

**Board of Juvenile Justice
Wednesday, October 6, 2010
10:00 a.m.**

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

Opening Remarks

J. Daniel Shuman, Chair

Vice Chair Dr. Ed Risler called to order the October 6, 2010 special called meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and DJJ Board of Education. He noted the time as 3:00 P.m.

DJJ Staff Present: Commissioner Garland R. Hunt, Esq.; Rob Rosenbloom; Ronnie Woodard; Jeff Minor; Scheree Moore; Nathan Cain; Cherecia Kline; Sharon Starks; Dr. Jack Catrett; Dr. Rufus Johnson; Coy Satterfield; Rafael Rosado-Ortiz; Shirley Turner; Brenda Burns; Joan Carroll; Meme Coles; Dr. Virginia Mickish; Martha Patton

The Chairman asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the invocation by Pastor Dexter Rowland.

Roll Call

Chairman Shuman asked for the roll to be called. Cherecia Kline conducted the roll call of attendance.

Board Members Present: Larry Barnes; Michael Baugh; Jim Kelly; Elizabeth Lindsey (after roll call); Dr. Ed Risler; Pastor Dexter Rowland

Others: Tom Wellman; Dr. Jon Stewart; Dr. Brenda James Ford; Dr. George Eckerle; Dr. Roy Davenport; James Brown

Advisory Council Members Present: Judge Quintress Gilbert

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

Board member Michael Baugh 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 Dexter Rowland. The motion carried.

Education Update

Dr. Jack Catrett, Associate Superintendent
Department of Juvenile Justice

Dr. Catrett stated SACS (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools) and CEA (Correctional Education Association) will give the Board their findings. Dr. Catrett thanked the Board for their support, participation and leadership in this process. Dr. Catrett also thanked Deputy Commissioner Amy Howell for her support. He thanked Dr. Ed Risler the chairman of the education sub-committee. Dr. Catrett also thanked his staff along with Dr. Rufus Johnson who has work on this process for over two and a half years.

Dr. Catrett introduced the Tom Wellman who is the Chairman of CEA.

Mr. Wellman said his team was very impressed with the level of commitment and time that DJJ put into this audit. He thanked Dr. Catrett and his staff for their help and hospitality. He stated working with the SACS team is a new endeavor and thanked them for their support as well.

Mr. Wellman said they found several things that were very commendable. Mr. Wellman said this is the first time CEA has conducted an audit at DJJ.

Mr. Wellman said at the facility they found dedicated and enthusiastic staff at all the facilities they visited. Mr. Wellman said CEA accreditation is measured by a system's demonstrated relations between security, treatment and education. He stated education is not number one at a correctional facility and as a result they look at relationship between the staff and youth. Mr. Wellman said what his team found was exceptional. They found correctional officers helping students with their homework, and a captain that is a certified barber is cutting the youths hair. He stated there was cooperation between the different entities within the facilities.

Mr. Wellman said the team had one parent who stated, "I credit the success of my child to the love he experienced within the classroom." The team interviewed students and received remarks from several students about the teachers being more than teachers. The students also said they got more out of the curriculum as presented in DJJ School than in their other public school. The student stated at the DJJ schools they can go at their own pace.

Mr. Wellman said they looked at the student intake process and testing that is done to determine the needs of each student to be very impressive.

Mr. Wellman said based on what his team had found it was determined that the CEA Audit Team found the standards for CEA were met. Mr. Wellman said the CEA Audit has confirmed that the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice School District be awarded CEA accreditation.

The Board, staff and visitors applauded.

Dr. Catrett said the question may be asked why a CEA and SACS accreditation. Dr. Catrett said CEA looks at more than academics but it also reviews how DJJ staff come together and treat the youth at its facilities.

Dr. Catrett stated he was very proud of the team that came. They had much expertise and are leaders in their field and it was a very good report about DJJ's educators and family.

Dr. Catrett introduced the AdvanED SACS Evaluators. He introduced Dr. Jon Stewart. Dr. Catrett said Dr. Stewart is a retired school superintendant of Alabama Department of Youth Services Schools with about 40 years of experiences.

Dr. Brenda James Ford is the principal of Kennedy Road Middle School in Griffin, Georgia. Dr. Catrett said her claim to fame is that she took a school that was nonperforming and turned it around in one and a half year.

Dr. Catrett also introduced Dr. George Eckerle who is the principal of Luella High School in Henry County, Georgia. Mr. Eckerle started the afterschool program at his school.

Dr. Catrett said the Vice Chair is Dr. Roy Davenport who is the director of Alternative Schools in Savannah, Georgia.

Dr. Catrett said the Lead SACS Evaluator was James Brown who the retired superintendent of schools in Gadsden County Florida. Mr. Brown has 42 years of education experiences.

Mr. Brown said his team enjoyed their four day visit at DJJ. Mr. Brown shared information about the AdvanED Quality Assurance Review, the accreditation process and the findings of the Quality Assurance Review team.

He stated the exit briefing is only a small part of the accreditation process which is a continuous process and not a single event. Mr. Brown said AdvancED came into being in 2006 when the National Studies of School Evaluation, the North Central Association Commission on accreditation on school improvement and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement joined forces.

In doing so, AdvancED became the world largest education network currently serving over 27,000 schools and districts across the nation and around the world. These schools and districts represent over 15 million students, 3 million teachers, and over 18,000 educational professionals who believe so strongly in peer review that they serve on Quality Assurance Review team.

He stated AdvancED provides more than a stamp of approval for accreditation. He stated if schools and districts choose to do so, they can take advantage of a wide variety of professional learning opportunity.

Mr. Brown said the AdvancED accreditation is different from other accreditation agencies. It supports a system approach insuring systems working together and interdependently to create a whole that is greater than the sum of its parts. AdvancED does not replace other accountability

report requirements. It strengthens the district efforts to succeed. The organization is not built on a philosophy of compliance but a philosophy of commitment of continuous improvement and excellence in education. In order to earn and maintain accreditation, districts and school must apply themselves to three complex and ongoing tasks.

- Meeting every higher standard on the strengths of excellence set by AdvancED both on the district level and the school level.
- Engaging in a process of continuous improvement standardized across the organization.
- Demonstrating quality assurance through self studies and external evaluation.

Mr. Brown said districts are evaluated against AdvancED seven Standards that reflect research and best practices, not only in education, but also in organizational excellence in general.

- Vision and Purpose
- Governance and Leadership
- Teaching and Learning
- Documenting and Using Results
- Resources and Support Systems
- Stakeholder Communication and Relationships
- Commitment to Continuous School Improvement

These seven Standards provide the framework through which district personnel can examine the effectiveness of their own organization. AdvancED believes that change can be leverage not only at the individual school level, but district level. Mr. Brown said if change is not coordinated and aligned; the district and the individual schools within that district will struggle.

Mr. Brown said AdvancED primary expectation for district leadership is to provide direction, assistance and the resources necessary for each school in the district to succeed.

Mr. Brown said their role as a SACS Quality Assessment Review (QAR) Team has been to evaluate DJJJ School District using AdvancED Standards as their guide. He stated by using the framework provided by the Standard they were also able to determine the degree to which a district engages in a process of continuous improvement and provide internal and external quality assurance.

Mr. Brown said they conducted interviews with representative sample of stakeholders. They review the district elf assessment documents as well as those at the school level. They also reviewed profile data, student performance results, school improvement plan and other documents. Mr. Brown said they observed classes and everyday operations of the schools. They examined the way the school operated daily and adhered to AdvancEd Standards.

Mr. Brown said all the evidences were evaluated to determine which degree the school met the AdvancED Standards. He said as his team evaluated the evidence, they got into heated discussions.

Mr. Brown said during the interview process the team talked to the following:

- 10 board members
- 36 administrators
- 35 teachers
- 35 support staff
- 17 parents, community and business partners
- 31 students

Mr. Brown shared AdvancED Team commendations with the Board.

The Quality Assurance AdvancED Team commended the Georgia DJJ School district for expediency in meeting the requirement promise of the 1998 Memorandum of Agreement which resulted in significant improvement in the education of students and the Georgia DJJ School District.

The Quality Assurance AdvancED Team commended DJJ in several areas.

- Establishing a pre-service training program that provided opportunity for new employees to become acclimated to a system requirements and expectation.
- Having an associate superintendant and a staff that is highly regarded and respected not only by the school board but by other stakeholders.
- Recognizing and addressing the needs to expand professional learning in the areas of assessment, instruction and curriculum.
- Developing and implementing a secure, accurate and complete student record system that facilitates student transition when exiting to other educational institution.
- The quality of support services provided to students at all facilities.

Mr. Brown identified and discussed DJJ's required actions.

Required Action 1 – Develop and implement an evaluation process and documents the effectiveness impact of the district's continuous improvement efforts.

Required Action 2 – Design and implement an instructional technology plan for students.

Required Action 3 – Incorporate into CAPS (the individualized learning packets students use in the classroom) more instructional strategies that include higher levels of critical thinking.

In addition to their overall recommendation and required action, QAR Team evaluated the DJJ School District using the seven AdvancED Standards. Mr. Brown said there are four ratings the Team used to indicate the degree to which a district meets each standard. Operational is the second highest level in a ranking scale that also includes "Highly Functional" at the top level and "Emerging" and "Not Evident" at the lowest. A "Not Evident" in two or more of the seven assessment areas would jeopardize a system's SACS standing.

He stated the rating for each Standard is based on evidences the QAR Team reviewed before and during their visits to DJJ School District. He said the combined rating on these Standards is used

by the QAR Team and the State Council to determine whether the DJJ School District should be accredited.

In all seven Standards; DJJ received an overall rating of Operational.

The QAR Team totaled the number of Standards that fell into each of the rated category. This categorization guides the QAR Team in selecting the most appropriate accreditation status to send to AdvancED Accreditation Commissioner for review.

In all categories; DJJ School District received an overall rating of Operational.

Mr. Brown said he is pleased to report that the evidence the Quality Assurance AdvancED Team has received indicates that the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice School District should be an accredited district.

The Board, staff and visitors applauded.

Mr. Brown said QAR Team will finish their written report and DJJ will receive a copy within 30 days. He stated AdvancED requires before the next accreditation visit; the district to submit one or more reports on the progress they have made toward improving those issues the QAR Team identified as required actions.

Mr. Brown said congratulation on behalf AdvancED and the members of the QAR Team.

Dr. Risler thanked the Board for all their support during this process. He also thanked Dr. Catrett and his staff for their hard work.

Commissioner Hunt said he inherited a great system with a lot of great people. He stated he believe in what DJJ is striving for the youth . Commissioner Hunt expressed his appreciation to everyone involve including the staff on the ground; the principals, instructors and psychologists out there touching the lives of DJJ's students.

Commissioner Hunt also thanked Dr. Catrett and staff and the CEA and QAR Team for their hard work.

Hearing no further questions, 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. Larry Barnes made the motion. Jim Kelly seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Vice Chairman's Comments

Chairman Dr. Ed Risler
Board of Juvenile Justice

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

Chairman Shuman announced that the next DJJ Board meeting would be at the Central Office on October 28, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.

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

Michael Baugh made the motion, and Dexter Rowland made the second.

The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned.

J. Daniel Shuman, Chair
Board of Juvenile Justice

Garland R. Hunt, Esq.
Commissioner

Daniel A. Menefee, Secretary
Board of Juvenile Justice