

**Board of Juvenile Justice
Thursday, March 24, 2011
10:00 a.m.**

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

Opening Remarks

Dr. Edwin Risler, Chair

Chairman Dr. Edwin Risler called to order the March 24, 2011 meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and DJJ Board of Education. He noted the time as 10:00 a.m. Chairman Dr. Risler asked that all attendees stand and state their name and organization affiliation.

DJJ Staff Present: Commissioner Amy Howell; Jeff Minor; Richard Harrison; Victor Roberts; Dr. Jack Catrett; William Amideo; Terri Kight; Diana Aspinwall; Scheree Moore; Cherecia Kline; Nathan Cain; Janssen Robinson; Ronnie Woodard; Dr. Michelle Staples-Horne; Martha Patton; Coy Satterfield; Latera Davis; Audrey Holliday; Brian Palmer; Tony Elmore; Soynia Arnold; Della Hughes; Mary Fletcher.

Others: Normer Adams (GAHSC); Tina Piper (Attorney General's Office); Shoshana Elan (Barton Child Law & Policy Center); Taylor Menefee; DJJ youth.

Chairman Dr. Ed. Risler asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance by DJJ youth, followed by the invocation by Pastor Dexter Rowland.

Roll Call

Chairman Dr. Ed Risler asked for the roll to be called by the Secretary of the Board. Sandra Taylor conducted the roll call of attendance.

Board Members Present: Larry Barnes; Michael Baugh; James Kelly; Perry McGuire; Judy Mecum; Daniel Menefee; Dr. Ed Risler; Pastor Dexter Rowland; Stephen Simpson; Elaine Snow (via conference call); Sandra Taylor

Advisory Council Members Present: Judge Quintress Gilbert (late); Judge Steven Teske

Noting the presence of a quorum of the Board, Chairman Dr. Risler asked for a motion to approve the agenda for the March 24, 2011 Board of Juvenile Justice and Board of Education meeting.

Daniel Menefee moved to approve the agenda for the March 24, 2011 Board of Juvenile Justice and Board of Education meeting. Larry Barnes seconded the motion. Chairman Dr. Risler called for the vote and the motion was carried.

Chairman Dr. Risler asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 24, 2011 Board meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and the DJJ Board of Education and asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. Daniel Menefee moved to approve the minutes. Stephen Simpson seconded the motion. Chairman Dr. Ed. Risler called for the vote and the motion was carried.

Commissioner's Report

Amy Howell, Commissioner

Commissioner Howell greeted everyone and stated it was a pleasure to be at the Board meeting. Commissioner Howell said she will keep her remarks brief and asked the Board to refer to their board packets for more detailed information about the initiatives and progress of DJJ employees.

Commissioner Howell reminded the Board that the Griffin and Blakely RYDCs will be closing. Commissioner Howell, Executive Management Team, HR staff, and top level managers went to both facilities to notify employees about the closures along with the process for moving forward. She stated part of the process also involved the HR staff returning to those facilities to have one on one sessions with the staff. Commissioner Howell said 49 employees will be impacted at the Griffin RYDC and 53 employees at the Blakely RYDC. She said there were 78 one on one interviews or sessions with HR staff. Commissioner Howell said HR staff was able to help those employees to identify positions that they would not have considered applying for.

Commissioner Howell said HR received a total of 227 applications for jobs statewide. She stated this process is still ongoing and they have been able to find jobs for 37 employees. Commissioner Howell said there are some employees who have applied for jobs independently of DJJ's process and they are trying to find out about those employees.

Commissioner Howell said HR staff are also working with the Department of Labor to provide unemployment to employees who may not be interested in continuing on with DJJ.

Commissioner Howell said DJJ have frozen applications statewide so employees from the Griffin and Blakely RYDCs will be competing among themselves for those positions. Commissioner Howell also stated the Griffin and Blakely RYDC facilities were outstanding facilities.

Commissioner Howell acknowledged Deborah Moore and her staff who have worked really hard with the Griffin and Blakely staff to get them placed. She also thanked managers statewide who are in the process of hiring these staff. She stated they are giving them the utmost consideration and are sensitive to the situation. Commissioner Howell said she is grateful for the DJJ team and their hard work during this process.

Commissioner Howell thanked Board member Michael Baugh for a great editorial in the local paper responding to some of the concerns raised about the closures. She stated the next step is to reevaluate DJJ's catchment areas. Commissioner Howell said due to the closures she will need to evaluate where youth will go. She stated they will go to other facilities and the redistribution of DJJ's population will have to be considered. Commissioner Howell said she was able to have a conference call with the juvenile court judges and law enforcement to outline the draft plan. She stated it was not only important to share the plan but discuss the considerations they had given into the catchment areas. They shared a copy of the mileage to consider the distances for driving. They also discussed the number in terms of populations; how many males and females. Commissioner Howell said they are thinking about how they will be impacted statewide and DJJ has received some feedback from the judges about their feelings. She said it was important to know what their perspectives were and make sure they are considered as they move towards finalization.

Commissioner Howell said the Good Behavior Bill; HB 373 continues to move forward which is a bright spot in some hard times. It has gone through the Senate Judiciary Committee. Commissioner Howell said DJJ received notice about that meeting ten minutes before it started. She said she is grateful to Representative Pak for getting HB 373 added to the agenda. Commissioner Howell said the bill is moving forward and stated there was one change to the bill that they thought was positive, which increased the amount of time for notice to victims. She said the HB 373 originally had a 10 day period, but they thought 14 days would be better. Senator McKoon, who is a freshman legislature from South Georgia, will be carrying that bill for DJJ on the Senate side with hopes it will get through the Rules Committee and on to the floor for a vote. Commissioner Howell said they received positive feedback, and said Senator Hambrick stated it was a miracle that this was a bill that both the judges and DJJ agreed on.

Commissioner Howell said DJJ had another mural unveiling at the Macon YDC that went really well. She said it was a great event and the staff worked really hard and helped the young ladies at the Macon YDC to be successful and it was really good to see the pride on their faces as they stood before the mural. Commissioner Howell said the mural is extraordinary and breathtaking and she hopes the Board will be able to see it soon. Commissioner Howell said she is very pleased to incorporate art with education in a way that gives the youth opportunities for them to grow and learn in different ways.

Commissioner Howell said there has been some staff changes and movement within DJJ. She stated she believes DJJ has a strong team but she has done some movement where she has been able to emphasize some strength and also promote some growth. Commissioner Howell said one thing she have learned after looking at the resume of George Smith who is now the director at the Eastman YDC is that staying in the same job as a career is good and excellent but stated one thing that stood out on Mr. Smith resume is that he had been in a number of positions across the organization at the Department of Corrections and came to DJJ with a wealth of experience and expertise that made him an excellent candidate for any job. Commissioner Howell said she is trying to make sure DJJ staff throughout the department have those opportunities for growth as well.

Commissioner Howell announced Bill Amideo will be retiring at the end of March 2011. Commissioner Howell said that was hard news to swallow. She stated he has been a valued member of the team and has been a great strength for DJJ. Commissioner Howell said she has learned a lot from Mr. Amideo and it has been great to have someone with the commitment to high principles, ethics and expertise in laws. Commissioner Howell said Mr. Amideo is going on to continue practicing but it will be separate from state government. Commissioner Howell and the Board congratulated Mr. Amideo and thanked him for his service.

Commissioner Howell said with Mr. Amideo's departure, a void was created. She stated she had an opportunity to meet Tina Piper through her work with DJJ at the Attorney General Office (AG). Ms. Piper will be joining the DJJ team effective April 1, 2011 as the director of legal services. Ms. Piper has been with the AG's office since 2007. Commissioner Howell said Mr. Amideo was the one that found Ms. Piper when she graduated from law school and she worked with the Department of Corrections as assistant council for Mr. Amideo for a number of years. Commissioner Howell said Ms. Piper is coming to DJJ with a wealth of expertise in litigation inside the AG's office and inside counsel for an agency. Commissioner Howell said she is pleased for her to come on board.

Commissioner Howell said Terri Kight has been DJJ's policy coordinator for a number of years. Ms. Kight has a number of years with the department and is a registered nurse. Commissioner Howell also stated Ms. Kight has a wealth of experience and has created an outstanding policy process for DJJ. Commissioner Howell said Ms. Kight has a commitment to excellence that will make her fantastic. Commissioner Howell said Ms. Kight is already in the role as director of the Office of Continuous Improvement.

Commissioner Howell said Terri Kight's move to the Office of Continuous Improvement created a void in policy. Audrey Holliday, who has been with DJJ for a while, has a degree in criminal justice and is actually working on her Juris Doctor. Ms. Holliday was a program coordinator and will now be the policy coordinator for DJJ.

Commissioner Howell said Latera Davis has been the assistant director of Classification and Transportation for a number of years. Commissioner Howell said Ms. Davis has her master degree in public administration and has been with DJJ since 1998 holding a number of positions. Commissioner Howell said she is pleased to have Ms. Davis join the Office of Communications as an external affairs coordinator.

Commissioner Howell announced a few other changes with the DJJ facilities. Commissioner Howell said there will be some changes at the Augusta YDC, and she will send the Board the announcement soon. She said Billy Wicker will be retiring and John Brady will be coming back from retirement to help DJJ out for a period of time until they are able to find a full time replacement.

Commissioner Howell said there were some directors that were affected by the RIF. She stated Pam Mitchell, who was the director at the Griffin RYDC, will be coming into a program coordinator role at the Central Office.

Commissioner Howell said at the DeKalb RYDC, Sonya Love, who is a program coordinator at the Central Office, will be acting director until they are able to find a director.

Commissioner Howell also announced Sandra Cawthon, who was the director at the Blakely RYDC, will now be the director at the Albany RYDC.

Commissioner Howell said she wants to make sure DJJ is an environment that is supportive for staff and youth. She stated it is also important that they have good teamwork and an opportunity for all to excel. She said she is grateful to those who are a part of the team and is looking forward to a productive year ahead.

Commissioner Howell concluded her report and asked if there were any questions.

Chairman Dr. Ed. Risler thanked the judicial representation on the Board for their support on the Good Behavior Bill.

Board member Michael Baugh said he really appreciated the way Commissioner Howell and staff handled the situation with the Griffin and Blakely RYDC. He said Commissioner Howell went beyond what anybody would expect a Commissioner to do. Mr. Baugh said everybody should be proud of everything that the Commissioner and the DJJ Executive Team have done. Mr. Baugh also thanked Scheree Moore for her help. He said the staff at the Griffin and Blakely RYDCs really appreciate the extra help they have received from DJJ's HR department. Mr. Baugh said he believes that DJJ is the best department in the state of Georgia.

Commissioner Howell thanked Mr. Baugh for his comments but stated it was a team effort.

Board member Sandra Taylor said she lives close to the Griffin RYDC and stated Commissioner Howell efforts were well received. She stated she thought it was a great idea that Commissioner Howell went to the Griffin and Blakely RYDC with the Executive Team and made the announcement. She also said she is glad the HR staff gave the employees a few days to process what was going on and then followed up.

Commissioner Howell said it was Deborah Moore's idea to wait a couple of days to allow the staff to absorb the news before they sat down and talked about the next step.

Hearing no further questions, Chairman Dr. Ed. Risler moved to the next agenda item; Education Update.

Commissioner Howell said moving forward there will be a separate agenda for Office of Education. Commissioner Howell emphasized that the Board is also a School Board. She stated Dr. Catrett has always done a great job in giving the Board all the information, and she wanted to make sure the Office of Education has a separate agenda and proper time. She stated it is important that the Board get all the information they need as school board members.

Chairman Dr. Risler called for the next agenda item and asked for a motion to close the regular meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and open the DJJ Board of Education meeting.

Board member Larry Barnes called for a motion to close the regular meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and open the DJJ Board of Education meeting. The motion was seconded by Daniel Menefee. The motion carried.

Education Update

Dr. Jack Catrett, Associate Superintendent
Department of Juvenile Justice

Dr. Catrett greeted everyone and thanked Commissioner Howell for her comments.

Testing

Dr. Catrett said they received the results from the middle grade writing assessment test for the eighth graders that were administered on January 23, 2011. He stated 193 students took the test. Dr. Catrett said 38% of the students that took the test met the criteria. In the state, 77% met the criteria. Dr. Catrett said the results were better than they were last year.

Dr. Catrett said on February 16, 2011, they conducted the High School Graduation Writing Retest. He stated they only had to retest 28 students from the 11th and 12th grade.

Dr. Catrett said on March 14-18, 2011, they administered the High School Graduation Test. This is given to all 11th graders who have not passed or taken the High School Graduation test. He stated they are looking forward to getting those results back.

Personnel Issues

Dr. Catrett thanked Deborah Moore for her help in working with the teachers whose positions were eliminated due to the closure of the Griffin and Blakely RYDCs. Dr. Catrett said four out of the six teachers will have other positions within DJJ. He stated the other two teachers are on contingent leave and family sick leave.

Dr. Catrett said there will be a guidance counselor position vacancy at the Eastman YDC. There is also a science teacher vacancy at the Sumter YDC.

Education Training

Dr. Catrett said they had their five days of staff development training. He stated the emphasis of the training focused on Whole Group Instruction and Classroom Management. He said they had William Screws, who is an auditor in the Office of Continuous Improvement (OCI), to talk to the teachers about the process. Dr. Catrett said the Office of Education will be partnering with OCI more in the future to use them as a set of eyes since the Office of Education lost some of its regional principals.

Dr. Catrett said the main thing they discussed was how Whole Group Instruction was going with the teachers. Dr. Catrett said they wanted to get with the teachers and ask them about the pros and cons of Whole Group Instruction. He said they need to have all the feedback they need to make sure they are on the right track.

Dr. Catrett discussed some of the pros the teachers mentioned during the training:

- Students interact well with teachers and peers
- The Whole Group Instruction teaches basic skills
- It is an innovative way to get students to work
- It is a change of pace
- It teaches higher levels of critical thinking skills
- The students like the integration of technology
- It increases class participation
- Great idea for activities and standards for teaching
- Motivates students who do not work well independently
- Hands on demonstration for teachers and students
- Helps teachers with students with shorter attention spans
- Improves class participation
- It is exciting consistent and organized
- They report fewer discipline problems
- Students seem to be more enthusiastic
- Makes the day fun
- It provides hands on and better academic progress

Dr. Catrett said some of the cons from the teachers included the following:

- No transfers to be kept by students. Dr. Catrett said there are some students that prefer to get their GED and don't want to listen to the teacher
- It places too much emphasis on posting standards and simple questions

Dr. Catrett asked the Board to refer to their board packet for the Whole Group Instruction Teacher and Student Survey. He stated he hopes to have the result of the Whole Group Instruction surveys by the April Board meeting.

Dr. Catrett said they have one teacher at the Eastman YDC and two teachers at the Savannah River Challenge Program that need to take the Certification Verification Project courses. He said these teachers need to finish by June 2011 in order to retain their certifications and their jobs.

Afterschool Program Presentation

Dr. Catrett introduced John Rickicki, DJJ's afterschool coordinator. Dr. Rickicki has his PhD. from Auburn University. Dr. Rickicki gave an Afterschool Program presentation.

Dr. Rickicki said DJJ's after school program been in operation since 2003. Dr. Rickicki said if the Office of Education did not have the support of the Board, they would not be where they are today. Dr. Rickicki invited a few coordinators to the Board meeting so they can address any questions the Board may have. Dr. Rickicki said the Office of Education had a five year cycle and lost the funding. He said DJJ later picked up the program and put it in their budget for 2007 – 2009. Dr. Rickicki said for the first six months of the 2008 and 2009 years they were

operational but then the department had budget cuts. He said they had a hiatus for about six months. Dr. Rickicki stated he along with Dr. Catrett agreed that they needed to have the program up and running again. Dr. Rickicki said they applied for the federal grant again for a three year period. He said they are in the second year of their three year cycle. He stated next year they will apply for another cycle. Dr. Rickicki said they are very aggressive in trying to receive funds to help the program along and keep it maintained through the department.

Dr. Rickicki said they are operating after school programs at the Augusta, Macon and Muscogee YDC. Dr. Rickicki introduced Della Hughes from the Augusta YDC and Soynia Arnold from the Macon YDC. He stated the staff from the Muscogee YDC was unable to attend due to an education audit being conducted at their facility.

Dr. Rickicki said the afterschool program has three main objectives:

- Increase reading and math scores for those that attend the remediation classes
- Increase family participation
- Minimize the number of disciplinary incidents which occur during the school day

Dr. Rickicki said they had an evaluation for the first three months of the program for October through December, and it indicated that they are well on their way to achieving the program objectives statewide. He stated this was done by an outside evaluator. Dr. Rickicki said they found that 45% of students that were enrolled in the after school remediation either maintained or increased their reading or math scores by at least a half of a grade level. He said one of the reasons this program was supported and developed in 2003 was due to the fact that campus directors wanted to give their students something meaningful to help reduce the number of disciplinary problems they had. Dr. Rickicki said their onsite coordinator reported the following results for the first three months. He said they had 280 youth in the after school program and only had two disciplinary reports filed for the period.

Dr. Rickicki said the program is budgeted for over \$300,000 where they are trying to operate a similar funding for next year. He stated this cycle program will be over in mid June 2012 and they hope to have served at least 400 students during that period. He said they operate 36 hours for 36 weeks, at 12 hours a week, and follow DJJ's school calendar. Dr. Rickicki said they work Monday through Thursday at three hours per evening. He said they periodically have programs for parents during parent visitation. During this time students are provided with a combination of remediation and enrichment types activities. Some of the examples of the programs that are offered at the Augusta and Muscogee YDCs are vocabulary building, reading comprehension, as well as a social skills and wellness classes. He stated at the Macon YDC they offer a course called homework helper. He said other classes are called literacy reading, reading power, creative writing and points for points. Dr. Rickicki said they try to give the youth a variety of activities.

Dr. Rickicki said at the Muscogee YDC, they offer a barbering, GED preparation, weight training, and a program called math made simpler. He said they try to meet the needs of the youth both educationally and provided them with experiences that they would not normally get during school

Dr. Rickicki said they try to have the parents participate in after school program and provide them with updates and give them referral information if necessary with services outside of DJJ.

Dr. Rickicki concluded his report and asked if there were any questions.

Dr. Catrett reminded the Board that Dr. Rickicki, Ms. Hughes and Ms. Arnold will be available after the board meeting if they have any questions.

Dr. Catrett said he is extremely proud of DJJ's after school program and stated it is something that the youth really enjoy and need. It also helps the directors with their job, by providing meaningful structure for the youth.

Dr. Catrett thanked Dr. Rickicki for the great job he is doing with the after school program.

Board member Perry McGuire asked if the barbering courses were licensed.

Dr. Rickicki said they had a hard time getting a licensed barber but had a licensed barber in the past. He said they try to have the youth get enough hours so they can follow through with a licensed barber.

Board member Pastor Dexter Rowland asked if the instruction of math and reading was done as a whole group instruction, tutorial or CAPS program.

Dr. Rickicki said it is a little bit of everything. He said they follow through with day instruction and they have had the opportunity to purchase some materials through the grant that are more tuned to the youths' interest in both math and reading instruction. He stated some youth prefer to work with CAPS. Dr. Rickicki said there are remediation activities in both reading and math. He said they try to keep it related to what they are going to do in the community.

Board member Larry Barnes asked if the after school program offers any type of athletic programs.

Dr. Catrett said the only thing that they do in afterschool that would be considered athletic is weight training. Dr. Catrett said the mural that the youth worked on would fall under recreation.

Ms. Soynia Arnold from the Macon YDC said they started a fitness program called partnership for life. The youth do numerous exercises and workouts.

Ms. Della Hughes from the Augusta YDC said they have a program called introduction to team sports that is actually held on Saturday. She stated this program is partnered with the recreation director and is based on volunteers. The youth would volunteer to attend the Saturday program and play volleyball, basketball, and baseball.

Board member Sandra Taylor asked if they ever considered setting up a vegetable garden.

Dr. Rickicki said that program was at the Bill Ireland YDC years ago. He said it was never brought up again, but they are very democratic in how they do things. He said the students and staff bring up ideas all the time and as long as it is within the parameters of the program he is open to it.

Coy Satterfield said at the Savannah River Challenge Program there is an excellent vegetable garden where they utilize the vegetables they grow. He said the program is wonderful.

Ms. Taylor wondered if there might be programs available through the first lady Michelle Obama's program.

Dr. Rickicki said he loved the idea of having the youth working in gardens because it gives them a hands on type of activity that they will actually see what they grow.

Board member Judy Mecum said she has been working with a master gardener group in Gainesville, Georgia and they are interested in this type of activity with the youth. She stated they are in the process of coming together and coordinating it. She said the director of the program has already given them the approval and thinks a gardening program will be a great idea.

Board member Jim Kelly asked when life skill training is done, during the regular school day or during the after school program. He stated he is referring to teaching the youth basic financing, how to stay out trouble with the law and teaching them about interpersonal relationships.

Ms. Hughes said life skill classes are offered during the regular school day and after school program. Ms. Hughes said at the Augusta YDC they offer a money management class where youth are taught how to write checks, balance a checkbook, and general life skills pertaining to credit.

Ms. Hughes said she also wanted to make a comment about their barbering program. She stated they had a licensed barber at Augusta YDC but this is the first year that they have not had one. She said under the licensed barber program, one of their youth received his barber apprentice license so when he left the facility he was able to find work as a barber.

Ms. Arnold said they offer transition programs at the Macon YDC that teaches the youth job skills. This includes résumé writing and interview skills.

Graduation Report

Dr. Catrett said they have four new high school graduates. He said three of them have college prep diplomas out of the Eastman YDC and one has a career prep diploma out of the Muscogee YDC.

Department of Education Update

Dr. Catrett asked the Board to look at a memo that is in their board packet. It contains a memo from Dr. John Barge where he is changing the emphasis at the Georgia Department of Education.

Dr. Catrett said the memo states that Dr. Barge doesn't think education is broken as much as some people seem to think. Dr. Barge will now shift the focus to things that can be measured. Dr. Catrett said he likes that and asked the Board to remember DJJ mission is to make sure DJJ's youth receive their Carnegie Units, GEDs, High School Diplomas, and Work Ready Certifications.

Dr. Catrett said in the curriculum they discussed the problems Math I, Math II and Math III are causing. He stated the State Board of Education says they need to have a dual track and a school system can decide to use the Math I, II or III or go back to the old algebra I and II or have a mixed model.

Dr. Catrett said they received their Title II Audit. He said Title IIA is about schools and teachers improvement. He said DJJ received 100% compliance on that audit.

Board member Stephen Simpson referred to the quick fact sheet that was in the board packet. He said he knows a large percentage of DJJ youth are special need and suffer from substance abuse. He said it would be useful to include those figures in the quick fact sheet because when DJJ youth beat the state standards, it shows how hard they had to work to get there.

Dr. Catrett concluded his report and asked if there were any questions.

Dr. Catrett agreed and said 40% of DJJ youth are special need.

Hearing no further questions, Chairman Dr. Risler called for the next agenda item and asked for a motion from the Board to close the DJJ Board of Education meeting and resume the regular meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice. Judy Mecum made the motion. Daniel Menefee seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Chairman Dr. Ed. Risler called for the next item on the agenda; Demolition of Augusta YDC Buildings.

Demolition of Augusta YDC Buildings

Edward Cook, Director of Office of Engineering and Construction

Mr. Cook greeted everyone and thanked them for the opportunity to present a resolution that would approve the demolition of some unwanted and unused buildings at the Augusta YDC. He stated this demolition will give them an opportunity to make some improvement to the central grounds area of that facility, add recreational space, and possibly a vegetable garden.

Mr. Cook said the Department of Natural Resources has a program on sustainable agriculture and he stated he believes DNR may also be involved in Savannah River Challenge vegetable garden program.

Mr. Cook stated the States Properties Commission who has the ultimate responsibility for all state properties, requires as part of a demolition agreement to demolish buildings that the Board for the agency involved has to pass a resolution declaring the building surplus and approve the demolition.

Mr. Cook asked the Board to look in their board packet which includes four items. He stated the first is the resolution, second is a copy of executive order which is essentially the State Properties Commission resolution that would actually approve the final steps in demolition. Included in the packet is Exhibit A which is a copy of legal Plat and Exhibit B which shows the layout of the facility and locates and describes the actual buildings to be demolished.

Mr. Cook said the resolution has eight paragraphs and stated the first three establish ownership by the State and custodianship of the facility by the department. The fourth paragraph actually lists the buildings to include the following:

- # 5 – Old Special Services Building
- #15 – Old Power Plant Building
- #17 – Old Laundry Building
- #25 – Old Medical Building
- #35, 36, and 37 – Old Housing Buildings number

Mr. Cook stated that building number #5 has not been used for the past 10 years.

He also stated building #15 has not been used as a power plant building in a number of years. He said it was used as a vocational woodshop until the new vocational education building was completed.

Mr. Cook said building #17 was used as a laundry up until last year but a new laundry was constructed and that building has not been used since.

Mr. Cook said building #25 was used as medical space until they completed the new medical building two years ago.

Mr. Cook said building #'s 35, 36 and 37 are located outside the existing new perimeter security fence and they were at one time housing units of the facility when it was not a secure facility but a work camp.

Mr. Cook said the conditions of these structures is such that, repairing and renovating them to the current DJJ construction and operation standards and needs would cost more than the inherent worth of the building.

He said the next paragraph states the location of these structures impairs the efficient operations of the facility.

Mr. Cook said inside the center of the facility, they would like to create some exercise fields, basketball courts, volleyball courts, a walking track, and there is enough area to plant a vegetable garden. He said they can't proceed with that until the buildings are gone.

Mr. Cook said there are three building outside and due to their location, size, layout and general condition there is no reasons the department will ever want to use those buildings for housing or anything else. He said if the buildings were demolished they can provide a visual barrier and vegetation.

Chairman Dr. Ed Risler asked for a motion to accept the resolution as presented. The motion was made by Judy Mecum and seconded by Daniel Menefee.

Mr. Cook concluded his report and asked if there were any questions.

Board member Jim Kelly said he is in favor of demolishing anything the department feels is worthy of demolishing. He said the Board is being asked to find that these buildings be demolished and the only thing the Board sees is a Plat. He said he has visited the Augusta YDC but can't remember the buildings in question. Mr. Kelly stated, the fourth paragraph of the Resolution needs to changed to read whereas, in the opinion of the department etc. He said he would really appreciate that.

Mr. Cook said ok.

Mr. Kelly asked if changes could also be made to the Executive Order.

Mr. Cook said the Executive Order came from the State Properties Commission and the only things that he added to the order was the name of each building.

Chairman Dr. Ed. Risler said a change in language would be some sort of an amendment to the motion.

Mr. Kelly said no it would be an amendment to the resolution.

Mr. Cook said he is willing to make the changes.

Mr. Kelly said in the fourth paragraph of the Executive Order it states these buildings were found by the Board of Juvenile Justice to be unserviceable and abandoned in their entirety. Mr. Kelly stated the Board of Juvenile Justice needs to be removed from the fourth paragraph and replaced with the Department of Juvenile Justice.

Mr. Kelly also made comments about the fifth paragraph of the Executive Order and stated the third line should read the Department of Juvenile Justice has requested that the State Properties, etc.

Mr. Cook said he would talk to Mr. Kelly about the suggested changes after the board meeting.

Judge Gilbert asked what the cost of the demolition was.

Mr. Cook said because there is asbestos involved the estimates he received were around \$80,000 to \$90,000 for all seven buildings.

Judge Gilbert asked what the maintenance cost of all seven buildings was

Mr. Cook said the maintenance cost were not very high.

Board member Stephen Simpson said \$80,000 to \$90,000 seems fairly cheap to him and hopes they can demolish the buildings for that amount. Mr. Simpson asked if they were going to recycle.

Mr. Cook said yes. They will recycle the masonry and stated there is a market for old bricks. He stated they may even be able to recycle the concrete as well.

Chairman Dr. Ed. Risler asked for a motion to approve the amendments to the resolutions that were presented by Mr. Kelly.

A motion was made by Stephen Simpson and seconded by Daniel Menefee. The motion carried.

Chairman Dr. Ed. Risler called for a motion to approve the resolutions as amended; it was seconded and passed by the Board. Chairman Dr. Risler said the Resolution passes as amended by the approved amendment to the Resolution.

Chairman Dr. Ed. Risler called for the next item on the agenda; Legislative Update.

Legislative Update

Scheree Moore, Director of Communications

Scheree Moore stated Commissioner Howell already went over HB 373 and stated the bill did get out of the House and on to the Senate. She said Commissioner Howell is very happy HB 373 got passed. Ms. Moore encouraged the board to contact their senators in their area to let know how important this bill is to DJJ and the youth that they serve.

Ms. Moore thanked Judge Teske, Sandra Taylor and Elaine Snow for the hard work in contacting legislators.

Ms. Moore said they are following education bills because there are a lot of things going on in education. Those bills were sent down to Dr. Catrett and Rick Harrison to make sure they are getting feedback on what is happening with them.

Ms. Moore said the Juvenile Code rewrite was also up but they decided to table that and will take it up next year. She asked the Board to look in their packet of information and review the

information from JustGeorgia. She said it talks about the changes that are being made with the Juvenile Code rewrite. Ms. Moore said the department will focus on Article 7. Ms. Moore stated DJJ will be following this Bill next year.

Mr. Moore concluded her report and asked if there were any questions.

Ms. Taylor said she spoke with a staff member at a residential treatment provider and they are facing some education cuts concerning their programs and asked if Ms. Moore was familiar with that.

Ms. Moore said no.

Mr. Jeff Minor said he knows that there is something going on. He said several years ago before the change, DFACS and DJJ paid their residential providers with onsite schools. He said DJJ paid the full rate for education as well. He said a change was made with the local school districts for them to become responsible for that. He stated there were discussions about the local share of taxes that go to support local schools being reimbursed back to the counties.

Jeff Minor asked Chairman Dr. Risler if he would allow Normer Adams from the Georgia Association of Homes and Services for Children to speak on this topic.

Chairman Dr. Risler said yes.

Mr. Adams said the Governor made a recommendation to cut more than \$700,000 from the residential treatment centers in the 2012 budget. He said in past years budget cuts would have been more than a 20% cut to Georgia's residential treatment centers. Mr. Adams said the House Committee only made a cut of 1% which is equivalent to about \$70,000. He stated the House Committee will hopefully make a recommendation to the Senate Appropriation Committee on March 24, 2011.

Chairman Dr. Risler called for the next item on the agenda; Budget Update.

Budget Update

Jeff Minor, Deputy Commissioner

Jeff Minor greeted everyone. He stated the 2012 budget passed the House. Mr. Minor said the House version of the 2012 budget included a couple of additional budget cuts for DJJ. He said the difference was between the Governor's recommendation and the recommendation that DJJ made to get to a high percentage budget cut for \$3 million in lapse factor adjustments. After discussions with the Governor, they were willing to reduce that to \$2.3 million, given that this is a base budget cut. Mr. Minor said the House voted to return that number to \$3 million which is a difference of \$626,797 budget cuts to DJJ personnel services to lapse factor. Mr. Minor said that

will impact DJJ with about 15 positions that DJJ will have to hold vacant in addition to the positions that they had proposed holding vacant to get to the first budget cuts.

Mr. Minor said the second piece of budget cuts that was added by the House was related to the American Recovery Act stimulus money. He reminded the Board that DJJ received about \$29 million. He said that stimulus money was going away in 2012 anyway and they were supposed to replace it. He stated it was a dollar per dollar swap of state and federal funds. They have elected to give DJJ back 97%. He stated that 3% of the total that DJJ was supposed to get back totals another \$70,000. He said this is also personal services and will cause the department to hold about 20 positions vacant. He stated this total is about 35 positions over the course of one year that DJJ will hold vacant.

Mr. Minor said Commissioner Howell testified before the Senate Committee about the impacts of these budget cuts. He asked the Board to refer to their impact statement handout in their board packet.

Mr. Minor said another big difference in the DJJ budget is an adjustment of \$6,285,191 for state health benefit plan for the employer share of funding.

Mr. Minor said the Senate has a meeting scheduled for Monday, March 28, 2011 to report out to the full Appropriation Committee, the Sub-Committee's reports. He stated there will most like be a floor vote by Wednesday, March 30, 2011 for the 2012 budget.

Jeff Minor concluded his report and asked if there were any questions.

Board member Perry McGuire asked if the Governor's Recommendation comparison with House and Senate version handout was given to the Legislative Committee.

Mr. Minor said yes.

Mr. McGuire said for future reference he would recommend that DJJ submit an Executive Summary with just two or three bullet points that will be covered.

Mr. Minor said Mr. McGuire's point is well made and will try to do that in the future

Chairman's Comments

**Chairman Dr. Ed Risler
Board of Juvenile Justice**

Chairman Dr. Risler thanked the youth for leading the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Dr. Risler said he has been in discussions with Commissioner Howell about the board retreat and stated the retreat will most likely be in late May or early June 2011 in Athens, Georgia. He stated the board retreat will coincide with the board of education training.

Chairman Dr. Risler said Elizabeth Lindsey and Jim Kelly volunteered to serve on the Board Bylaws committee. He said they will have some recommendations for the Board at the retreat. He stated he hopes that will anchor the Board to establish some committees.

Commissioner Howell said DJJ will be working on a master calendar that the Board will have access to. The calendar will list all upcoming events. She said hopefully the master calendar will be up by the April board meeting.

Commissioner Howell also announced that the Macon YDC will be having their prom on May 14, 2011. They are collecting donations of new and gently used dresses. Commissioner Howell encouraged the Board to donate.

Chairman Dr. Risler congratulated Bill Amideo on his retirement and said he was a tremendous person to work with.

Mr. Amideo said it has been a pleasure working with the Board. He stated he was only at DJJ for 2 ½ years but has been with state government for more than 26 years. He said he now has an opportunity to go into private practice with a close friend. Mr. Amideo said the Board is in very good hands with Ms. Tina Piper. He stated he has known Ms. Piper since she was a second year law student and have worked with her and has been her mentor for a number of years. He stated he leaves confident knowing the Board and the department is in good hands.

Chairman Dr. Risler announced the next DJJ Board Meeting will be at the Central Office on April 28, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.

Chairman Dr. Risler asked if there was any old business. Hearing none, he asked if there was any new business.

Board member Perry McGuire stated he looked at the quick factsheet handout that was included in the board packet and he noticed from 2001 to 2010 DJJ went from 15% to 92% in designated felons in RYDCs.

Commissioner Howell said that is due to a combination of changes in charging patterns. She said there have also been some changes as to how DJJ handles its population for two years commitment and only putting the highest risk committed youth in secure beds. Commissioner Howell said there are some changes in how youth are being charged. She stated youth who may present a risk, DAs and judges want to make sure those youth are in a secure bed. She said over time the impact of DJJ population changes, growth in the state, and the budget cuts have increased the DF population.

Chairman Dr. Risler asked for a motion to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice.

Board Member Stephen Simpson made the motion, and Board Member Daniel Menefee made the second.

The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned.

Dr. Ed Risler, Chair
Board of Juvenile Justice

Amy V. Howell,
Commissioner

Sandra Taylor, Secretary
Board of Juvenile Justice