



Board of Juvenile Justice
Thursday, July 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 Mark Sexton, Associate Superintendent Audrey Armistad, Director Ricky Rich, Director John T. Smith, Deputy Commissioner Joe Vignati, Deputy Commissioner Shawanda Reynolds-Cobb, CFO Sonja R. Allen-Smith, General Counsel Cindy Wang, Matthew Montgomery, Assistant Deputy Commissioner Theodore Carter, Jr., Janssen Robinson, Deadra Roberts, Merita Roberts-Croll, Mary Elliott, Tamika Grigsby, Assistant Deputy Commissioner Debbie Carter, Margaret Giammetta; Zane Shelfer; Virginia Smith, Assistant Deputy Commissioner Gary Tolar, Assistant Deputy Commissioner Margaret Cawood; Director Joan Quinn-Cannon, Deputy Commissioner Miguel Fernandez, Deputy Director Cathy Raissle, Carrie Hamilton-Shavers, Barbara Franklin, Mary Anne Uzoka, Jerry Jones, Director Andrew Laarhoven, Dr. Roy Davenport, Dr. Letunya Walker, Keshia Douglas, Director Lisa Bryson, and Andrew McGee.

Others Present: Tina Piper, Attorney General's Office; Johanna Margeson, Prevent Child Abuse Georgia; Brian Lawler, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget; T. W., Former DJJ Youth; Winifred Pierce, Concerned Citizen; Terrence Wilson, Barton Center; Rosa Lewis, Department of Community Supervision and Logan Fletcher, Nelson and Mullins.

Secretary's Report: Secretary Adam Kennedy conducted the Roll Call. The following members were present: Spurgeon Ambrose, Willie C. Bolton, Lisa Colbert, Thomas Coleman, Angie Holt, Adam Kennedy, Julia Neighbors, Danny Porter, Elaine Snow, Kelly Stewart, Sandra Taylor and Dick Yarbrough. Advisory Council Member Quintress Gilbert was present well.

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

Chair Snow asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the June 23, 2016 Board Meeting. A motion was made by Board Member Holt and seconded by Board Member Bolton. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Niles had previously submitted his written report to the Board via email and it was included in the Board materials. He also updated the Board on upcoming training opportunities. General Counsel Wang updated the Board on new leadership staff. For additional information, please see **Addendum A**.

Proposed Board Rule Change

General Counsel Wang presented on the proposed amendments to Board Rules as well as the new Board Rule on transferring youth to the Department of Community Supervision. General Counsel Wang mentioned two minor typographical errors on the proposed rules that were corrected. After a brief discussion, the audience was given an opportunity to comment. There were no public comments. For additional information on these topics, please see **Addendums B and C**.

Policy and Procedures Regarding Transfer of DJJ Youth to DCS

Program Coordinator Mary Elliott presented on the policy and procedures related to the transfer of DJJ to the Department of Community Supervision . For additional details, please see **Addendum D**.

Chair Snow asked for a motion to approve the proposed rule changes and adopt the new rule. Secretary Kennedy made a motion and it was seconded by Board Member Holt. The motion carried unanimously.

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 Yarbrough and seconded by Board Member Coleman. The motion carried unanimously.

Board of Education

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

- Associate Superintendent Armistad presented a former DJJ youth, T. W. with his high school diploma. T. W. was previously released from DJJ to DOC. Upon his release from parole, he was one credit short of receiving his diploma. Special recognition was given to two education staff members for going above and beyond to ensure that T. W. got the support that he needed to complete the requirements to receive his diploma.
- Superintendent Niles presented the Board with the Certificate of Accreditation and congratulatory letter from AdvancEd. The accreditation is valid until June 30, 2021. For additional information, please see **Addendum E**.
- Superintendent Niles recognized Associate Superintendent Armistad for 30 plus years of service to DJJ and the State of Georgia.
- Associate Superintendent announced her retirement, effective October 31, 2016.

- Special recognition was given to Danny Porter for his service as a Board Member.

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 Vice Chair Taylor and seconded by Board Member Coleman. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair's Comments

Chair Snow extended birthday wishes to Board Member Thomas Coleman.

Old Business

There was no old business before the Board. However, Assistant Commissioner Sexton announced the Deputy Commissioner Miguel Fernandez has accepted a new job opportunity in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

New Business

There was no New Business before the Board.

Chair Snow announced that the next Board Meeting would be held on Thursday, August 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