

**Board of Juvenile Justice
Thursday, May 24, 2012
10:00 a.m.**

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

Opening Remarks

Board Chairman Avery D. Niles called to order the meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and DJJ Board of Education.

DJJ Staff Present: Commissioner L. Gale Buckner; Assistant Commissioner Jeff Minor; Deputy Commissioner Carl Brown; Deputy Commissioner Shawanda Reynolds-Cobb; Deputy Commissioner Michael McNeely; Deputy Commissioner Rick Harrison; Dr. Audrey Armistead; Director Sarah Draper; Director Carol Jackson; Latera Davis; Tracy Masters; Jim Shuler; Matt Montgomery; Janssen Robinson; Shirley Carten; Sharon Wilson; Shondrena Hudson-Huley; Sam Clonts; Vivian Guevan; Chris Jones; Harold Cooper; Joan Carroll; Thomas Cook; Mary Hemphill and Diane Avery.

Others: Kelly McCutchen, Georgia Public Policy Foundation; Bruce Garraway, outgoing Board Member; Polly McKinney, Voices for Georgia's Children; Michael Sheridan, Nelson, Mullins; Elizabeth Rodger, Attorney General's Office.

Chairman Niles asked all guests to stand and state their name and affiliation.

Chairman Niles asked everyone to stand for the invocation by Board Member Elaine Snow, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Chairman Niles recognized the Board's most recently appointed member Daniel J. "Danny" Porter and asked him to say a few words about himself.

Chairman Niles then asked Secretary Taylor to conduct the Roll Call. Board members present were: Michael L. Baugh, Willie C. Bolton, Judge Quintress Gilbert, Angie M. Holt, James Kelly, Avery D. Niles, Perry McGuire, Daniel Menefee, Daniel J. "Danny" Porter, Franklin D. Rozier, Elaine P. Snow, Sandra H. Taylor and Judge Steve Teske. Secretary Taylor noted a quorum was present.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Taylor asked for a motion that the Board accept the Agenda for the current meeting. Board Member Menefee made a motion to accept the agenda for the May 24, 2012 Board meeting. The motion received a second by Board Member Michael Baugh and the Agenda was approved.

Secretary Taylor asked if there were any changes to the April 26 Board Minutes and hearing none asked for a motion that the Board approve the minutes of the April 26, 2012 Board meeting. Vice-Chairman Menefee made a motion to approve the Minutes for the April 26, 2012 Board Meeting. The motion received a second from Board Member Willie Bolton and the Minutes were approved. Mr. Porter asked to go on record as abstaining as he had not had an opportunity to review the Minutes of the April 26, 2012 Board Meeting.

Employee Recognition

Ms. Shawanda Reynolds-Cobb, Deputy Commissioner of the Administration Division, recognizes retiring employee Edward Cook, Director of Engineering, for twenty-five years of service to the State of Georgia. Mr. Cook was presented with a letter from Governor Nathan Deal and a State Flag flown over the Capitol in Mr. Cook's honor.

Mr. Cook expressed his appreciation and gratitude to the staff and all DJJ employees.

Recognition of Outgoing Board Members

Secretary Taylor stated the Board's appreciation to outgoing Board Member Bruce Garraway for five years of service on the Board. Secretary Taylor presented Mr. Garraway the Agency's Legacy Award.

Mr. Garraway expressed his appreciation to the Board and shared how much he had enjoyed his service on the Board and to the youth of our state.

"Right On Crime and Opportunities To Partner on Juvenile Justice"

Mr. Kelly McCutchen with the Georgia Public Policy Foundation offered several ways the Foundation might partner with DJJ to aid in education and ultimately reduce reoffending of our youth.

Open Meetings Law Update

Legal Services Director Tracy Masters made a brief update on recent changes to the Open Meetings Law that may impact the DJJ Board.

Commissioner's Report

Last week the agency tragically lost two employees, JCO Jay Troup and educator Bonita Wallace in separate automobile crashes.

Under the direction of Deputy Commissioner Rick Harrison, the agency is moving forward with implementing random drug screening tests for DJJ youth. Also Human Resources is working closely with Deputy Commissioner Harrison to ensure appropriate staff are included in the drug testing.

The Federal Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) guidelines were released last week of which Georgia is a part. The agency's PREA Director, Adam Barnett, is moving forward to ensure DJJ is in compliance with all PREA changes.

Deputy Commissioner Michael McNeely and Director Carol Jackson attended the annual meeting of Juvenile Court Judges held in Savannah.

Deputy Commissioner Shawanda Reynolds Cobb is reviewing all contracts and working to ensure accuracy of community placement contracts.

After working closely with the Peace Officers Standards and Training Council (POST) 19 Investigators under the supervision of Director Sarah Draper, were sworn in last week.

Commissioner Buckner stated she had been named as a member of the Children's Cabinet, chaired by Governor and Mrs. Deal, whose mission is to ensure the safety of Georgia's children under state supervision.

Commissioner Buckner, along with Board Member Elaine Snow and DJJ staff members made an unannounced visit to the Rome facility. Commissioner Buckner was pleased to announce the visit to Rome was one of the best thus far.

All ninety-seven Community Services Offices have been visited by Director Draper and her staff. The same format, with necessary modifications, that was used for facility visits was utilized for Community Services Office visits in an effort to identify areas of concern.

Commissioner Buckner advised the Board she was working with Talent Quest to identify future leaders and compile descriptors of desired qualities for JCO candidates.

Commissioner Buckner again asked the Board Members for their input on Board Agendas.

Chairman Niles requested a motion to adjourn from the regular DJJ Board meeting and reconvene as the Board of Education. A motion was made by Board Member Menefee and seconded by Board Member Snow and the motion carried.

Chairman Niles called on Superintendent Buckner. Superintendent Buckner asked Dr. Armistead to present the Education update.

Education Update

Dr. Armistead stated a Strategic Plan for Education, both long and short term, is being developed.

Focus is being placed on a more solid, long term plan for educating our youth by ensuring once they determine their line of study that they follow through with the program classes to completion.

Secretary Taylor made the motion to adjourn the DJJ School Board meeting and reconvene as the regular DJJ Board. Board Member Snow seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Regular Session

Chairman Niles announced the Board was back in regular session.

Chairman's Comments

Chairman Niles announced members of the Executive Committee as: Chairman Avery Niles, Vice-Chair Dan Menefee, Secretary Sandra Taylor, Elaine Snow, Angie Holt and Perry McGuire. Chairman Niles also announced members of the Finance Committee as: Dan Menefee, Chair; Mike Baugh, Member; Judge Gilbert, Advisory Board Member; Jim Kelly, Member; Avery Niles, Member; Elaine Snow, Member; and Judge Teske, Advisory Board Member.

The Finance Committee will meet in June on date and time to be determined.

Call for Old Business – Annual training, as well as training for newly appointed Board Members was discussed.

Call for New Business – None

Chairman Niles stated the next DJJ Board Meeting would be held in Central Office on June 28, 2012 at 10:00 am.

Chairman Niles announced the July, 2012 Board meeting date has been changed to Wednesday, July 18 and the October, 2012 Board meeting date has been changed to Thursday, October 18.

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

Board Member Menefee made the motion to adjourn. Board Member Snow seconded the motion and the motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned.

Avery D. Niles, Chairman
Board of Juvenile Justice

L. Gale Buckner
Commissioner

Sandra Taylor, Secretary
Board of Juvenile Justice