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**Board of Juvenile Justice &
Board of Education / Joint Board Meeting
Thursday, July 24, 2025
Board Meeting Minutes
(In-Person and Zoom Conference)**

Opening Remarks:

Call to Order: On Thursday, July 24, 2025, 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 via Zoom.

DJJ Staff Present: Commissioner Shawanda Reynolds-Cobb, DJJ Executive Team Members, and various DJJ Staff Members.

Other Attendees: Senior Assistant Attorney General Amy Radley. Guests in the audience and on Zoom.

Invocation: Chaplain Eric Vickers, NW Region

Pledge of Allegiance: Board Member Fred Stephens

Roll Call: Conducted by Board Member Fred Stephens (In-Person) since Secretary Adam Kennedy could not attend the meeting, Vice-Chair Willie Bolton (In-Person), Timothy McCulley (Virtual), Garry McGiboney (In-Person), Michael Murphy (In-Person), Penny Penn (In-Person), Judge Lisa Colbert (Virtual), Senior Judge Quintress Gilbert (In-Person) and Chair Taylor (In-Person). A quorum was declared.

Approval of Meeting Agenda – A recommendation to amend the agenda was made by Board Member Stephens to move the Election of Board Officers to after the Divisional Updates. The agenda was amended by unanimous consent.

Approval of June 26, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes – A motion was made to approve the minutes by Vice Chair Bolton and seconded by Board Member Dr. McGiboney. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Commissioner's Report:

- The Commissioner started her report by thanking the staff for all the hard work that they continue to do with making things better for the youth in the Department's care. She also thanked the Board Members for their presence and engagement at the Augusta YDC Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.
- The Office of Human Resources held a statewide training for all the human resources personnel. This training gave those professionals a chance to get together to learn about the changes that have been made across the state as it relates to State Board Personnel Rules and the Department's new initiatives.
- The Department held a BJCOT graduation ceremony for 43 officers recently.
- Job fairs and job advertisements have started again with paid advertising and getting information out to the television stations as well as radio stations. Glenn Allen, Director of Communications, and his team along with Human Resources have started this back up to address the vacancies and turnover rates.

Education Update:

The Commissioner gave the update because the Education staff are currently at their annual professional learning conference to kick off the 2025-2026 school year.

- Every year before the school year begins, they have their annual professional learning conference. The Commissioner was there on Monday for the opening, and they got off to a great start and had a lot of excitement. For the first time, the School Resource Officers were a part of this conference.
- Assistant Commissioner Pamela Hill attended the conference and got to hear and take part in the family engagement part. One of the parents stressed the importance that the Education Team played in the journey that she and her child had in the facility. The Commissioner plans to bring in parents from time to time to the board meetings so the board can hear directly from them.
- The Summer School theme this year is "Blueprints for a Better World." At the end of the summer each one of the schools created a mural around that title. They still had English Language, Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies classes, but in those classes, there was always something that would tie back to this theme. At the next board meeting the Board will hear from some of the students and get a chance to see some of the murals that the students made.

- Last Friday the Commissioner attended the Music Summer Camp. She was able to hear the music the youth created over the summer. They will also bring that to the Board.
- Welding Program update – Twenty-six students have gone through the Welding Program.

Division of Secure Facilities: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Lisa Mantz presented on the following:

- Cadwell RYDC
- RISE Program Overview (Restore, Inspire, Support and Empower).

These programs were developed for the committed youth who are returning to the community from the RYDCs.

- DC Mantz recognized all the staff who participated in the RISE program.
 - o RISE Program Overview at Cadwell RYDC and Wilkes RYDC
 - o Eligibility Criteria
 - o Program Structure
 - o Core Program Components
 - o Therapeutic Services
 - o Family Engagement
 - o Forensic Peer Mentor
 - o Re-Entry Services
 - o Path Program
 - o Preparing Adolescents for Transition and Hope
 - o Education
 - o IPR Wilkes

Division of Community Services: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rusty Rodgers presented on:

- Youth Supervised Population
- Active Statewide Services
- Evidence-Based Services in the Community
- Programming Successful Completion
- Positive Incentives for Youth
- PDRA Revalidation Status – Pre-disposition Risk Assessment

Election of Board Officers

Board Member Gilbert moved to approve the election of the Board Officers: Sandra Taylor, Chairperson; Willie Bolton, Vice-Chair and Adam Kennedy, Secretary. The motion was seconded by Board Member Colbert and approved unanimously.

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- None

Chair's comments: September's board meeting is canceled so the board members can attend the mandatory board training scheduled for September 11, 2025.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Bolton and seconded by Board Member Gilbert to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 11:20 am.

Sandra H. Taylor, Chair
Board of Juvenile Justice

Shawanda Reynolds-Cobb Commissioner
Department of Juvenile Justice

Adam Kennedy, Secretary
Board of Juvenile Justice