

**Board of Juvenile Justice  
Thursday, March 22, 2012  
10:00 a.m.**

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

**Opening Remarks**

Daniel Menefee, Vice-Chairman

Board Vice-Chairman Dan Menefee called to order the meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and DJJ Board of Education.

**DJJ Staff Present:** Commissioner L. Gale Buckner; Deputy Commissioner Carl Brown; Deputy Commissioner Shawanda Reynolds-Cobb; Deputy Commissioner Rick Harrison; Deputy Commissioner Michael McNeely; Sarah Draper; Carol Jackson; Debbie Alexander; Dr. Audrey Armistad; Cynthia Wright Wood; Lisa Casey Bryson; Ed Cook; Ernest Pope; Brian Porter; Audrey Holliday; Jim Shuler; Janssen Robinson; Tracy Masters; Diane Avery.

**Others:** Ashley Culberson, Attorney General's Office; Elizabeth Rodgers, Attorney General's Office; Wes Cone, Simpson for Congress.

Vice-Chairman Menefee asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance led by a DJJ youth, followed by the invocation by Vice-Chairman Daniel Menefee.

**Roll Call**

Roll call was conducted by Secretary Sandra Taylor. Board members present were: Sandra Taylor, Bruce Garraway, Larry F. Barnes, Michael L. Baugh, Willie Bolton, James P. Kelly, Elizabeth Lindsey, Perry McGuire, Daniel Menefee, Avery D. Niles, Frank Rozier, Dexter O. Rowland, Stephen K. Simpson and Judge Teske. Board Member Elaine Snow joined by teleconference. Secretary Taylor noted a quorum was present.

Vice-Chairman Menefee stated that former Board Chairman Ed Risler's term had expired July 2011, and last week Governor Deal named Mr. Willie Bolton to fill his seat. Due to these circumstances the Board Chairman is vacant and a new Chairman should be elected to fill that position. Vice-Chairman Menefee asked Ms. Culberson to state the guidelines for election of Board Chair. Ms. Culberson stated that although the Board's By-Laws permit secret ballot, a recent Georgia Supreme Court case made clear that all votes had to be held during the open meeting and could not be by secret ballot.

Vice-Chairman Menefee stated the Board would now accept nominations from the floor and if more than one candidate was nominated each candidate would be allowed one minute to state why he/she would be the better candidate to fill the vacant Chairman's position.

Member Perry McGuire nominated Avery Niles for Chairman and received a second from Board Member Simpson.

Member Mike Baugh nominated Sandra Heath Taylor and received a second from Board Member Dexter Rowland.

With no other nominations brought forth, a move with a second was made for the nominations to be closed.

Mr. Niles was given one minute and asked to state his case.

Ms. Taylor was given one minute to state her case.

Mr. Niles presented his one minute statement as to why he is the best candidate for Chairman.

Ms. Taylor presented her one minute statement as to why she is the best candidate for Chairman.

After a discussion among the members as to whether or not to delay the vote until next month, Board Member Kelly made a motion to delay the vote until next month and the motion was seconded by Board Member Rowland. The motion failed with a vote of 9 to three with two abstains.

The vote for Chairman was conducted by roll-call resulting in eight votes for Mr. Niles, four votes for Ms. Taylor and two abstains.

Vice-Chairman Menefee announced Mr. Niles as the new chairman and offered his congratulations.

Chairman Niles assumed the role of Chairman and called on Secretary Taylor for the Secretary's Report.

### **Secretary's Report**

Board Member Taylor made a motion that the Board accept the agenda for the current meeting. The motion received a second and the agenda was approved.

Secretary Taylor made a motion that the Board approve the minutes of the February 23, 2012 Board meeting. The motion received a second from Board Member Baugh and the motion was carried.

Chairman Niles called on Commissioner Buckner to present the Commissioner's Report.

## **Commissioner's Report**

Commissioner Buckner told the Board of First Lady Sandra Deal's recent visit to a secure facility in Whitfield and a court services office in Murray County, the Commissioner's home area. Mrs. Deal took time to speak with each employee and each youth at both facilities leaving a very positive impression to both groups.

Commissioner Buckner recognized newly appointed Board members Willie C. Bolton from District 10 and Franklin Rozier from District 1. Commissioner Buckner advised that staff would be in touch with Mr. Bolton and Mr. Rozier to schedule a time for staff to meet with the new members and provide an orientation.

Commissioner Buckner advised the Board that she and core Task Force team members had briefed Governor Deal's Chief Operating Officer and Deputy Chief Operating Officer on the findings from the Safety and Security Task Force. Procedures currently being followed that work were discussed as well as problem areas. Also the report has helped in identifying priority spending for DJJ dollars. In his role as liaison with the Governor's Office and the Augusta YDC, Board Member Avery Niles attended the meeting for the briefing on the Augusta YDC. A new leadership team has recently been put into place at the Augusta facility bringing about positive change.

Commissioner Buckner advised that some Board members have expressed concern that they were not aware of expiration dates for their term. Commissioner Buckner provided each Board member the begin and end dates of their Board terms.

Commissioner Buckner presented Board Member Stephen Simpson with an award for his service to the Board.

Board Member Simpson expressed his appreciation for the award and spoke of how much he had enjoyed his service on the Board of Juvenile Justice.

Chairman Niles called on Ed Cook to present a Transfer of Property Resolution.

## **Transfer of Property**

Ed Cook presented a Resolution to surplus the old Augusta RYDC. Board Member Bolton made a motion that the resolution be accepted as written. The motion received a second and was carried.

Chairman Niles requested a motion to adjourn from the regular DJJ Board meeting and reconvene as the Board of Education. A motion was made by Board Member Taylor and seconded by Board Member Linsley.

Chairman Niles called on Dr. Armistead to present the Education update.

### **Education Update**

Dr. Armistead stated the only item she had to present to the Board was the 2012-13 school year calendar. Dr. Armistead asked that the Board adopt the calendar as written.

Board Member Bolton made a motion to adopt the calendar. The motion received a second and was carried.

Chairman Niles asked for a motion to adjourn from DJJ School Board meeting and reconvene as the regular DJJ Board.

Board member Bolton presented the motion and received a second. The motion carried.

### **Regular Session**

Chairman Niles announced the Board was back in regular session.

### **Chairman's Comments**

Chairman Niles expressed his gratitude to the Board for the confidence placed in him by electing him Chairman. Chairman Niles stated it is an honor to serve as Chairman.

Call for Old Business – Board Member Taylor stated it had previously been discussed that the Board may hold its annual training session in July and that plans needed to be made to move forward with selecting a site. Board Member Taylor further suggested the training be done at or near a DJJ facility.

Call for New Business – Chairman Niles called on new Board Members Franklin Rozier and Willie Bolton to present their background to the Board.

Ms. Culberson from the Attorney General's Office introduced Elizabeth Rodgers as the attorney handling DJJ Board matters while Ms. Culberson is out on maternity leave

Chairman Niles called for a Motion to Adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice.

Board Member Simpson made the motion to adjourn. Board Member Menefee seconded the motion and the motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned.

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Avery D. Niles, Chairman  
Board of Juvenile Justice

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L. Gale Buckner  
Commissioner

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Sandra Taylor, Secretary  
Board of Juvenile Justice