



Board of Juvenile Justice  
Thursday, January 26, 2017  
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, Assistant Commissioner Keith Horton, Deputy Commissioner Shawanda Reynolds-Cobb, , Director Scott Cagle, Director Scott Mall, Associate Superintendent Richard Behrens, Assistant Deputy Commissioner Theodore Carter, Jr., Chaplain Danny Horne, Deputy Commissioner Sarah Draper, Assistant Deputy Commissioner Margaret Cawood, Deputy Commissioner Sean Hamilton, Carrie Hamilton-Shavers, Deputy Chief Financial Officer Kelly Dudley, Director John T. Smith, Deputy Commissioner Joe Vignati, Director Allyson Richardson, Dr. Rufus Johnson, General Counsel Cindy Wang, Janssen Robinson, Matthew Montgomery, Director DeBaja Coleman, Director Chris Thomas, Assistant Director Chris Wood, Assistant Deputy Commissioner Catina Martin-Fenner, Assistant Deputy Commissioner Michael McNeely, Director Virginia Phifer, Deputy Director Harold Cooper, Jim Shuler, Dr. Ron Koon, Mary Shepherd, Dr. Roy Davenport, DeWayne Hall, Racquel Watson, Tamara Middlebrooks, Mary Elliott, Tomika Grigsby, and Director Joan Quinn-Cannon

**Others Present:** Shaquita Ogletree, Barton Child Law & Policy Center; Amy Radley, Attorney General's Office; Jenny Taylor, Goodwill; Brian Lawler, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget

**Secretary's Report:** Secretary Adam Kennedy conducted the Roll Call. The following members were present: Elaine Snow, Willie C. Bolton, Lisa Colbert, Thomas Coleman, Adam Kennedy, Julia Neighbors, Penny Penn, Kelly Stewart, Angie Holt, Fred Stephens, and Sandra Heath-Taylor. Also present was Advisory Council member Quintress Gilbert.

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

Chair Snow asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2016 Board Meeting. A motion was made by Board Member Holt and seconded by Board Member Coleman. The motion carried unanimously.

## **Commissioner's Report**

The Commissioner Report was previously submitted to the Board via email and it was included in the Board materials.

The following topics were discussed:

Commissioner Avery D. Niles had a scheduling conflict, Assistant Commissioner (AC) Keith Horton handled the early part of the meeting. The Commissioner's Youth Council's meeting will be held on February 8, 2017. AC Horton also mentioned the success of the Driver's Education Program.

Deputy Commissioner Sarah Draper gave a brief overview of the Drivers' Education Program and the Youth Council.

Deputy Commissioner Margaret Cawood presented Dr. Ron Koon with a 25-year Faithful Service award.

HR Director Virginia Phifer introduced the new Deputy Director, Mr. Harold Cooper.

The Training Division presented on various training curriculum provided to our officers. **(Addendum A)**. Board members Neighbors and Bolton commended the training staff. Secretary Kennedy inquired about the law enforcement length of training.

Commissioner Niles began the second half of the meeting. Jenny Taylor of North GA Goodwill presented on its partnership with DJJ to provide career services to DJJ youth. **(Addendum B)**. The Board members asked about expanding the program.

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

## **Board of Education**

During the DJJ Board of Education meeting, the following topics were discussed:

Dr. Richard Behrens, Associate Superintendent, gave an overview of the blended curriculum model sites. Dr. Rufus Johnson provided the strategic direction of the GA Preparatory Academy. Board member Neighbors asked if the strategic plan could be viewed by the Board members. GA Preparatory Academy graduation will be held on May 26<sup>th</sup>. The Education conference will be held June 5-7, 2017 at Calloway Gardens.

Dr. Behrens presented on the school calendar modification to adjust the testing schedule. Vice-Chair Taylor moved to modify the school calendar, Dr. Coleman seconded. The motion was approved 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 Coleman and seconded by Board Member Kennedy. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Chair's Comments**

Chair Snow commented on the following topics:

Chair Snow thanked Vice-Chair Taylor for presiding the last board meeting.

### **Old Business**

No old business

### **Comments:**

Commissioner Niles announced that Deputy Commissioner Joe Vignati was promoted to the Assistant Commissioner/Chief of Staff position. Former AC and Chief of Staff Mark Sexton has taken a leadership position at the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security.

### **New Business**

No new business

### **Comments:**

Director of Planning and Preparedness Scott Cagle gave an overview of the damages caused by the severe weather and tornadoes. DJJ will be donating to the victims in South Georgia. Commissioner Niles also announced Deputy Commissioner Draper's nomination to receive the First Lady's Children's Cabinet Public Servant's Heard Award.

The Commissioner presented to the Board the pallets on which the DJJ Youth have painted American flags.

Chair Snow announced that the next Board Meeting would be held on Thursday, February 23, 2017 at DJJ Headquarters, 3408 Covington Highway, Decatur, GA 30032 at 10:00 AM.

The meeting was adjourned.

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Elaine P. Snow, Chair  
Board of Juvenile Justice

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Avery D. Niles, Commissioner  
Department of Juvenile Justice

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Adam Kennedy  
Board Secretary