

**Board of Juvenile Justice
Thursday, February 22, 2007
11:00 a.m.**

**DJJ Central Office
3408 Covington Highway
2nd Floor – Board Room
Decatur, Georgia 30032**

Opening Remarks

J. Daniel Shuman, Chair

Mr. Shuman called to order the February 22, 2007 meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and DJJ Board of Education. He noted the time as 11:00 a.m. He asked that all attendees stand and state their name and organization affiliation.

DJJ Staff Present: Albert Murray, Commissioner; Spiro Amburn; Dr. Thomas Coleman; Edward Cook; Steve Hayes; Steve Herndon; Amy Howell; Linda Layton; Jeff Minor; Dr. Thomas O'Rourke; Natilyne Young, Administrator – Region IV; Carl Brown, Director District 6; **Macon RYDC Staff:** Melissa Aaron, Director; Judy Brown, Reco Calhoun; Anthony Dillard, Eric Jackson; Robert Johnson, Tamaria Washington, Felicia Wiggins

Others: Jason Naunas, Assistant Attorney General; Connie Murray; Nathan Risler; **UGA Interns:** Rachel Ayers (Barrow & Jackson County), Jessica McGowan (Athens), Marissa Little (Elberton), Mary C. Bruce (Gainesville), Brian Adams (Athens); Carl Carter, Fort Valley State University; Eddie Young, Fort Valley State University

After introductions, Mr. Shuman asked those present to please stand and join in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the invocation given by board member Judy Mecum. After the prayer, he asked for the Roll to be called.

Roll Call

Steve Hayes, Director of Public Affairs, then called the roll.

Board Members Present: Michael Baugh; Elizabeth Lindsey; Judy Mecum; Dr. Edwin A. Risler; J. Daniel Shuman; Sandra H. Taylor; Mary Wilhite

Advisory Board Members Present: Judge Quintress Gilbert; Judge Steve Teske

After Mr. Hayes announced the presence of a quorum of the Board, Mr. Shuman asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the January 25, 2007 meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and DJJ Board of Education. Vice Chair, Mary Wilhite moved to approve the minutes from the January 25, 2007 Board of Juvenile Justice and DJJ Board of Education. The motion was seconded by Judy Mecum and, hearing no questions or comments, the motion was carried.

Chairman Shuman then called for the Commissioner's Report.

Commissioner's Comments

Albert Murray, Commissioner

Commissioner Murray began his report by noting the presence of visitors not normally in attendance. Jim Lientz, Chief Operating Office for Governor Sonny Perdue, was in attendance. He stated that it was a pleasure to have him sit in on the Board meeting and we hope to utilize him a bit later in the meeting to help recognize DJJ employees for extraordinary service. DJJ Region IV staff, most notably Macon RYDC staff, was in attendance, along with students from the University of Georgia and Fort Valley State University. Commissioner Murray stated that it is hoped that the process of the Board will be interesting enough for the students to look at a career with juvenile justice once they have received their degrees as we are always looking for new professionals. He expressed his hope that their attendance at the meeting will be a meaningful experience for them.

At this point, Commissioner Murray introduced the newest appointee to the Board of Juvenile Justice, Judge Steve C. Teske, who will serve as judicial advisory to the Board. He added that there will be additional appointments to the Board that we hope to announce at the next meeting. He stated that it will be good to have a full or nearly full Board as we have had vacancies on the Board for some time.

Commissioner Murray continued his report as follows:

Operations:

The Operations Division has moved forward to fill recently vacated leadership positions. First, Regional Administrator Lorr Elias in Region Five based in Savannah left DJJ to accept a position with DHR on February 15th to further her work with young people. Interviews for this position were held in a timely manner and District Director Adam Kennedy has been selected for the position and will begin serving in this new capacity on March 1st. Adam is a long time DJJ staff and District Director. He brings a wealth of

experience and knowledge to the position and represents a good example of succession planning within the agency.

Todd Bentley, former Assistant District Director in District 2, has been selected to serve as the District Director following the retirement of Glenda Bullard. Todd is also an experienced DJJ staff member and will do an excellent job.

The RYDC population remains at or near statewide capacity. When the centers are at capacity, there are approximately 1,300 youth occupying bed space. We continue to see efficiency improvements in our systems to move youth to placement including to the YDC. An example is the electronic scanning of documents into the computer system. This allows for a faster processing of the case. Otherwise expeditors and others continue to work with courts and others to help make the best use of our detention beds.

At the end of January the Augusta Court Service Office conducted presentations at seven schools regarding the dangers of getting into trouble and possible placement into DJJ. This was very well received by the students and school personnel. Local media covered the events and DJJ received positive press related to the event. The plan is to replicate these presentations especially at our school based supervision sites across the state. Prevention and intervention was discussed by all of us last month, and this is one excellent example of where DJJ is stepping out and partnering with the school system, local prosecutor's office, and local law enforcement to reach youth who may be at risk for offending, before they do so. One of the things pointed out by our staff, is the simple fact that kids aren't aware.

Campus Operations - Campus Operations is pleased to announce the promotion of two of its own: Institutional Program Director Fran Wells of Macon was recently selected as Assistant Director of Security at Eastman YDC, an all male facility, and happens to be the first woman and first African American to serve in this capacity at Eastman YDC. Institutional Program Director Mordie Askew of Sumter YDC was promoted to Assistant Director for Programs at Sumter.

Motivational speaker Reverend James Henderson spoke at three YDCs in January. Those facilities were Augusta, Ireland, and Sumter. A former college student sentenced to 50 years for drugs, he was paroled after three years. After gaining a position on the US weight lifting team he went on to win numerous competitions in the US and Europe. Reverend Henderson is certified through the Guinness Book of World Records as the World's Strongest Man. During his facility visits, Reverend Henderson captivated youth and staff as he gave account of his periods of incarceration and other events that led to his accepting responsibility for the choices he made in his life that led to him deciding to reshape his life. In speaking with staff Reverend Henderson provided a motivational message to employees on how to best use their talents to succeed in their jobs and in their lives. He also provided much insight into the games offenders play and how to be more

cognizant of the ways offenders think. He gave the students daily steps to help reshape or transform their lives to release the “Champion” that exists within.

Widely Important Goals (WIGS) – Early in 2006 the agency engaged in some management training based on the writings of Steven Covey. W.I.G.S. is an effort currently underway at the Bill Ireland YDC to focus on areas of great interest and importance. As a Widely Important Goal initiative to reduce officer turnover, Bill Ireland held its first *Listen to the Voices* forum with Juvenile Correctional Officers on January 5th. The forum gave the officers an opportunity to meet with the Director and Assistant Directors and voice concerns, as well as provide suggestions on improving facility operations. Commissioner Murray stated that this event was a success and he is eager to learn more about it and exactly what some of the issues were at this facility, which may help the agency’s overall recruitment and retention effort. Juvenile Correctional Officers is the agency’s largest job class and, according to our Strategic Plan update last month, officer turnover continues to be a major issue with the agency.

Quality Customer Service was a priority for DJJ in 2006 and will be an even greater priority in 2007. Notes to pass along to the Board from campus operations include:

- In January, Sumter YDC initiated a Customer Service Incentive Award for its staff. As part of its mission to provide internal and external customers with courteous, timely and efficient services that exceeds expectations at Sumter YDC, all one has to do is get “Caught in the Act” of providing exceptional customer service to be eligible for the award. The first award was given February 14th to JCO Willy Reynolds for volunteering to accompany a youth out of state to attend a family funeral. Several members of the youth’s family were killed in an automobile accident. Bill Parks with Campus Operations and Cindy Pittman with Interstate Compact worked diligently to acquire signatures for a special pass for the youth to attend his family’s funeral and to complete the necessary travel arrangements in a single day and on a Friday. DJJ witnessed caring and customer service at its best in this situation not only by Officer Reynolds, but also by our Central Office personnel.
- More customer service was observed at Bill Ireland recently as the managers of the Ireland YDC sponsored a spaghetti lunch for the Security staff on Saturday, February 3rd. Staff enjoyed their meal with a little jazz music as the Director and other managers volunteered to relieve staff from their posts so that they could attend the luncheon.

Program Services:

The Office of Health Services will be conducting a meeting for Nurse Managers on February 23 at the DJJ Training Academy in Forsyth, Georgia. The meeting will cover

the new STI (Sexually Transmitted Infections) testing procedures and laboratory procedures. Also to be discussed is the new American Heart Association CPR training requirements for DJJ.

The Department is proceeding toward purchasing AEDs, Automated External Defibrillators, for all facilities. This equipment is valuable to have in an emergency and a proven life saver. They can be found in many work places and DJJ will be no exception. They will prove valuable for staff, the youth and visitors, if necessary. Vendors will be demonstrating various models over the next 2 weeks to determine which one will be purchased for statewide use.

The Office of Behavioral Health Services will hold a clinical in-service training session March 1 – 2, at the DJJ Training Facility in Forsyth, Georgia. The focus of this training will be to establish a foundation for Motivational Enhancement Therapy, Motivational Interviewing and Stages of Change Theory. This foundation will support the launch of the “New Freedom Treatment Program” which is being implemented by the mental health program statewide this spring. The New Freedom Treatment Program will provide DJJ mental health staff with treatment structure and a manual approach that includes ongoing assessment procedures, motivational enhancement strategies, psycho-social skills training and treatment homework that addresses a youth’s specific problem or problems. This approach will allow us to insure that our treatment framework is consistent across facilities and allow us to have focused clinical supervision around those services.

The Office of Behavioral Health Services participated in the Valdosta State University career day program on February 9th. This and similar events allow DJJ to expose students and staff to career and internship possibilities within the DJJ mental health program. The Office of Behavioral Health has been actively working with schools across the state to cultivate not only relationships with the schools and universities but to enhance our opportunities to recruit qualified mental health care professionals.

Legislative Services:

The 2007 legislative session is moving along. Today is legislative day 24 out of a total of 40 that they can meet. Due to the transitional activities taking place at the beginning of the Governor’s second term and other challenges regarding the state budget, things have moved a little slower this year in terms of the DJJ legislative packet. The agency has been working with the Governor’s office preparing legislative proposals on juvenile justice issues and earlier this week we were given the go ahead by the Governor’s policy team to move forward with legislation. It will be challenging to get legislation passed during this legislative session, but since this is a crossover year, any bills that are introduced this year will still be alive during the 2008 session. Commissioner Murray stated that he honored a prior commitment he made to the Juvenile Judges to meet with

them to discuss legislative issues as soon as we received clearance to move forward on our legislative packet. This Friday, Commissioner Murray, along with other DJJ staff to include Judge Steve Teske and Pete Colbenson, Executive Director of CYCC, will meet with the legislative committee for the juvenile court judges to explore ways we can work together on legislation to improve the juvenile justice system. He added that later on the agenda, DJJ Legislative Director Spiro Amburn will provide a brief overview of the DJJ legislative packet.

Office of Training:

The 2007 APPA (American Probation and Parole Association) Winter Institute/Conference was held here in Atlanta on February 11-14, 2007 at the Sheraton Atlanta Hotel and it proved to be a major success. Commissioner Murray expressed his appreciation to DJJ staff, including Director Fabienne Tate, DJJ Office of Training and Development, and her staff for the hard work and long hours that went into making the conference a huge success. He also thanked Linda Layton, DJJ Classification & Transportation Director, who was an Institute co-host. There were approximately 975 to 1,000 attendees, not only from the U.S., but from Canada and several other countries.

The Conference was successfully co-hosted by the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice, Georgia Department of Corrections, Georgia Board of Pardons and Paroles, Georgia Probation Association, and other local county and private correctional offices. He stated that it was a major collaborative effort that we are proud to be a part of. DJJ facilitated four additional workshops as a part of the local program track. They were as follows:

- ✓ Dee Bell, on “School Based Probation”- now in 60 schools across Georgia;
- ✓ Yvonne Saunders-Brown, “Why Should I Care? Understanding the Need for Female Responsive Values”;
- ✓ Coy Satterfield, on the “Think Exit at Entry” youth transition model, and;
- ✓ Dr. Michelle Staples Horne presenting, “Ensuring Continuity of Care for Youth Released from Regional Youth Detention Centers in Georgia.”

The Office of Legal Services conducted the first annual training of Local Policy Coordinators on February 16th at the academy in Forsyth. Commissioner Murray stated that he was able to join Amy Howell, Director of Legal Services and other staff in this endeavor and added that next month’s Board meeting has been targeted to give the Board a policy presentation that will provide more detail on this training.

Adding a final note on training, Commissioner Murray stated that Ronnie Woodard, Regional Administrator for Campus Operations, will be the guest speaker at the BJCOT graduation on March 2, 2007 at 1:30 p.m. in the GPSTC Auditorium. There are a total of 35 candidates for graduation. He encouraged Board members to attend the ceremony.

Commissioner Murray also attended the graduation ceremony at the Bill Ireland YDC last Friday and spoke briefly to the youth and participated in awarding the diplomas. He stated that we are pleased as always to recognize these youth and applaud their hard work in attaining graduation. He stated that getting a Diploma or GED in a correctional setting is very challenging. Despite our best efforts to provide a good environment and training, there are many distractions our young people face just because of the nature of being in a detention facility. There were seven (7) graduates attending and receiving GED diplomas. It was a proud moment for the youth, and their family and friends who attended. Bill Ireland has a fine educational staff, including Education Principal Dr. Mae Dickson. Several staff attended including Regional Principal Dr. Rush Utley and Martha Patton, DJJ Curriculum Director. Commissioner expressed his appreciation to our guest speaker, Coach Anderson Bentley from Baldwin County High School.

Commissioner Murray concluded his report and opened the floor for questions or comments.

Hearing none, Chairman Shuman used his prerogative as Chairman and moved forward to item five on the agenda because of the time constraints for the Governor's Chief Operating Officer, Jim Lientz.

Comments/Greetings

Jim Lientz, Chief Operating Officer
Office of the Governor

Mr. Lientz thanked Commissioner Murray and Chairman Shuman for inviting him to speak to the Board. He complimented the Board and the Department on the work that has been done and noted that Commissioner Murray has served the Department for the past three years. Of note, he stated that the Customer Service Initiative is a major initiative of the Governor that they are trying to culturally involve all state agencies in. Governor Perdue hoped to have the state of Georgia as the best managed state in the nation by the year 2007. He stated that he believes we will accomplish this goal in this year of 2007. Customer service is a major part of this goal along with surplus property, and vehicles that has not been taken care of or disposed of since becoming excess. Mr. Lientz stated that he appreciates the cooperation of the agency and the way it conducts its business on a day to day basis.

At this point, Chairman Shuman deferred to Commissioner Murray who presented the next agenda item.

Macon RYDC Employee Recognition

Commissioner Murray/Jim Lientz

Commissioner Murray informed the Board of an incident that took place at the Macon RYDC one evening in November 2006. On that evening, a new resident, a fifteen-year-old male, was given a medication for the first time and had a major allergic reaction to the medication. As a result, staff at the facility had to react to a life threatening situation and had to put their good training to work quickly and accurately in order to save this young man's life. Not only were they able to do it, they were able to do it as well as it could be done. He then recounted the incident as it happened in order for them to fully appreciate the actions of the staff involved in this heroic event.

Commissioner stated that it is easy to say what we expect from our staff in this type of situation and we go to great length to train staff, but sometimes it becomes a very challenging situation when it is actually happening, and we cannot afford for them to fall apart and not do what they are trained to do. Our staff did an extremely good job and, even though they were also recognized locally, with the help of Melissa Aaron, at the facility, he stated that he and the Board wanted to do more than that. They wanted to bring them to Central Office to be recognized again. He asked all the staff present that was involved in the incident to stand. They were given a round of applause. He asked that they come forward to be presented with certificates of recognition. Commissioner Murray and Chief Operating Officer, Jim Lientz then presented the awards. Persons being recognized were: Felicia Wiggins, Officer Reco Calhoun, Nurse Judy Brown, Sgt. Eric Jackson, Lt. Robert Johnson, Sgt. Anthony Dillard, and Acting Sgt. Tamaria Washington.

The certificate/commendation awarded is one of the highest awards presented by the Governor's Office and signed by Governor Sonny Perdue and Chief of Staff, Ed Holcomb, and reads as follows:

“Whereas (list of names), thanks to their training and quick thinking were able to save the life of a resident in critical need of help at the Macon RYDC;

And,

Whereas, on November 21, 2006, a fifteen year old youth had a potentially fatal allergic reaction to medication, Felicia Wiggins observed the youth that became seriously ill and alerted Officer Reco Calhoun who in turn alerted the staff;

And,

Whereas emergency services were notified and Nurse Judy Brown assessed the young man's vital signs which were failing, he was placed on a stretcher and moved to the clinic to await EMS while Lt. Robert Johnson stayed behind to maintain order among other residents;

And,

Whereas on the way to the clinic the youth lost consciousness, Nurse Brown, Sgt. Tamaria Washington and Sgt. Anthony Dillard began CPR until the young man became responsive;

And,

Whereas, the youth was stabilized in the Coliseum Hospital and transferred to the children's hospital where the staff of Macon RYDC provided around the clock coverage, the State of Georgia is proud to recognize (name of person) for his/her calm life-saving heroic actions in the face of crisis,

Therefore,

I, Sonny Perdue, Governor of the State of Georgia recognize (name of person) and all others for their good work, bravery and heroism. In witness thereof, I have here unto set my hand in cause the seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 22nd day of February 2007.”

Other staff not present and also being recognized that played a part in the teamwork to save this young man's life were: Officer Tashia Smith, Sgt. Tracy Parrish, Officer Steven Grayer, Officer Jarvis Wimbush, Officer Unray Solomon, Officer William Monday; Officer Chastity Middleton, and Officer Erin Dicks.

Chairman Shuman then returned to item four of the agenda.

Resolution: Transfer or Disposal of Property

Edward Cook, Director
Office of Engineering and Construction

Mr. Cook informed the Board that Governor Perdue's Commission for a New Georgia has begun an initiative asking all state agencies to identify unused property that is possibly available for alternative uses. In response to this request, the Department of Juvenile Justice identified four parcels at the Bill Ireland site that are potentially available for transfer. The State Properties Commission who oversees this property transfer initiative requested in October that the department issue a Board Resolution declaring surplus. The declaration first took place at the October Board Meeting for Parcel #2 (66.46 acres). He stated that recently the State Properties Commission contacted the Department requesting another resolution shifting the status of the remaining parcels, Parcel #3 (24.91 acres), Parcel #4 (122.30 acres), and Parcel #5 (66.15 acres), to that of surplus property. As a result, the Department of Juvenile Justice is requesting the Board of Juvenile Justice to approve the resolution declaring those portions of the property of the Bill Ireland Youth Development Campus to be surplus property.

Referencing the handout of the property in question, Sandra Taylor inquired about the sewer line that runs through Parcel #4. She wanted to know if we owned it and if we will retain easement rights and maintain the line. Mr. Cook responded in the affirmative.

Hearing no other questions or comments, Chairman Shuman asked for a motion to approve the resolution. Dr. Ed Risler moved to approve the resolution; the motion was seconded by Michael Baugh and carried.

Legislative Briefing and Update

Spiro Amburn, Director
Office of Legislative Services

Following up on Commissioner Murray's comments earlier, Mr. Amburn briefed the Board on proposed legislation and where the Department is on the issues being discussed. He stated that today, February 22, 2007 is the legislative day 24 which is halfway through the legislative session. By law, the Legislature can only meet for 40 days. He stated that not a lot is moving now but they are thinking of taking a couple days, possibly a couple of weeks off to discuss some major budget issues that are yet to be resolved. In terms of the Department's legislative package, we have had a chance in the past week to get clearance to move forward on some issues that we feel are important to the juvenile justice system. He stated that we have been working with the Governor's policy team for some time and referred the Board to the handout of proposed legislation that they were given. The handout briefly highlighted the language pertaining to 15-11-46 (When detention of a child permitted), Probation Officers (15-11-24 to 15-11-24.3), Supersedeas (15-11-3), and the Commitment of a Deprived Child (15-11-55 – Disposition of a Deprived Child). Afterwards, he opened the floor for any questions or comments.

Sandra Taylor stated that she has questions about the 15-11-46 amendment. She stated that prosecutors are concerned about the language in the original amendment that would keep them from being able to detain a youth at the time of arrest prior to having a hearing. She asked if this had been addressed. Mr. Amburn responded that House Bill 52 has been introduced and is currently in committee. He stated there has not yet been a hearing but how it is currently written would keep the youth from being detained from any offense if they are 16 years old or younger. He stated that the language will be changed if it is moved at all and that there may be some ways we (the Department) could work with that bill to address the issue.

Ms. Taylor stated that she believes the intent of that bill was to do that and that prosecutors just want to make sure that they are able to detain particularly dangerous kids. Mr. Amburn stated that we did not sponsor HB52, that it was sponsored instead by Representative Ron Forster. He stated that it is our understanding that the way the Bill is written is not his original intent and that there may be an opportunity to incorporate some of our language as a substitute. He added that the Bill as currently written will not move and that we are actively monitoring it and we hope to improve on the language. He stated that these are not new issues; they have been part of the discussion for years, particularly with the juvenile law commission.

Commissioner Murray injected that these are very significant issues that we think will result in overall system improvement and we want to start the ball rolling this year. We will meet with judges to look at ways we can move forward with DJJ legislation. Because of the lateness of session we could maybe drop some legislation that can carryover into next year and pick up on it at that time.

Mr. Amburn concluded his presentation.

Introduction of Students (DJJ Interns)

Ed Risler, Ph.D., Board Secretary

Dr. Risler greeted everyone and stated that it seems the theme of the day has been acknowledging what it means to have very competent, well trained staff. He continued that one of the things talked about in strategic planning sessions is addressing the issue of staff retention and turnover. He stated that he is pleased to introduce a number of student interns in the graduate program of social work at the University of Georgia and he acknowledged the Commissioner's support for that internship program. Dr. Risler stated that, inevitably, we (the Department) need to inspire people to make this a career and not come to work and stay 3-4 years then leave.

He then introduced the interns stating they are currently in a practicum as part of their graduate studies and they carry a caseload and they work in an office, like any other juvenile parole specialist. He stated that we have been doing this for a number of years and have been successful at recruiting the interns to work for the department.

At this point, Commissioner Murray requested an impromptu photo session with Dr. Risler, the interns, Jim Lientz, and himself.

Chairman Shuman then recognized Natilyne Young, Regional Administrator of DJJ Region IV, who was present for staff recognition and who also brought along guests. Ms. Young stated that both of her guests are Fort Valley State University Wildcats, where they first met; they're upperclassmen and they are leaders on the football field and on the campus. She stated that they both have spent a lot of time in DJJ facilities; one, her son, Eddie Young, because his mother worked there throughout his childhood. She stated that he had a five-year career with the Chicago White Sox and came back to Georgia to enroll in Fort Valley State as an older student. The other, Carl Carter spent time at DJJ facilities under different circumstances and that he would share his story.

Mr. Carter addressed the Board and stated that he is a product of DJJ's Juvenile Justice System. He informed the Board that while he was a 10th grader, he got into trouble and was committed to the juvenile justice system as a designated felon. He spent a little more than 3 years in the system, beginning at Metro RYDC. He was then transferred to Griffin, from there Sandersville; then to Wrightsville, on to Eastman, then Sumter YDC

and, finally to Bill Ireland YDC. He stated that while a resident in the system he received his GED. He also took responsibility for the behavior that resulted in him being incarcerated. He stated that God surrounded him with the right people, DJJ staff and family members, who helped him to change his life. He stated that they cared and that they were not there just for a paycheck.

After returning home, Carl enrolled in Georgia Military College and then transferred to Fort Valley State University after a year to play football. He has been there for nearly three years and is scheduled to graduate in December with a degree in psychology. Mr. Carter says he has plans to return to DJJ to work with youth who are in the system and are going through similar circumstances as he did. He thanked DJJ and the Board for their work and dedication helping Georgia's youth.

Commissioner Murray also asked for photos to be taken of these young men. He stated that Eddie Young, as well as DJJ staff, had a major influence on Mr. Carter and they are not only roommates, but that they are friends.

Chairman Shuman then called for a motion to close the regular meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice to convene the meeting of the DJJ Board of Education. Mary Wilhite moved to close the regular meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and to convene the meeting of the DJJ Board of Education; the motion was seconded by Elizabeth Lindsey and carried.

Education Update

Dr. Thomas O'Rourke, Associate Superintendent
Office of Education

- A Regional Principal position is vacant due to the retirement of Dr. Charles Warnock. The interview process for this position has narrowed to 4-5 candidates. After final reviews, a recommendation will be made to Commissioner Murray.
- On March 5-9, 2007 the Spring Teacher Conference will be held, once again in Macon, and will incorporate basic teaching requirements along with the conference workshops.
- July 8-11, 2007 the National Correctional Education Association meeting will be held here in Atlanta. Resources have been set aside for 'The Teachers of the Year' to attend the conference. Dr. O'Rourke extended an invitation to the Board to attend and noted that they are attempting to have Commissioner Murray as a speaker at the conference.

Dr. O'Rourke thanked Commissioner Murray for attending the graduation ceremony at Bill Ireland. He added that the education program is working as evidenced by the

number of kids who have received certificates and diplomas from the program. In the past 3 ½ years 35 kids have received their high school diplomas and hundreds others have received a GED that they otherwise would not have, and several kids have graduated from technical college. A model transition program has been put in place to provide a support system for them. More kids are being placed, are back in school and are employed, most notably kids at the Eastman site.

- The Education Committees have finished their work and adopted math text books for 5th grade, 6th – 8th grade, and pre-algebra.
- The Office of Education will be recruiting teachers this month and next month at the University of Georgia; Armstrong College; Valdosta State University; Berry College; the University of West Georgia; and finalizing plans with Fort Valley State University.

Dr. O'Rourke stated that through the remainder of the school year, state audits are being conducted of the special education program at select sites. He added that he is confident that the audits of the programs will be favorable.

He then opened the floor for questions or comments. Hearing none, a motion to adjourn the meeting of the DJJ Board of Education and reconvene the regular meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice was made by Mary Wilhite. The motion was seconded by Judy Mecum and carried.

Chair's Comments

J. Daniel Shuman, Board Chair

Chairman Shuman announced that the next scheduled meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice will be held on March 22, 2007 at 11:00 a.m. at Central Office.

Before adjourning, Commissioner Murray acknowledged Jason Naunas, Assistant Attorney General, who is counsel to the Board of Juvenile Justice, as well as to the Department.

Hearing no other questions or comments, Chairman Shuman asked for a motion to adjourn the February 22, 2007 meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice. Sandra Taylor moved to adjourn the February 22, 2007 meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice, the motion was seconded by Mary Wilhite and carried.

The meeting was adjourned.

J. Daniel Shuman, Chair
Board of Juvenile Justice

Albert Murray
Commissioner

Dr. Ed Risler, Secretary
Board of Juvenile Justice