam Kennedy conducted the Roll Call. The following members were present: Spurgeon Ambrose, Willie C. Bolton, Thomas Coleman, John B. Edwards, Angie Holt, Adam Kennedy, Elaine Snow, Kelly Stewart, Sandra Taylor, James Valbrun and Dick Yarbrough. Advisory Council Member Quintress Gilbert was present via teleconference.

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

Chair Snow asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2015 Board Meeting. A motion was made by Board Member Holt and seconded by Board Member Ambrose. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner's Report

The following topics were discussed or presented during the Commissioner's Report:

- Scott Cagle, Director of Preparedness was sworn in as a State Inspector by State Fire Marshall Dwayne Garriss. This will allow him to review DJJ building plans for code compliance and inspect DJJ structures for the State Fire Marshal's Office.
- Latera Davis, Director of the Office of Victims & Volunteer Services, presented a bronze level medal and plaque to the agency from Special Olympics Georgia.
- Andre' Cheek of the Office of Reentry Services recognized several former DJJ Youth that have successfully transitioned back into the community.
- CFO Sonja R. Allen-Smith gave an update on the DJJ budget and answered a few questions for the Board Members. (For additional details on this topic, please see **Addendum A.**)
- Recognition was given to Dr. Michelle Staples-Horne on her retirement as the Director of Medical/Services. She will continue to provide services on a part-time basis.

Board of Education

Chair Snow asked for a motion to adjourn from the regular DJJ Board and reconvene as the DJJ School Board. A motion was made by Board Member Edwards and seconded by Board Member Ambrose. The motion carried unanimously.

Associate Superintendent Armistad discussed the following topics during the School Board Meeting:

- Education Updates – Opening of the transitional dormitory at the Martha K. Glaze RYDC
- The SACS/AdvancED Reaccreditation Evaluations will begin on March 18, 2016. The Board Members will be notified of their individual evaluation dates.
- 2016 Teachers of the Year – Syntria Holmes-Jackson, Macon YDC and Daniel Sovereign, Milledgeville ITU.

Board Member Bolton made a motion that the diplomas of the youth present at the Board Meeting be modified to reflect that they graduated from the Georgia Preparatory Academy. Board Member Yarbrough seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Snow 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 Holt and seconded by Board Member Edwards. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair's Comment

Chair Snow thanked Commissioner Niles and the Executive Team for their well wishes, the gift basket and their presence at her retirement reception. She thanked the DJJ Board for the Resolution.

Old Business

There was a brief discussion on solitary confinement of juvenile inmates, nationwide. Secretary Adam Kennedy suggested that a staff member give a presentation on this topic at a future Board Meeting.

New Business

- A discussion was held regarding training for the DJJ Board Members.
- The Board was reminded to complete their Affidavit of Public Officer by January 31, 2016.

Chair Snow announced that the next Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, February 25, 2016, at DJJ Headquarters, 3408 Covington Highway, Decatur, GA 30032 at 10:00 AM.

The meeting was adjourned.

Elaine P. Snow, Chair
Board of Juvenile Justice

Avery D. Niles, Commissioner
Department of Juvenile Justice

Adam Kennedy
Board Secretary