



Board of Juvenile Justice
Thursday, October 27, 2016
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 J. Mark Sexton, Assistant Commissioner Keith Horton, Deputy Commissioner Shawanda Reynolds-Cobb, Director Allyson Richardson, Chief Financial Officer Sonja R. Allen-Smith, Director Scott Cagle, Director Scott Mall, Associate Superintendent Richard Behrens, Manager Max Tran, Assistant Deputy Commissioner Debbie Carter, Associate Superintendent Theodore Carter, Jr., Chaplain Danny Horne, Deputy Commissioner Sarah Draper, Assistant Deputy Commissioner Margaret Cawood, Yasmin Othman, Tomika Grigsby, Deputy Commissioner Sean Hamilton, Deputy Director Cathy Raissle, Carrie Hamilton-Shavers, Deputy Chief Financial Officer Drew Townsend, Director John T. Smith, Director Andrew Laarhoven, Deputy Commissioner Joe Vignati, Dr. Letunya Walker, General Counsel Cindy Wang, Janssen Robinson, Director Joan Quinn-Cannon, Associate Superintendent Catina Martin-Fenner, Investigator Stuart Minor and Sharon D. Starks.

Others Present: Amy Radley, Attorney General's Office; Brian Lawler, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget; Schania Bronson, Total Youth Outreach, Rick Townsend and Helen Sloat, Nelson & Mullins.

Secretary's Report: Secretary Adam Kennedy conducted the Roll Call. The following members were present: Willie C. Bolton, Lisa Colbert, Thomas Coleman, John B. Edwards, Angie Holt, Adam Kennedy, Julia Neighbors, Penny Penn, Elaine Snow, Fred Stephens, Kelly Stewart and Dick Yarbrough.

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

Chair Snow asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2016 Board Meeting. A motion was made by Board Member Colbert and seconded by Board Member Coleman. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner's Report

The Commissioner Report was previously submitted to the Board via email and it was included in the Board materials.

The following topics were discussed:

- Commissioner Niles commended DJJ staff for their efforts in evacuating the Savannah RYDC during Hurricane Matthews
- The Pallet Art Project by the YDC youth and other service-learning projects
- Promotion of Assistant Deputy Commissioner Margaret Cawood to Deputy Commissioner of the Division of Support Services
- A brief discussion on reviewing the purchase of larger transportation vans
- Commendations from Board Members to DJJ staff in Savannah, Georgia on their efficiency in evacuating the Savannah RYDC
- CFO Sonja R. Allen-Smith updated the Board on the AFY 2017 – FY2018 budget
- Questions were answered on the following topics:
 - Pay equity for non-law enforcement staff
 - Information & Technology needs
 - Investigative case management systems
- Deputy Commissioner Joe Vignati presented Assistant Deputy Commissioner Catina Martin-Fenner with a 10-year Faithful Service Award

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

Board of Education

During the DJJ Board of Education meeting, the following topics were discussed:

- Dr. Behrens gave an overview of the blended curriculum model
- Max Tran presented on Infinite Campus
- Questions were answered about the following
 - the process of re-enrolling youth to community schools when they are released from the department's supervision
 - local community involvement
 - Periodic updates parental engagement efforts in Infinite Campus and parents

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 Board Member Edwards. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair's Comments

Chair Snow commented on the following topics:

- Welcomed Board Member Penn
- Thanked Board Members who attended Dr. Audrey Armistad's retirement luncheon as well as the ribbon cutting ceremony for Terrell RYDC
- Discussed a community engagement event at the Rome RYDC
- The Board recognized Commissioner Niles for receiving the Council of the Juvenile Court Judges' Martha K. Glaze Award

New Business

- The Commissioner gave special recognition to Board Liaison Sharon Starks who is retiring at the end of November 2016
- The Commissioner announced that the Commissioner's Youth Council will be held on November 1, 2016, in the 2nd floor Board Room. He also reminded the Board regarding the Board member training, November 2-3, 2016
- Judge Colbert mentioned the community safety forum to be held in Chatham County on December 10, 2016.

Old Business

Board Member Bolton commended the staff on the Groundbreaking Ceremony for Wilkes County facility.

Chair Snow announced that the next Board Meeting would be held on Thursday, December 8, 2016 at DJJ Headquarters, 3408 Covington Highway, Decatur, GA 30032 at 10:00 AM.

The meeting was adjourned.

Sandra H. Taylor, Vice-Chair
Board of Juvenile Justice

Avery D. Niles, Commissioner
Department of Juvenile Justice

Adam Kennedy
Board Secretary