



Board of Juvenile Justice
Thursday, October 26, 2017
Decatur, GA
10:00 AM

Opening Remarks

Chair Elaine P. Snow called to order the meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice at 10:00 am. The meeting was held at DJJ Central Office Decatur, GA.

DJJ Staff Present: Commissioner Avery D. Niles (via teleconference), Assistant Commissioner Keith Horton, Chief of Staff Joe Vignati, Associate Superintendent Jean Lee, Deputy Commissioner Shawanda Reynolds-Cobb, Acting Deputy Commissioner John Pearson, Deputy Commissioner Catina Martin-Fenner, Director Scott Mall, , Assistant Deputy Commissioner Pamela Johnson, Deputy Commissioner Sean Hamilton, Edith E. Darden, Director Allyson Richardson, Director John T. Smith, Mary Catherine Heard, General Counsel Cindy Wang, Chaplain Danny Horne, , Tomika Grigsby, Andrew McGee, , Director Latera Davis, Director Scott Cagle, Director Mary Shepherd, Carrie T. Hamilton-Shavers, Chief Financial Officer Andrew Laarhoven, Deputy Commissioner Margaret Cawood, Melissa Cannon, Assistant Director Chris Wood, Director Debaja Coleman, Deputy Commissioner Sean Hamilton, Assistant Deputy Commissioner Victor Roberts, Director Joan Quinn-Cannon, Assistant Deputy Commissioner Michael McNeely, Tracy Cassell, Kim Todd, Dr. Christy Doyle, Chief Audit Executive William Smith, Director Mike Barton, Hilroy Wilson, Kristi Johnson, Brian Harrelson, Ombudsman Herman Archie, Doricia Thompson, B. Keith Jones, Robert Kiedinger, Dana Phillips, Assistant Deputy Commissioner Lisa Mantz, Interim HR Director Charmaine Johnson, Dr. Letunya Walker, Zane Shelfer, Tamara Middlebrooks, Deputy Chief Financial Officer Bakia Parrish, Tricia Phillips Williams, Chaplain Y. Thompson

Others Present: Amy Radley, Attorney General's Office

Secretary's Report: Vice Chair Sandra Heath-Taylor conducted the Roll Call. The following members were present: Penny Penn, Willie C. Bolton, Adam Kennedy (via teleconference), Dr. Thomas Coleman, Sandra Heath-Taylor, Angie Holt (teleconference), Richard Ambrose, John Edwards, Elaine Snow, Fred Stephens, Dick Yarbrough

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

Chair Snow asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 24, 2017 Board Meeting. A motion was made by Board Member Taylor 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. Commissioner Niles participated via teleconference. Chief of Staff Joe Vignati presented the Commissioner's report.

The following topics were discussed:

Employee Relations Manager Kristi Johnson presented the Employee Faithful Service Awards.

Chief of Staff Vignati introduced the new executive team members. Andrew Laarhoven was promoted to Chief Financial officer. Ne employees included Interim Human Resource Director Charmaine Johnson, Deputy Chief Financial Officer Bakia Parrish and Chief Audit Executive William Smith.

Assistant Deputy Commissioner of Support Services Lisa Mantz presented on the Department's efforts in the State Charitable Contributions Campaign.

Director of Planning and Preparedness Scott Cagle gave a brief overview of the Irma evacuation of the Savannah RYDC.

Chief of Staff Vignati gave a brief update on the Claxton RYDC escape.

Commissioner Niles ended the Commissioner's report with brief comments in regards to new staff and Hurricane Irma.

Vice-Chair Taylor 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 Colbert and seconded by Board Member Kennedy. The motion carried unanimously.

Board of Education

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

Associate Superintendent Jean Lee introduced recently promoted staff members. She also informed the Board regarding the waivers DJJ received for the certification of technical/vocational skills instructors and expanding the eligibility requirements for youth to apply for GED. She also talked about broadening adult education opportunities.

Vice-Chair Taylor 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 Kennedy and seconded by Board member Colbert. The motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

No old business

Comments:

Vice-Chair Taylor gave an update on Board member Dick Yarbrough's health. Vice-Chair Taylor reminded the Board of future events.

New Business

No new business

Comments:

Vice-Chair Taylor and the Commissioner provided dates of upcoming DJJ events. Board Member Bolton commended the engineering team for their work on the Wilkes facility.

Office of Planning and Preparedness Director Scott Cagle talked about the youth's art exhibit at the High Museum of Art and DJJ's partnership with the museum in providing art classes and supplies to the youth in the facilities.

Board Member Neighbors would like to know of any upcoming exhibits at the museum involving DJJ youth's art. Director Cagle also mentioned that the museum is working with a DJJ youth to enroll him at the Savannah College of Art.

The Commissioner discussed the importance of art in rehabilitating youth and incorporating art into the school's curriculum.

Vice-Chair Taylor thanked the Board Members in attendance and participating via telephone. Judge Gilbert would like a picture of the art exhibited at the meeting.

Vice-Chair Taylor announced that the next Board Meeting would be held on Thursday, September 28, 2017 at DJJ Headquarters, 3408 Covington Highway, Decatur, GA 30032 at 10:00 AM.

The meeting was adjourned.

Sandra Heath-Taylor, Vice-Chair
Board of Juvenile Justice

Avery D. Niles, Commissioner
Department of Juvenile Justice

Adam Kennedy, Board Secretary

