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**Board of Juvenile Justice &
Board of Education / Joint Board Meeting
Thursday, February 23, 2023
Board Meeting Minutes
Decatur, GA
Board Meeting Minutes
(Audio/Zoom Conference)**

Opening Remarks:

On Thursday, February 23, Chair Sandra Taylor 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 via audio/Zoom conference.

DJJ Staff Present: Interim Commissioner Shawanda Reynolds-Cobb, DJJ Executive Team Members, and various DJJ Staff Members.

Other attendees included: Senior Assistant Attorney General Tina Piper and Assistant Attorney General Kathleen Jacobs (Law Department) and DOC Commissioner Tyrone Oliver.

Invocation: Chaplain Emily Kelly

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Chair Taylor.

Roll Call: (Conducted by Board Secretary Adam Kennedy (Zoom) Members present were Chair Sandra Taylor (in-person), Vice-Chair Willie C. Bolton (Zoom), Danny Blackmon (in-person), John Edwards (Zoom), Quintress Gilbert (Zoom), Garland Hunt (Zoom), Penny Penn (Zoom), Joyette Holmes (Zoom), and Fred Stephens (Zoom). Quorum was declared.

Recognition of Former Board Members: Chair Taylor called for a motion to reserve the recognition of board members for later. So moved by Board Member Blackmon for a Motion to strike the recognition of former board members Angie Holt and Gary Yandura and to reserve those issues until later. Motion was seconded by Vice Chair Bolton and approved unanimously.

Motion to approve the amended agenda made by Board Member Blackmon, seconded by Board Member Penn, and approved unanimously.

Meeting Minutes Approval: Chair Taylor called for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2023 board meeting. The motion was made by Board Member Blackmon. Motion was seconded by Vice Chair Bolton and approved unanimously.

Interim Commissioner Shawanda Reynolds-Cobb Report:

Judge Quintress Gilbert was sworn in last week as a member of the Board. Chair Taylor was there along with Interim Commissioner Reynolds-Cobb, and former Commissioner Tyrone Oliver.

Congratulations to the four or five staff members that were sworn in at the ACA Conference in a leadership role.

Also congratulations to the staff who played a role in the re-accrreditation of Terrell, Crisp, and Thomasville RYDCs. Some notable things were:

1. The auditors pointed out that there were employees who had been with the agency for a long period of time. Appreciation and recognition for the long time agency team members who stayed with the agency throughout their career.
2. The condition of the physical plants at Crisp and Thomasville and how well they have maintained the facilities. Thank them for the work that they do for maintaining these facilities and work they do on the re-accreditations.

Congratulations to Dr. Michelle Staples-Horne who has been named a recipient of the ACA's presitigious E.R. Cass Correctional Achievement Award. She will receive this award at the summer conference in Philadelphia.

Congratulations goes out to the education team. Specifically, the special education staff on achieving 100% for the 2nd year in a row for ensuring that the school district remain compliant with the GA Department of Education and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Chair Taylor acknowledged Interim Commissioner Reynolds-Cobb and former Commissioner Oliver for their hard work and guidance in leading DJJ to make these achievements obtainable by the staff.

Interim Commission Reynolds-Cobb advised that since the last meeting, there have been two budget hearings. She along with Deputy Commissioner Margaret Cawood and CFO Steven Carter-Williams were introduced to some key legislators at those meetings.

April 13th is the date for Wayne Dasher's Law Enforcement Event. The details will be provided at a later date.

The Employee Engagement Survey will be out the week of March 13th.

As a follow-up with Juvenile Court Judges to see about getting the community staff on the agenda, the contacts have been made. Once she receives a date she will let everyone know when that's going to happen.

Mr. Garland Hunt will be sworn in on March 2, 2023 at 2:00 pm as a Board Member.

Divisional Updates

Education Update

Deputy Superintendent Zane Shelfer presented on the education dashboard data.

Enrollment

There are 178 students in middle school; 714 in high school; 97 GED and 39 graduates across the state.

Staffing

The vacancy level has improved.

Career tech programs (top 2) were Culinary Arts and Barbering. Highlight barbering at Eastman. There was an overview of the Barbering program by Kent Paulk, the instructor (started in 2017), and Youth M.J., a student at Eastman, who is 19 years old and graduated in May 2022 from Eastman YDC.

Board Member Gilbert and Chair Taylor thanked Deputy Superintendent Shelfer for all his hard work and partnerships in the community to provide these programs for the youth.

Administrative Services

Administrative Services updates on the new construction of the Augusta YDC Education Building/Housing Update was done by Spencer Gaudett, Project Engineer.

Legislative Update

Deputy Commissioner Cawood gave a brief overview of the various bills and their status. Cross-over day is March 6th. The last day of session would be March 29th. Governor Kemp announced his proposals for the budget in January and the amended 2023 budget is in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Training Updates

Deputy Commissioner Latera Davis, Division of Professional Development and Standards, presented Dr. Tania Appling who is the Director of Professional Development. Dr. Appling gave an overview of the courses offered at DJJ for the staff, contractors, and volunteers.

Deputy Commissioner Davis presented an overview of the HUB and what's new for her division:

- New Learning Management System
- Improved courses
- Streamline of registration process and professional development
- New eLearning content
- Partnership and Collaborations
- The Way Ahead

Special Presentation – there was a special presentation of appreciation to former Commissioner Tyrone Oliver from the staff at DJJ for everything he has accomplished while at DJJ.

There was no old business or new business to discuss.

Next meeting will be March 23, 2023, at 10:00 AM.

Motion to adjourn by Board Member Blackmon and seconded by Board Member Kennedy. Motion was unopposed.

Meeting was adjourned.

Sandra H. Taylor, Chair
Board of Juvenile Justice

Shawanda Reynolds-Cobb, Interim Commissioner
Department of Juvenile Justice

Adam Kennedy, Secretary
Board of Juvenile Justice