



**Board of Juvenile Justice &  
Board of Education  
Joint Meeting  
Thursday, October 27, 2022  
Decatur, GA  
Board Meeting Minutes  
(Audio/Zoom Conference)**

**Opening Remarks:**

On Thursday, October 27, 2022, Chair Sandra Taylor called the joint board meeting of the Board for Department of Juvenile Justice and the Board of Education to order at approximately 10:00 AM. The meeting was held as an in-person and audio/Zoom conference.

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

**Other Attendees included:** Assistant Attorney General Amy Radley (Law Department/in-person), Guests: Kit Cummings, Pastor Dr. Gary Burke, and a program graduate.

**Invocation:** Emily Kelly, NW Regional Chaplain

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by Board Member Fred Stephens

**Roll Call:** Conducted by Secretary Adam Kennedy (virtual). Members present were Chair Sandra Taylor (in-person), Vice-Chair Willie C. Bolton (in-person), Gary Yandura (in-person), Thomas Coleman (virtual), Joyette Holmes (in-person, joined later), Penny Penn (virtual), Angie Holt (virtual), Fred Stephens (in-person), Danny Blackmon (in-person), and Judicial Advisory Member Judge Quintress Gilbert (in-person). Quorum was declared.

**Agenda approval:** Chair Taylor called for a motion to approve the October 27, 2022 agenda. The motion was made by Vice-Chair Bolton, seconded by Board Member Yandura, and approved unanimously.

**Minutes approval:** Chair Taylor called for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 25, 2022 board meeting. The motion was made by Board Member Stephens, seconded by Board Member Blackmon, and approved unanimously.

### **Commissioner's Report**

Commissioner Oliver talked about the following:

- Wellness Event, October 28, 2022 from 10 AM-2 PM at Milledgeville YDC
- Student graduation ceremonies – to resume in December 2022
- “Pink Out” Day – honoring survivors of breast cancer
- Acknowledgement of Domestic Violence Awareness Month

### **Retirement Acknowledgements:**

Deputy Commissioner Victor Roberts and Regional Administrator Tamara Barber recognized the retirement of the following Community Services team members:

Melissa Brake - 40 years of service  
Alphonso Rutledge, Jr. - 30 years of service

### **Power of Peace Project Update:**

Kit Cummings presented on the Power of Peace (PoP) Project and what they are doing now. He introduced Pastor Dr. Gary Burke as a contributor to the program. They recognized a youth graduate of the program. He also acknowledged and commended the efforts and work of DJJ SMRT Lt. Jay Turner.

The video of the program graduation ceremony at Eastman YDC on October 18, 2022, was played for the Board.

### **Divisional Reports:**

**Education:** Deputy Superintendent Zane Shelfer presented on the online program for the Georgia Preparatory Academy (GPA Online) and announced the first graduate from GPA Online. The graduate could not attend the meeting due to work obligations. His parents attended the board meeting and were recognized in his stead.

**Old Business:** No old business

### **New Business:**

Proposed Amendment to Bylaws Section 5 – proposed change to the wording in regards to the elimination of meeting ratification when business is conducted via telephonic or virtual means.

Motion to change the wording as announced was made by Vice-Chair Bolton, seconded by Board Member Yandura and approved unanimously. The revised language will be voted on at the next board meeting.

**Chair's Comments :**

Since there is no meeting for November, the next meeting will be on December 8, 2022.

The December 8, 2022 board meeting will include DJJ's annual holiday luncheon for staff and board members.

**Executive Session:** Board member Holmes moved to go into executive session to discuss litigation and personnel matters. Board member Stephens seconded and the motion was approved unanimously. (Blackmon, Bolton, Coleman, Holt, Holmes, Kennedy, Penn, Yandura, Taylor and Stephens).

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:10 PM (motioned by Board Member Holmes and seconded by Board Member Blackmon).

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Sandra H. Taylor, Chair  
Board of Juvenile Justice

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Tyrone Oliver, Commissioner  
Department of Juvenile Justice

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Adam Kennedy, Secretary  
Board of Juvenile Justice