



**Board of Juvenile Justice
Thursday, March 25, 2021
Decatur, GA
Board Meeting Minutes
(Audio/Zoom Conference)**

Opening Remarks

On Thursday, March 25, 2021. Chair Sandra Taylor called the meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice to order at 10:00 AM. The meeting was held as an audio/Zoom conference.

DJJ Staff Present: Commissioner Tyrone Oliver, Deputy Superintendent Zane Shelfer, DJJ Executive Team Members, and various DJJ Staff Members.

Attendees included: Assistant Attorney General Amy Radley (Law Department) and public guests.

Invocation: Chaplain Danny Horne

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Board member Yandura.

Roll Call: Members present were Chair Sandra Taylor, Vice-Chair Willie C. Bolton, Secretary Adam Kennedy, Danny Blackmon, Dick Yarbrough, Margaret Kaiser, Penny Penn, Dr. Thomas Coleman, Judge Lisa Colbert, and Chief Gary Yandura. Judicial Advisory Member Judge Quintress Gilbert participated. Quorum was declared.

Agenda approval: Chair Taylor called for a motion to approve March 25, 2021 agenda. The motion was made by Vice-Chair Bolton, seconded by Secretary Kennedy, and approved unanimously.

Minutes approval: Chair Taylor called for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2021 board meeting. The motion was made by Board Member Coleman, seconded by Board Member Colbert (and Board Member Yarbrough), and approved unanimously.

Commissioner's Report

COVID-19 Update

Commissioner Oliver updated the Board regarding the number of DJJ staff members and youth who have tested positive for COVID-19. He thanked the DJJ staff members for continuing to follow safety protocols to minimize exposure risk.

Legislative Update

Commissioner informed the Board that the amended FY'21 budget had passed the legislature. The amended budget included a 10 percent pay increase for all juvenile correctional officers that will be effective on April 1, 2021. He also mentioned that HB 272 is being monitored.

Governmental Affairs Director Zachary Louis stated that if HB 272 does not pass this year, the bill will be available again next January in the Senate Rules Committee.

Questions/Comments (HB272)

Board Member Colbert wanted to know what's DJJ stance on HB 272.

Board Member Yarbrough wanted to know if there is any opposition to HB 272.

Atlanta RYDC Interior Renovation Project

Commissioner Oliver informed the Board that the Atlanta YDC is currently undergoing renovations, resulting in temporarily housing the youth at the Metro RYDC. He stated the project should be completed within six to eight months.

Division Reports

BJCOT Training Program

Director of Professional Development and Standards Latera Davis presented the Board with an update regarding the proposal that was submitted to the Georgia Officer Standards and Training Council (P.O.S.T.) regarding changing the Basic Juvenile Correctional Officer Training (BJCOT) Program from a six-week to a five-week program. She stated the proposal has been approved, and the first class will be in session on July 1, 2021.

Leadership Training

Director Davis stated DJJ would continue their partnership with the Carl Vincent Institute providing leadership training for selected DJJ employees who could benefit and serve as future leaders with the agency. Classes will begin in July 2021. Director Davis also discussed developing more specialized training opportunities for DJJ employees, specifying functional needs within the next six months.

Professional Development

Director Davis also discussed finding opportunities for DJJ employees to work on helping to develop themselves. She stated DJJ has partnered with Reinhardt University, Walden University, Georgia Tech (Professional Management Program). Additional programs that are offered to DJJ employees are Resiliency Training and Project Management Programs.

Questions/Comments (Training)

Board Member Colbert commended Commissioner Oliver and Director Davis for implementing data to assist the DJJ employees in future trainings.

This concluded the Commissioner's Report.

Chair Taylor called for a motion to adjourn the regular DJJ Board Meeting and reconvene as the DJJ School Board. A motion was made by Board Member Yarbrough to adjourn the Board of Juvenile Justice and reconvene as the Board of Education. The motion was seconded by Board Member Yandura and approved unanimously.

Board of Education

Deputy Superintendent Zane Shelfer shared information about the education data dashboard, including the percentage of the student body with special education needs. DJJ is currently in the process of setting up interviews for vacant positions.

Georgia Milestone Assessment System

Deputy Superintendent Shelfer introduced DJJ's Office of Curriculum and Assessment Director, Dr. Barbara Franklin. Dr. Franklin discussed the Georgia Milestones Assessment System. The Georgia Milestones Assessment System is a comprehensive assessment program representing a single system of summative assessments that span all three levels of the state's educational systems (elementary, middle, and high school). Dr. Franklin discussed the purpose of the assessment and how the examination is administered. Dr. Franklin presented data on how many youths will be scheduled to take the assessment that will begin mid-April 2021.

Question/Comments (BOE)

Board Member Yarbrough asked if Georgia Preparatory Academy (GPA) has the same testing expectations as any other school system throughout the state.

Board Member Yarbrough also applauded Dr. Franklin and staff at GPA for their hard work regarding prepping the youth for the assessment.

Deputy Superintendent Shelfer thanked Dr. Franklin and the staff for their hard work and dedication.

This concluded the Deputy Superintendent's report.

Chair Taylor called for a motion to adjourn from the DJJ School Board and reconvene as the regular DJJ Board. A motion was made by Secretary Kennedy to adjourn the Board of Education and to reconvene as the Board of Juvenile Justice. It was seconded by Board Member Coleman and approved unanimously.

Comments: Chair Taylor informed the Board members that a board training will be held on April 22, 2021, at DJJ's Central Office.

Old Business: No old business.

New Business: No new business.

Executive Session:

Chair Taylor called for motion to move into executive session to discuss personnel matters. The motion was made by Board Member Colbert, seconded by Board Member Kaiser, and approved unanimously (Chair Taylor, Vice-Chair Bolton, Secretary Kennedy, Board member Blackmon, Board member Yarbrough, Board member Penn, Board member Coleman, Board member Colbert, Board member Kaiser, and Board member Yandura).

With no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned after returning from executive session. The motion to adjourn was made by Board Member Blackmon, seconded by Board Member Yarbrough, and approved unanimously.

The next scheduled meeting will be April 22, 2021, at 10:00 AM, at DJJ Central Office, Decatur GA.

The meeting adjourned at 11:48 AM.

Sandra H. Taylor, Chair
Board of Juvenile Justice

Tyrone Oliver, Commissioner
Department of Juvenile Justice

Adam Kennedy, Secretary
Board of Juvenile Justice