



## BOARD MEETING SUMMARY February 23, 2017

Members Present: Chair Elaine Snow, Vice-Chair Sandra Taylor, Secretary Adam Kennedy, Angie Holt, the Honorable Lisa Colbert, Willie C. Bolton, Julia Neighbors, Kelly Stewart, Richard Ambrose, Dick Yarbrough, and James Valbrun. Judicial Advisory Committee Members present: the Honorable Quintress Gilbert and the Honorable Steven Teske.

### Motions and Other Business:

1. Chair Snow called the meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice to order on Thursday, February 23, 2017, at 10:10 AM in the Board Room of the Central Office of the Department of Juvenile Justice, at 3408 Covington Highway, Decatur, GA 30032.
2. A motion to approve the agenda for the February 23, 2017, meeting was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.
3. A motion to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2017, meeting was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.
4. Commissioner Avery D. Niles had previously submitted his written report (included in materials). Deputy Director of Human Resources Harold Cooper presented employee recognition awards to DJJ staff who have achieved 15 plus years of state service. Commissioner Niles announced that Director of the Office of Investigations Ricky Rich is now the Deputy Commissioner at the Georgia Department of Driver Services. He also announced that Catina Martin-Fenner is the Deputy Commissioner of Community Services (effective March 1, 2017), and he introduced Lisa Mantz as the Assistant Deputy Commissioner of Support Services. Commissioner Niles also mentioned the drivers program graduation, and Board member Bolton commented on the BJCOT graduation. The next BJPOT graduation will be held on March 17, 2017.
5. Commissioner Niles announced that the law enforcement appreciation program will begin on April 12, 2017, with the Board meeting scheduled for April 13, 2017, at that location.

6. The Commissioner asked the Board to vote on a resolution to transfer the closed Albany RYDC facility to the University System. The Board moved for and approved the resolution unanimously.
7. Judge Teske updated the Board on the Criminal Justice Reform Council's legislative initiatives. Board member Bolton inquired about the impact on parents who are intimidated by their children.
8. Director of Behavioral Health Services (OBHS) Dr. Christy Doyle presented on the mental health programs provided to the youth as well as the mental health training that is provided to the staff. The Training Academy Director Debaja Coleman will present on the curriculum at the next board meeting. Board member Valbrun asked about percentage of youth on psychotropic medication. Secretary Kennedy commended the OBHS staff for the training provided to DJJ facility staff. He would like to see expanded training provided to community staff. Deputy Commissioner Martin-Fenner and Director Coleman will look at the training curriculum.
9. The Commissioner concluded his report with updates on the work of the Criminal Justice Reform Council.
10. 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.
11. Dr. Rufus Johnson asked the Board to approve the school calendar. A motion was made to approve the calendar and it was adopted unanimously.
12. Dr. Johnson informed the Board that the next student graduation will be held on May 26, 2017. He then distributed samples of the laminated Georgia Preparatory Academy diplomas.
13. Director of the CTAE Mary Shepherd presented on the vocational skills curriculum. Board member Yarbrough inquired about the selection of programs.
14. 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.
15. Old Business: No old business. Commissioner Niles recognized Board member Neighbors for attending the recent Commissioner's Youth Council (CYC) meeting. Board member Neighbors was encouraged by the youth. Deputy Commissioner of Secure Facilities (RYDCs) Sean Hamilton spoke about the communications with staff regarding youth concerns. Deputy Commissioner of Secure Campuses (YDCs) Sarah Draper also praised the youth in the Council.

The Commissioner and Board discussed invited community youth to participate in the CYC meetings. Director of Classification and Transportation Lisa Casey Bryson informed the Board regarding how the agency came together and donated needed food and supplies to the victims of the tornadoes in Albany.

16. New Business: No new business. Judge Colbert would like a presentation on recruitment and retention at the next Board meeting. The Commissioner and the Board talked briefly about the issues. Vice-Chair Taylor and Judge Teske introduced guests in the audience.
17. With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled meeting will be on March 23, 2017, at 10 AM.

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Cindy Wang, General Counsel