



BOARD MEETING SUMMARY April 13, 2017

Members Present: Chair Elaine Snow, Vice-Chair Sandra Taylor, Secretary Adam Kennedy, the Honorable Lisa Colbert, Willie C. Bolton, Julia Neighbors, Richard Ambrose, John Edwards, and Dr. Thomas Coleman.

Motions and Other Business:

1. Chair Snow called the meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice to order on Thursday, April 13, 2017, at 9:13 AM in Room B of the Southern Hospitality Conference Center at Springhill Suites by Marriott located in Statesboro, GA.
2. The Chair recognized Board Member Neighbors to announce that April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. Ms. Neighbors discussed her organization's involvement and thanked DJJ Victim Services Director Latera Davis and her team for their efforts.
3. Prior to the motion to approve the agenda for the April 13, 2017 meeting, Commissioner Avery D. Niles requested that the Board amend the agenda to include an executive session to discuss personnel matters. Vice-Chair Taylor moved for the executive session, which was seconded by Secretary Kennedy and approved unanimously by the Board.
4. A motion to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2017 meeting was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.
5. Commissioner Niles had previously submitted his written report (included in materials). DJJ Legislative Affairs Director John Smith gave a brief overview of the 2017 Legislative Session. He discussed appropriations for DJJ and the various bills that passed which will impact the juvenile justice system.
6. DJJ Training Academy Director Debaja Coleman and Professional Development Unit Manager Tania Appling presented on the BJCOT, BJPOT, BCST, and leadership training curricula. There was a discussion on the EPICS training, and the Commissioner expressed some concerns. Board Member Neighbors would like to know the results of the training focus group surveys. Commissioner Niles suggested a possible offsite visit to Macon YDC/RVDC for interested board members. Bolton commented on the name of the leadership training series.

7. DJJ HR Director Virginia Phifer gave a brief presentation on the make-up of the DJJ work force and recruitment efforts. Secretary Kennedy inquired about the number of vacancies and he would like a breakdown of the vacancies by each facility. Ms. Phifer gave a couple of examples of the turnover rates. There was also a brief discussion regarding the youthful age of the officers in comparison to the youthful offenders in DJJ's care. Board Member Bolton suggested having uniformed staff at the job fairs.
8. A motion to adjourn the Board of Juvenile Justice and to reconvene as the Juvenile Justice Board of Education was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.
9. New Associate Superintendent Jean Lee introduced herself.
10. Dr. Rufus Johnson gave a short overview of the Georgia Preparatory Academy's strategic plan, included in the Board's materials. Board Member Coleman discussed recruitment efforts at various schools.
11. A motion to adjourn the Juvenile Justice Board of Education and to reconvene as the Board of Juvenile Justice was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.
12. Old Business: No old business. Chair Snow thanked the board members who attended the meeting. Board Member Colbert thanked the Commissioner and staff for the visit to the Augusta YDC.
13. New Business: No new business. Secretary Kennedy mentioned the mural to recognize Savannah area individuals having a positive impact on the youth, which will also feature Savannah RYDC Director Rodney Dinkins.
14. With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled meeting will be on May 25, 2017, at 10 AM in the Central Office Board Room.

Cindy Wang, General Counsel