

Board of Juvenile Justice
Thursday, November 10, 2011
1:30 p.m.

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

Opening Remarks

Dr. Edwin Risler, Chairman

Chairman Dr. Edwin Risler called to order the November 10, 2011 Special Called Board Meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice. He noted the time as 1:30 p.m. Chairman Risler asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of the youth that died at the Augusta YDC.

DJJ Staff Present: Deputy Commissioner Jeff Minor; Deputy Commissioner Carl Brown; Deputy Commissioner Richard Harrison; Deputy Commissioner Michael McNeely; Diana Aspinwall (Chief of Staff); Emily Gest; Cherecia Kline; Latera Davis; Nathan Cain; and Janssen Robinson.

Others: L. Gale Buckner (State Board of Pardons and Paroles); Edith Darden (State Board of Pardons and Paroles); Bart Gobeil (Governor Deal's Chief of Staff- via conference call); Ashley Culberson (Attorney General's Office); Joseph Drolet (Attorney General's Office); Richard Belcher (WSB-TV); Rhonda Cook (*Atlanta Journal Constitution*); and Helen Sloan (Nelson Mullins).

Roll Call

Chairman Risler asked for the roll to be called by the Secretary of the Board. Secretary Sandra Taylor conducted the roll call of attendance.

Board Members Present: Larry Barnes; Michael Baugh (via conference call); Bruce Garraway; Elizabeth Lindsey (via conference call); Perry McGuire (via conference call); Daniel Menefee; Avery Niles (via conference call); Dr. Ed Risler; Dexter Rowland (via conference call); Elaine Snow; Sandra Taylor.

Advisory Council Members via conference call: Judge Quintress Gilbert

Board Secretary Sandra Taylor noted the presence of a quorum.

Appointment of L. Gale Bucker, Commissioner

Chairman Dr. Edwin Risler
Board of Juvenile Justice

Chairman Risler said the Special Called Board Meeting is due to Governor Nathan Deal designating L. Gale Buckner to be the new commissioner of the Department of Juvenile Justice.

Chairman Risler said under Georgia law it is the responsibility and duty of the Board to approve the appointment of the Commissioner as recommended by the Governor. Chairman Risler thanked Amy Howell (in absentia) for the leadership she showed over the past nine months and wished her well in her future endeavors.

Chairman Risler asked Bart Gobeil, Governor Deal's chief of staff, to say a few words to the Board. Mr. Gobeil thanked the Board on behalf of Governor Deal. He said Governor Deal is very excited about Buckner's tenure and has confidence in her and looks forward to the Board's permanent approval of her nomination.

Chairman Risler asked for a motion that Buckner be appointed as the new commissioner of the Department of Juvenile Justice, replacing Amy Howell, to be effective immediately.

The motion was made by Board Member Snow to appoint Buckner the Commissioner of the Department of Juvenile Justice. Board Member Menefee seconded the motion.

Chairman Dr. Risler asked if there was any discussion. Hearing none, he asked Board Secretary Taylor to have a roll call vote.

The Board voted unanimously in support of the motion.

Chairman Dr. Ed. Risler stated the vote carries and Buckner is the Department of Juvenile Justice's new Commissioner. The Board congratulated Commissioner Buckner.

Chairman Risler said Commissioner Buckner will be sworn in at the Capitol on Monday November 14, 2011 at 3:00 p.m. He encouraged the Board to attend and stated Emily Gest will send out information to the Board about the ceremony.

Chairman Risler asked for a motion to adjourn the Special Called Meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice. It was motioned by Board Member Simpson and seconded by Board Member Taylor for the meeting to be adjourned.

Dr. Edwin Risler, Chairman
Board of Juvenile Justice

L. Gale Buckner
Commissioner

Sandra Taylor, Secretary
Board of Juvenile Justice