

Brian P. Kemp, Governor

Shawanda Reynolds-Cobb,  
Commissioner



DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

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**Board of Juvenile Justice &  
Board of Education / Joint Board Meeting  
Thursday, May 23, 2024  
Meeting Minutes  
Middle Georgia State University  
100 University Parkway, Macon, GA**

**Opening Remarks:**

**Call to Order:** On Thursday, May 23, 2024, 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 at the Middle Georgia State University Robert F. Hatcher, Sr. Conference Center in Macon, Georgia.

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

**Invocation:** Chaplain Emily Kelly

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by Board Secretary Adam Kennedy.

**Roll Call:** Conducted by Secretary Adam Kennedy: Chair Sandra Taylor, Vice-Chair Willie Bolton, Judge Lisa Colbert, Sr. Judge Quintress Gilbert, Scotty Hancock, Danny Blackmon, Garland Hunt, Michael Murphy, and Penny Penn. A quorum was declared.

**Approval of Meeting Agenda** – A motion was made to approve the meeting agenda by Board Member Colbert and seconded by Board Member Hancock. The agenda was approved unanimously.

**Approval of March 28, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes** – A motion was made to approve the minutes by Board Member Hunt and seconded by Board Member Penn. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**Commissioner's Report:**

- The Commissioner announced the promotion of Deputy Commissioner of Secure Facilities Pamela Hill to Assistant Commissioner/Chief of Staff.
- The Commissioner also talked about the increased level of participation of employees completing the Employee Engagement Survey. Results will be shared at a later date.
- There will be a town hall meeting on June 12, 2024, at 10:00 AM in Forsyth.
- There will be an upcoming BJCOT graduation ceremony.

**Education Update:** Dr. Letunya Walker, Deputy Superintendent

- Dr. Walker talked about the youth graduation ceremony that will be taking place after the meeting.
- The graduating class will receive 14 high school diplomas, 19 GED certificates, and 12 Technical Certificates of Credit.

**Education Presentations:**

- Principal Kendall Douglas presented the 2023-2024 DJJ Teacher of the Year Award to Katherine Wilcher, Teacher, Secure Facilities.

**DJJ Budget Update:** Chief Financial Officer Steven Carter-Williams gave an overview of the budget line items as appropriated by the General Assembly.

**Legislative Update:** Margaret Cawood, DJJ Legislative and Community Liaison, gave a summary of the legislation that passed during the legislative session.

**Board Resolution:** Joan Quinn-Cannon, Director, Engineering & Construction Services

- Director Quinn-Cannon presented a proposed board resolution for the demolition of housing units at the Muscogee YDC. A motion was made to approve the resolution by Secretary Kennedy and seconded by Board Member Colbert. The resolution was approved unanimously.

**Re-Entry Service Update:** Director Cathy Smith-Curry presented on the recent reentry efforts of the Department.

**Old Business:**

- None

**New Business:**

- None

**Chair's Comments:**

Chair Taylor thanked all involved for all they did to get the budget approved. She also mentioned the memorandum she sent out to the board members and wanted to stress to them the importance of attendance and scheduling for training. She also asked that they attempt to make some of the upcoming events that have been scheduled.

The next board meeting is scheduled for June 27, 2024, at 10:00 AM at Central Office.


A motion to adjourn was made by Board Member Gilbert and seconded by Board Member Colbert. The meeting was adjourned.



Sandra H. Taylor, Chair  
Board of Juvenile Justice



Shawanda Reynolds-Cobb, Commissioner  
Department of Juvenile Justice



Adam Kennedy, Secretary  
Board of Juvenile Justice