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**Board of Juvenile Justice &  
Board of Education / Joint Board Meeting  
Thursday, October 26, 2023  
Board Meeting Minutes  
(In-Person and Zoom Conference)**

**Opening Remarks:**

**Call to Order:** On Thursday, October 26, 2023, Vice-Chair Willie Bolton 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 by Zoom.

**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 Vice-Chair Bolton.

**Roll Call:** Conducted by Board Secretary Adam Kennedy (Zoom): Danny Blackmon (in-person), Vice-Chair Willie Bolton (in-person), Thomas Coleman (Zoom), John Edwards (Zoom), Quintress Gilbert (in-person), Joyette Holmes (Zoom), Penny Penn (Zoom), Tim McCulley (Zoom), Garland Hunt (Zoom), and Fred Stephens (Zoom). A quorum was declared.

**Approval of Meeting Agenda** – A motion was made to approve the meeting agenda by Board Member Stephens and seconded by Board Member Gilbert. The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

**Approval of August 24, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes** – A motion was made to approve the minutes by Board Member Gilbert and seconded by Board Member Blackmon. The minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

## **Commissioner's Report:**

- **Monthly Recap**
  - A group of DJJ representatives visited the juvenile detention facility in Chicago to see if DJJ can utilize any aspects of the facility operation. Communications Director Glenn Allen went to a CIO meeting in DC with other Information Officers. Legislative Liaison Margaret Cawood and Deputy Commissioner of Community Services Rusty Rodgers participated in a rural legislative meeting representing DJJ.
  - The Commissioner thanked the DJJ staff members for all their hard work.
  - Since the last meeting, there have been:
    - Two BJCOT Graduations - Class 262 and 263. Class 263 graduated with a little over 50 cadets.
    - Deloitte has started working on a review of the policies. The project is headed by DJJ Auditor Matt Cooper.
    - The quarterly town hall meetings have been successful. The Executive Team has received valuable feedback and ideas.
    - The communications team has been working on a more effective and stronger communications plan to get messages out to the correctional officers by getting input from the frontline staff.
    - The employee wellness event was well attended by the staff.
    - The Commissioner gave a presentation to the Governor and OPB on DJJ's budget request.
  - Congratulations to Ms. Sharon Strickland, Training Manager. After 30 years of service, Ms. Strickland is retiring.
  - Congratulations to Medical Director Dr. Michelle Staples-Horne for receiving the 2023 American Correctional Association ER Cass Correctional Achievement Award. A video was shared of Dr. Staples-Horne receiving the award.

## **Education Update – Zane Shelfer, Deputy Superintendent**

- **College and Career Week (Dr. Letunya Walker)**
  - College and Career Week was held October 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>. This was the very first one for the entire agency and some staff dressed in their individual school colors and engaged with the scholars and celebrated with a homecoming experience for everyone. The scholars were given information on how to apply and what was needed to attend the college they were interested in.
- **Special Education Department Progress (Ms. Winifred Pierce)**
  - Ms. Pierce gave the background and progress to date of the special education department. There are 350 special education students in DJJ. There are 77 in YDC and 273 in RYDC. There are 12 categories of

disability in special education and DJJ has eight of those categories, includes vision impaired, the deaf and hard of hearing.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**Vice-Chair's Comments:**

- Vice-Chair Bolton thanked all who participated. The next board meeting will be on December 14, 2023. Traditionally there is no board meeting held in November. Vice-Chair Bolton wished everyone a joyful Thanksgiving.

A motion to adjourn was made by Vice-Chair Bolton and seconded by Board Member Stephens. The meeting was adjourned.

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Willie C. Bolton, Vice-Chair  
Board of Juvenile Justice

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Shawanda Reynolds-Cobb, Commissioner  
Department of Juvenile Justice

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Adam Kennedy, Secretary  
Board of Juvenile Justice