



OFFICE OF LEGAL SERVICES

Cindy Wang, General Counsel

3408 Covington Highway

Decatur, GA 30032

Telephone: 404-508-7243 Fax: 404-508-5108

**Board of Juvenile Justice &
Board of Education / Joint Board Meeting
Thursday, March 23, 2023
Board Meeting Minutes
Decatur, GA
Board Meeting Minutes
(Audio/Zoom Conference)**

Opening Remarks:

On Thursday, March 23, 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 via audio/Zoom conference.

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

Other attendees included: Assistant Attorney Generals Kathleen Jacobs and Amy Radley (Law Department).

Invocation: Chaplain Emily Kelly

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Board Member Joyette Holmes.

Roll Call: (Conducted by Board Secretary Adam Kennedy (Zoom).) Members present were Chair Sandra Taylor (in-person), Vice-Chair Willie C. Bolton (in-person), Thomas Coleman (Zoom), Danny Blackmon (Zoom), Quintress Gilbert (in-person), Garland Hunt (in-person), Timothy McCulley (Zoom), Penny Penn (in-person), Joyette Holmes (in-person), and Fred Stephens (in-person). Quorum was declared.

Meeting Agenda Approval: Chair Taylor called for a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Vice Chair Bolton moved to approve the agenda. Motion was seconded by Board Member Gilbert and approved unanimously.

Meeting Minutes Approval: Chair Taylor called for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2023 board meeting. The motion was made by Board Member Stephens, seconded by Board Member Hunt, and approved unanimously.

Interim Commissioner's Report: Interim Commissioner Reynolds-Cobb shared her gratitude for DJJ staff and all their hard work. She also thanked the board members for their support and work they have done for all the youth in the agency's care. Interim Commissioner stated that she wants to continue to work on the challenges faced by DJJ youth and staff. She also recognized the artwork done by the DJJ youth.

Interim Commissioner Reynolds-Cobb talked about the recent swearing-in ceremonies for Board Members Hunt and Gilbert. She also mentioned the annual Polar Plunge event which raised over \$5,000.00 for charity.

Interim Commissioner Reynolds-Cobb talked about staff graduations and encouraged all board members to attend when available. She briefly touched on the end of the legislative session and what Deputy Commissioner of Treatment and Care Margaret Cawood has been doing for DJJ in that process. She recognized the assistance of other Executive Team and staff members. Recognition also goes out to Chaplain Emily Kelly and her opportunity to act as "Chaplain for the Day" for the Senate on Sine Die.

Interim Commissioner Reynolds-Cobb congratulated staff on being re-deputized as fire inspectors for the agency. She also stated that the Community Services staff is on the agenda for the Juvenile Court Judges' Conference as requested by the Board.

Official copies of the Annual Report were provided to the board members attending in-person. All other board members will receive a copy of the annual report via U.S. mail. Interim Commissioner Reynolds-Cobb stated that the Employee Engagement Survey has been launched and will remain active until the end of the month for staff feedback.

Divisional Updates

Education Update – Deputy Superintendent Zane Shelfer

Deputy Superintendent Zane Shelfer presented on the education dashboard data for March 2023.

Enrollment for Month of March

There are 193 students in middle school; 746 in high school; 80 GED and 41 graduates across the state. Total of 1060 students for the month of March.

Staffing

The vacancy rates for teachers and counselors continue to decrease.

Spring 2023 Online Assessment Updates

Dr. Barbara Franklin, Director of Curriculum and Assessment, gave an overview of online testing. Georgia Online Summative Assessments will be done quicker than before.

Financial Services Division

Steven Carter-Williams, Chief Financial Officer, provided an overview of the FY24 appropriated funds.

Community Services Division

Cathy Smith-Curry, Director of the Office of Re-Entry Services, spotlighted youth D. DeLoach. Youth DeLoach shared his experiences as a troubled teen and his transition into a successful college athlete.

Legislative Update

Deputy Commissioner Cawood gave a brief overview of the various bills being monitored during the legislative session.

Secure Facilities

Pamela Hill, Deputy Commissioner of Secure Facilities, gave an overview of the secure facilities and the services that they provide.

Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

New Business

There was no new business to discuss.

The next Board meeting will be held on April, 13, 2023, in Statesboro at Georgia Southern University.

The Board and Department recognized Assistant Attorney General Amy Radley for her years of support and service to the agency and board. She was presented with an award of appreciation.

Chair's Comments – Chair Taylor welcomed the new board members again and reiterated that the next meeting will be April 13, 2023, in Statesboro, Ga.

Motion to adjourn by Board Member Holmes, seconded by Board Member Hunt, and approved unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned.

Sandra H. Taylor, Chair
Board of Juvenile Justice

Shawanda Reynolds-Cobb, Interim Commissioner
Department of Juvenile Justice

Adam Kennedy, Secretary
Board of Juvenile Justice