



Board of Juvenile Justice
Thursday, June 26, 2014
10:00 AM

Department of Juvenile Justice
3408 Covington Highway
Decatur, GA 30032

Opening Remarks

Chair Elaine Snow called to order the meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice. The meeting was held at the Department of Juvenile Justice Headquarters, in Decatur, GA.

DJJ Staff Present: Commissioner Avery D. Niles; Sharon Starks; Associate Superintendent Audrey Armistad; Deputy Commissioner Sarah Draper; Director John T. Smith; Assistant Commissioner Mark Sexton; Director Ricky Rich; Deputy Commissioner Miguel Fernandez; Director Allyson Richardson; Deputy Commissioner Michael McNeely; Deputy Commissioner Carl Brown; CFO Sonja R. Allen; Assistant Deputy Commissioner Gary Tolar; Director Joan Quinn-Cannon; Director Kimberly Gore; Jacqueline Cain; Regional Principal MeMe Horne; Director Debbie Alexander-Carter; Director David Schwartz; Assistant Deputy Commissioner Diana Aspinwall; Harold Cooper; Hilroy Wilson; Director John Gee; Nathan Katzif; Larry Black; Tania Appling; Gary Murphy; Sherille May; ShaRon Lovett-Ozuem; Assistant Deputy Commissioner Joe Vignati; Director Tracy Masters; Michael Taylor; James Brown; Matthew Montgomery; Janssen Robinson and Edith Guilford.

Others Present: Rebecca Dobras, Attorney General's Office; Amy Radley, Attorney General's Office; Jody Bradham, TalentQuest and Helen Sloat, Nelson, Mullins, Riley & Seaborough/Youth Villages.

Secretary's Report: Chair Snow asked Secretary Kennedy to conduct the Roll Call. The following Members were present: Spurgeon Ambrose, Willie C. Bolton, Thomas Coleman, John B. Edwards, Angie Holt, Adam Kennedy, Julia Neighbors, Franklin Rozier, Elaine P. Snow, Kelly Stewart and Sandra Taylor.

Chair Snow asked for a motion to approve the agenda for the current meeting. A motion was made by Board Member Holt and seconded by Board Member Stewart.

Chair Snow asked for a motion to approve the Minutes of the May 22, 2014 Board Meeting. A motion was made by Board Member Holt and seconded by Board Member Coleman.

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Niles gave a brief overview of activities that have taken place since the last Board Meeting. He introduced Joe Vignati to the Board as the Assistant Deputy Commissioner of Support Services. Deputy Commissioner Michael McNeely recognized Board Member Willie C. Bolton for his tremendous support to the Office of Training. Board Member Bolton has represented the DJJ Board at every graduation of the BJCOT, Sergeants Academy and BJPOT classes since becoming a member of the Board.

Deputy Commissioner Michael McNeely spoke briefly regarding training successes, retention plans and goals for the future regarding the Juvenile Correctional Officers.

Assistant Deputy Commissioner Diana Aspinwall presented the Juvenile Needs Assessment. For additional details on this presentation, please see **Addendum A**. Director Tracy Masters asked if the instrument was developed in consultation with the Governor's Office of Children and Families and the Council of Juvenile Court Judges as required by law, to which Assistant Deputy Commissioner Aspinwall stated that it was. In response to a question from Amy Radley of the Attorney General's Office regarding validation, Assistant Deputy Commissioner Aspinwall stated a validation study will take place after we have about 12-18 months of data, post-implementation of the assessment. She also stated the instrument has been tested in the field.

After several questions from the Board Members and Commissioner Niles, Assistant Deputy Commissioner Aspinwall asked the Board to adopt the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice Strengths and Needs Assessment that was developed in association with the National Council on Crime and Delinquency (NCCD). Chair Snow asked for a motion to adopt the Juvenile Needs Assessment. A motion was made by Board Member Edwards and seconded by Board Member Bolton. The motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chair Taylor made a motion to amend the agenda and add an Executive Session for the Board. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Secretary Kennedy made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters and potential litigation. The motion was seconded by Board Member Edwards and carried unanimously.

A motion was made to adjourn from the Executive Session and return to the Regular DJJ Board Meeting.

Chair Snow asked for a motion to adjourn from the Regular DJJ Board Meeting and reconvene as the DJJ School Board Meeting. A motion was made by Secretary Kennedy and seconded by Board Member Rozier. The motion carried unanimously.

Board of Education

Associate Superintendent Dr. Audrey Armistad discussed the following topics:

- Upgrading computers for students, teachers and administrators
- Purchase of new text books
- Results of teacher and student surveys
- Writing local improvement plans

Regional Principal Muriel Horne introduced the 2014 Teacher of the Year, Jaqueline Cain. Ms. Cain briefly spoke to the Board regarding her journey to become Teacher of the Year.

Dr. Coleman commended the Office of Education on how they have improved our system for educating the youth at DJJ.

Chair Snow asked for a motion to adjourn from the DJJ School Board Meeting and reconvene to the Regular DJJ Board Meeting. A motion was made by Board Member Holt and seconded by Board Member Stewart. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair's Comment

Chair Snow asked all Board Members to sign the Acknowledgement of Receipt of Board Member Badge Forms. Chair Snow also mentioned a note she received in which the Department of Juvenile Justice was favorably highlighted by the PEW Foundation for juvenile justice reform.

Old Business

There was no Old Business before the Board.

New Business

Commissioner Niles stated several DJJ Investigators would be sworn in immediately after the Board Meeting and all members were welcome stay.

The next meeting will be Thursday, July 24, 2014 at 10:00 AM at the Department of Juvenile Justice Headquarters.

The meeting was adjourned.

Elaine P. Snow, Chair
Board of Juvenile Justice

Avery D. Niles
Commissioner

Adam Kennedy
Board Secretary