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**Board of Juvenile Justice &
Board of Education / Joint Board Meeting
Thursday, July 27, 2023
Board Meeting Minutes
(In-Person and Zoom Conference)**

Opening Remarks:

Call to Order: On Thursday, July 27, 2023, Chair Sandra Taylor called the joint board meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and Board of Education to order at approximately 10:00 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.

Invocation: Chaplain Emily Kelly

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Board Member Quintress Gilbert.

Roll Call: Conducted by Board Chair Sandra Taylor: Board Member Danny Blackmon (in-person), Board Member Lisa Colbert (late arrival via Zoom), Board Member Quintress Gilbert (in-person), Board Member Joyette Holmes (in-person), Board Member Garland Hunt (in-person), Board Member Timothy McCulley (in-person), Board Member Penny Penn (Zoom), Board Member Fred Stephens (in-person), and Board Chair Sandra Taylor (in-person). Quorum was declared.

Election of Board Officers for next 2 years: Motion to move the election to the top of the agenda by Board Member Gilbert and seconded by Board Member Holmes. Motion to amend the agenda was approved unanimously.

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes June 22, 2023: Chair Taylor asked whether there were any corrections or changes to the minutes previously distributed. Hearing none, Chair Taylor asked for unanimous consent to approve the minutes, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Election of Board Officers for next 2 years: Nominations were made at the previous meeting to keep the current slate of officers: Chair Taylor, Vice-Chair Willie Bolton, and Secretary Adam Kennedy. Board member Gilbert moved to elect the slate of officers and seconded by Board Member Hunt. The motion was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Shawanda Reynolds-Cobb Report:

- Commissioner Reynolds-Cobb acknowledged and expressed appreciation for the many dedicated and hardworking DJJ staff members throughout the state.
- Board Member John Edwards has been reappointed to serve on the Board.
- The school year started for the students in the DJJ school system. The children are excited to start a new school year not just because it gives them something to do, but for the hard work that the DJJ educational staff put into educating the youth.
- The Power of Peace graduation was held at the Eastman YDC with Kitt Cummings. Board Member Holmes attended. There were 30 youth who graduated, and the speakers included Mr. Lattimore who had previously spoken to the Board and a colleague from another state agency also spoke.
- The ACA Conference is being held in Philadelphia. Individuals from all over the country will be participating. This will be held in conjunction with the Council for Juvenile Justice Administrators which is also in Philadelphia.
- Elbert Shaw and Muscogee YDC will be going through an audit to complete the ACA Audit Process. Marietta went through theirs and earned scores of 100%.

Education Update – Zane Shelfer, Deputy Superintendent

- Professional Learning School System 2022-2023
 - o School System Address – (Kendall Douglas)
 - o What We Have Done - (Dr. Latonya Walker)
 - o Where Are We Going - (Zane Shelfer)
- Music Studio – Atlanta/Metro RYDC (Harold Farmer)

Old Business: None

New Business:

- Acknowledgements and thanks from Chair Taylor on behalf of the elected Board Officers.

Special Recognition

- Two Gen Academy
 - o The focus is on helping both the kids and their family members.
 - o Three individuals were accepted and graduated from our staff – Harold Farmer, Cathy Smith-Curry, and Dr. Fern Clarke.
 - o A presentation was given by Mr. Farmer and Dir. Smith-Curry on what they are doing with their groups at the Two Gen Academy.

Chair's Comments:

- The Music Studio is a great opportunity that will provide the DJJ children with real work skills in the music and film industry. It will give them an opportunity where none existed before.

Executive Session:

- Motion to move into Executive Session was made by Board Member Holmes and seconded by Board Member Gilbert. Motion was approved unanimously. (Chair Taylor, Holmes, Gilbert, McCulley, Hunt, Penn, Blackmon, and Stephens (Judge Colbert dropped off prior to the motion.).

Upon return to the regular session, the meeting adjourned.

Sandra H. Taylor, Chair
Board of Juvenile Justice

Shawanda Reynolds-Cobb, Commissioner
Department of Juvenile Justice

Adam Kennedy, Secretary
Board of Juvenile Justice