

Avery D. Niles, Commissioner



DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

3408 Covington Highway ■ Decatur, Georgia ■ 30032
Telephone: (404) 508-7200, Fax: (404) 508-7340

Board of Juvenile Justice
Thursday, May 28, 2015
DJJ Headquarters
10:00 AM

Opening Remarks

Chair Elaine Snow called to order the meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice. The meeting was held at the DJJ Headquarters, 3408 Covington Highway, Decatur, GA 30032.

DJJ Staff Present: Commissioner Avery D. Niles; Assistant Commissioner Mark Sexton; Director Tracy Masters; Edith Guilford; Sharon D. Starks; Director Jim Shuler; Janssen Robinson; Dr. Audrey Armistad, Associate Superintendent; Deputy Commissioner Shawanda Reynolds-Cobb; Deputy Commissioner Michael McNeely; Deputy Commissioner Sarah Draper; Director John T. Smith; CFO Sonja R. Allen-Smith; Special Assistant Carl Brown; Deputy Commissioner Joe Vignati; Manager Teri Stripling; Director Joan Quinn-Cannon; Director Lisa Bryson; Director Debbie Carter; Assistant Deputy Commissioner Margaret Cawood; Director Ben Harvill; Director Michelle Staples-Horne; Deputy Drew Townsend; Director Andrew Laarhoven; Assistant Deputy Commissioner Theodore Carter, Jr.; Assistant Deputy Commissioner Diana Aspinwall; David Parham; Towanda Cuthbert; Evelyn Phillips; Jerry Jones; Chaplain Danny Horne; Keisha Douglas; Natasha Bray; John Pearson; Jason Schall; Kim Todd; Jeramille Jackson; Director Barry Shephard; Michael Felgenhauer; Edward Adams; Spencer Gaudet and Yvette Davis.

Others Present: Rebecca Dorbras, Attorney General's Office; Holly Mims, National Youth Advocacy Program; Alicia Thomas Morgan, Private Citizen; Elizabeth Greer, Private Citizen and Jody Bradham, Talentquest.

Secretary's Report: Chair Snow asked Secretary Adam Kennedy to conduct the Roll Call. The following members were present: Willie C. Bolton; Thomas Coleman; John B. Edwards; Angie Holt; Adam Kennedy; Julia Neighbors; Danny Porter; Franklin Rozier; Elaine Snow; Fred Stephens; Kelly Stewart and Vice Chair Taylor. There were no Judicial Advisory Council Members present.

Chair Snow asked for a motion to approve the current agenda. A motion was made by Vice Chair Taylor and seconded by Board Member Holt. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Snow asked for a motion to approve the Minutes of the April 16, 2015 Board Meeting. A motion to approve was made by Board Member Bolton and seconded by Board Member Coleman. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner's Report

Joe Vignati, Deputy Commissioner presented recommended changes to the Board approved Detention Assessment instrument and requested approval of the recommended changes. A motion to approve the changes was made by Secretary Kennedy and seconded by Board Member Edwards. The motion carried unanimously. For additional details, please see Addendum A.

Tracy Masters, General Counsel presented a proposed amendment to the Board's Rules to authorize the Commissioner to require the Director to reside on the grounds, or nearby, in DJJ provided housing at certain designated facilities. A motion to table the proposed rule amendment pending the provision of additional information by DJJ staff was made by Board Member Bolton and seconded by Secretary Kennedy. The motion carried unanimously. For additional details, please see Addendum B.

Teri Stripling, Project Manager of Contracts and Property, proposed a resolution to the Board to surplus the former Gwinnett Regional Detention Center in Lawrenceville, GA. A motion to approve the resolution was made by Board Member Bolton and seconded by Board Member Holt. The motion carried unanimously. For additional details, please see Addendum C.

Joan Quinn-Cannon, Director of the Office of Engineering and Construction Services, proposed a resolution to approve \$37,420,000 in General Obligation Debt for various projects. A motion to approve the resolution was made by Board Member Porter and seconded by Board Member Holt. The motion carried unanimously. For additional details, please see Addendum D.

Lisa Casey-Bryson, Director of the Office of Classification and Transportation, gave an overview of the activities of her work unit. For additional details, please see Addendum E.

Ben Harvill, Director of Health Services, gave an overview of the activities of his work unit. For additional details, please see Addendum F. Director Harvill was asked to provide the Board with additional statistics on the number of prescriptions for mental health issues.

Commissioner Niles recognized Towanda Cuthbert for receiving the 2015 GEARS Exceptional Administrative Professional Award.

Board of Education

Chair Snow asked for a motion to adjourn from the regular DJJ Board and reconvene as the DJJ School Board. A motion was made by Secretary Kennedy and seconded by Vice Chair Taylor. The motion carried unanimously.

Associate Superintendent Armistad discussed the following topics during the School Board Meeting:

- Graduation Updates
- Professional Learning Conference (For additional details, please see Addendum G.)
- Education Transition Centers

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

Sonja R. Allen-Smith, Chief Financial Officer, reviewed Board Member compensation practices and policies.

Chair's Comment

Chair Snow thanked everyone for their feedback and discussion.

Old Business

There was no old business before the Board.

New Business

There was no new business before the Board.

Chair Snow announced that the next Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, June 25, 2015 at DJJ Headquarters, 3408 Covington Highway, Decatur, GA 30032 at 10:00 AM.

The meeting was adjourned.

Elaine P. Snow, Chair
Board of Juvenile Justice

Avery D. Niles, Commissioner
Department of Juvenile Justice

Adam Kennedy
Board Secretary