

**Board of Juvenile Justice
Thursday, January 26, 2012
10:00 a.m.**

**Department of Juvenile Justice
3408 Covington Highway
Decatur, Georgia 30032-1513**

**Opening Remarks
Ed Risler, Chairman**

Board Chairman Ed Risler called to order the meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and DJJ Board of Education. Chairman Risler asked guests to state their name and organization affiliation.

DJJ Staff Present: Commissioner L. Gale Buckner; Deputy Commissioner Carl Brown; Deputy Commissioner Shawanda Reynolds-Cobb; Deputy Commissioner Rick Harrison; Deputy Commissioner Michael McNeely; Assistant Deputy Commissioner Diana Aspinwall; Terry Edge; Sarah Draper; Carol Jackson; Lisa Wilson; Sarah Edgeworth; John Rackicki; Robin Florie; Debbie Alexander; Ginny Mickish; Willie Gilmore; Audrey Armistad; Adam Barnett; Kristy Gray; Chris Thomas; Brian Hardeman; Marvin Menafee; Donnell Collins; Pamela Roberson; Vita Jordan; Rose Williams; Corey Butler; Casey Coggins; Ken Nash; Jim Walls; Jim Shuler; William Screws; Angela Cosby; Kimberly Hicks; Jessie Milledge; Janssen Robinson; Nathan Cain; Tracy Masters; Diane Avery.

Others: Ashley Culberson, Attorney General's Office; Jim Balkcom, Talent Quest; Scott Sheriden, Nelson, Mullins; Stuart Minor, Department of Corrections (DOC); Sharon Shaver, DOC; Amy Fortner, DOC; Leslie Lamb, State Board of Pardons and Paroles; Emily Ackee, Youth Villages; Chelsie Hullender.

Chairman Risler asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance led by a DJJ youth, followed by the invocation by Board Member Pastor Dexter Rowland.

Roll Call

Roll call was conducted by Secretary Sandra Taylor. Board members present were: Sandra Taylor, Bruce Garraway, Larry F. Barnes, Michael L. Baugh, James P. Kelly, Perry McGuire, Daniel Menefee, Avery D. Niles, Ed Risler, Dexter O. Rowland, Stephen K. Simpson and Judge Quintress Gilbert. Secretary Taylor noted a quorum was present.

Chairman Risler asked for approval of the agenda for the January 26, 2012 Board of Juvenile Justice and Board of Education meetings.

Board Member Barnes moved to approve the agenda for the meeting.

Vice-Chairman Menefee seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Chairman Risler called for a motion to approve the minutes of the Board's previous meeting on December 8, 2011.

Vice-Chairman Menefee moved to approve the minutes.

Board Member Baugh seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Chairman Risler introduced Commissioner L. Gale Buckner for the Commissioner's Report.

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Buckner expressed her appreciation to the Board members, DJJ employees and guests for attending the Board meeting. Commissioner Buckner stated she felt the Board would be excited about the information presented to them today regarding Education and the update on what has been going on in the DJJ facilities. Commissioner Buckner stated two Board members had reached out to her with ideas to assist youth in making a smoother and more successful transition back into the community. Also Commissioner Buckner acknowledged Board Member Avery D. Niles, for his continued work and effort concerning the Augusta YDC. Gary Jones, Governor Deal's appointee to Director of the Augusta YDC will be returning to his law enforcement agency March 2, leaving the Director position vacant. This vacancy will be announced shortly. GBI criminal investigation into activities at Augusta YDC is currently ongoing and is expected to be completed by mid February.

Unannounced inspection visits have been made to all 26 DJJ facilities by members of the Safety and Security Task Force. Task Force findings will be presented at the February Board meeting.

Chairman Risler called for a motion to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and open the DJJ Board of Education meeting.

Board Member Rowland made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and open the DJJ Board of Education meeting.

Board Member Taylor seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

Education Update

Chairman Risler called on Deputy Commissioner Rick Harrison for the Education Update. Mr. Harrison provided an update on technology programs and its impact on both YDC and RYDC facilities. Mr. Harrison emphasized the importance of the Graduation Education Program which assists youth, who have received their GED, with their transition back into the community.

Electronic Student Record program is being piloted at Augusta, Macon, Eastman and Metro facilities. The pilots have been very successful and the program is expected to be rolled out in February. Education is also looking into partnering with the Department of Education on the Statewide Longitude Data System.

Dr. Virginia Mickish made a presentation on State Mandated Testing and the testing results. Dr. John Rackicki presented a briefing on the grant funded, After School Program in Augusta, Macon and Muscogee facilities. A partnership agreement has been negotiated with Sumter County Board of Education to start an After School Program at the Sumter YDC. Eastman YDC will be added as well prior to June when the grant funds are exhausted. Grant renewal application will be completed in February. Grant funding is approximately \$400,000 annually.

Chairman Risler asked for a motion to adjourn the School Board meeting and reconvene the regular meeting.

Board Member Niles made a motion to adjourn the DJJ Board of Education meeting and reconvene the regular meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice.

Board Member Baugh seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

Chairman Risler states the Agenda calls for the Board to go into Executive Session to receive a report on personnel matters which are confidential under Ga. Code 50-14-3 Para. 6 and asked for a motion to go into Executive Session.

Vice-Chairman Menefee made a motion for the Board to move into Executive Session.

Board Member Garraway seconded the motion and the motion was carried.

Chairman Risler asked everyone except Board members leave the room.

Executive Session

The Board moved into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

Regular Session

Chairman Risler announced the Board was back in regular session. An announcement was made to the general public in the waiting area.

Budget Update

Budget Director Ken Nash presented the agency's budget update.

Commissioner Buckner shared with the Board her presentation to the members of the General Assembly with emphasis on the alarming increase in the number of designated felons in YDC beds. Also, Evening Report Centers are in the Governor's budget allowing for 60 slots

strategically placed in currently unidentified locations throughout the state, at a cost of \$40.00 per day.

Funding has been put in place for two Security Manage and Response Teams (SMART). Commissioner Buckner recognized members of the Safety and Security Task Force.

Office of Investigations

Director Sarah Draper spoke to the Board on gang enterprising , assaults and displayed for the Board various type of contraband seized in our facilities.

Youth Services

Terry Edge, Assistant Director of Training introduced members of DJJ's first Security Emergency Response Team (SERT). Members shared stories of how being a member of the SERT has impacted their lives and their community.

Chairman's Comments

The next Board Meeting will be at 10:00 am, February 23, 2012, at the DJJ central office.

Members should expect an e-mail setting a date and time for the Education Committee to meet.

A group Board photo will be taken at 9:45 am prior to the February 23 Board meeting. Please arrive at 9:30 am.

Call for Old Business – None

Call for New Business – None

Chairman Risler called for a Motion to Adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice.

Board Member Barnes made the motion and received a second.

The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned.

Dr. Ed Risler, Chairman
Board of Juvenile Justice

L. Gale Buckner
Commissioner

Sandra Taylor, Secretary
Board of Juvenile Justice