



**Board of Juvenile Justice
Thursday, May 27, 2021
Decatur, GA
Board Meeting Minutes
DJJ Central Office and via Audio/Zoom Conference**

Opening Remarks

On Thursday, May 27, 2021. Chair Sandra Taylor called the meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice to order at 10:00 AM. The meeting was held at DJJ Central Office and via audio/Zoom conference for those who could not attend in person.

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 (in person) and public guests (remote attendance).

Invocation: Chaplain Danny Horne

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Secretary Adam Kennedy.

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

Agenda approval: Chair Taylor called for a motion to approve May 27, 2021 agenda. The motion was made by Vice-Chair Bolton, seconded by Board Member Coleman, and approved unanimously.

Minutes approval: Chair Taylor called for a motion to approve the minutes of the April 22, 2021 board meeting. The motion was made by Board Member Colbert, seconded by Board Member Kaiser (and Board Member Holt), 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 stated that Central Office staff members are not required to wear face masks. However, the staff members at the secure facilities will be required to continue wearing face masks, possibly until the youth are vaccinated. Vaccinations are administered on a voluntary basis and with parental consent if the youth is under 18.

Commissioner Oliver also thanked Dr. Michelle Staples-Horne and the medical team for keeping the youth and DJJ employees safe.

Facility Tour Update

Recently, members of the Governor's Policy Team were given a tour of Metro Regional Youth Detention Center in Atlanta by DJJ staff and Board Members. The facility tour aims to bring awareness about the agency and show the day-to-day operations of the facilities throughout the State of Georgia. Additional facility tours with legislators and advocacy groups will be scheduled throughout the summer.

Office of Behavioral Health Services (OBHS)

Deputy Commissioner of the Division of Support Services Margaret Cawood introduced Dr. Christine Doyle, Director of the Office of Behavioral Health Services (OBHS). Dr. Doyle discussed the behavioral health services (mental health, counseling and case management, sexually harmful behavior treatment, and substance abuse treatment) that the youth may receive inside the secure facilities. Deputy Commissioner Cawood discussed OBHS's strengths, challenges, and recommendations.

Questions/Comments (OBHS)

Secretary Kennedy asked whether the MATCH committee still exists regarding services and resources for 18 & older youth with unmet needs.

Board Member Yandura asked whether any other partnerships are available with private entities.

Board Member Colbert asked whether judges can be notified of these rare circumstances. She also asked how the Board can assist with advocating for the listed recommendations.

Secretary Kennedy asked about the lack of Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) program for female youth. RSAT programs operate in groups.

Board Resolution

Director of Engineering and Construction Services Joan Quinn-Cannon presented a resolution for bond sales to fund needed facility construction projects: Augusta YDC, Muscogee YDC, and Judge Thomas Jefferson Loftiss II RYDC. The General Assembly passed various appropriation acts authorizing amounts from the state general funds to finance specific capital projects through the issuance of General Obligation Debt.

Chair Taylor called for a motion to approve the resolution. The motion was made by Secretary Kennedy, seconded by Vice-Chair Bolton, and approved unanimously.

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 Penn to adjourn the Board of Juvenile Justice and reconvene as the Board of Education. The motion was seconded by Board Member Yarbrough 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.

Graduation Ceremonies

Deputy Superintendent Shelfer presented the May 2021 graduation data. He invited the Board to attend one of eight graduation ceremonies across the state.

Comments (BOE): Judicial Advisory Council Member Gilbert stated that she enjoyed the graduation ceremony that was held in Macon, GA.

Family & Community Engagement Services

Deputy Superintendent Shelfer introduced staff members of the Family Engagement & Community Engagement Services. They presented on parent engagement. Family Engagement Coordinator Gail Tolbert-Smith discussed "The Problem of Juvenile Justice Student Trends and Juvenile Justice Family Trends." Title I-A Coordinator Robbin Dickerson addressed "The Process (Part I): What is the Intent of Title I, Part A Parent Engagement, Implementation Programs/Activities." Special Education Parent Mentor Doricia Thompson addressed "The Process (Part II): Role of the Parent Mentor." Tolbert-Smith also discussed "The Purpose: preparing youth for successful reintegration into the community."

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 Board Member Coleman to adjourn the Board of Education and to reconvene as the Board of Juvenile Justice. It was seconded by Secretary Kennedy and approved unanimously.

Comments: Chair Taylor announced the members of the Nominating Committee (Holt-Chair, Kaiser, and Coleman). The officer nominations will occur during the June meeting, and the election will be held in July.

Old Business: No old business.

New Business: No new business.

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled meeting will be June 24, 2021, at 10:00 AM, DJJ Central Office, Decatur, GA, and via audio/Zoom conference.

The motion to adjourn was made by Vice-Chair Bolton, seconded by Board Member Kaiser, and approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 12:02 PM.

Sandra H. Taylor, Chair
Board of Juvenile Justice

Tyrone Oliver, Commissioner
Department of Juvenile Justice

Adam Kennedy, Secretary
Board of Juvenile Justice