

# Juvenile Services Education Board Meeting – Virtual

JSEP Meeting Minutes

Wednesday April 6, 2022 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

<https://youtu.be/gjKGBwJMaJ8>

## I. Welcome and Roll Call

Sec. Sam Abed- DJS

Dr. Peter Leone

Dr. James Fielder

Dr. Bernard Sadusky

Sup. Mohammed Choudhury

Dr. Tracey L. Durant

Mrs. Sharon Merriweather

Mrs. Grace Reusing - Absent

Dr. Monica Goldson

Mrs. Kimberly Pogue

Mr. Richard Stevenson

Margi Joshi - JJMU

## II. Approval of Minutes

- Minutes from the March board meeting approved by acclamation, motion by Dr. Fielder, Seconded by Dr. Leone

## III. Public Comment

- None were received

## IV. Executive Director Report – Mr. Cory Fink (attached)

- Dr. Leone questioned the population at BCJJC and how many classrooms are going to be added to the expansion? Cory answered as of this morning 56 youth at BCJJC. There would be six classrooms, computer lab, career tech room, media conference center, IEP meeting room and 3 additional offices.

## V. Superintendent's Report – Mrs. Kimberly Pogue

- Visited BCJJC, Victor Cullen, WMMC, Hickey, Backbone and Greenridge and spoke to the school administrators. Also received tour of the entire facilities and talked with the facility administrators about the transition
- Conducted interviews with MSDE taking the lead for Special Education Coordinator, Academic Coordinators and Principal for WMCC
- Interviewed for the Field Directors positions

- Participated in ongoing meetings with Dr. Lawson and Crystal Brice to plan for the transition
- Thanked Mr. Stevenson for his leadership on the summer school planning
- Attended Summer School meetings as well as participated in the content area team meetings
- 4 policies have been approved by the Standards Subcommittee and are in the final process
- 3 policies written and awaiting approval by the Standards Subcommittee
- Dr. Leone “what kind of questions the staff asked?” Mrs. Pogue said just updates on the transition and changes to the daily schedule

VI. Unfinished Business

- None

VII. Presentation by Loyola University- DJS Sleep Study (Dr. Amy Wolfson & Stephanie McWilliam)

- Presented a slide show (on JSEP web page)
- Sec Abed was asked how to reduce crime in the community. Suggested that we move school to a later start. Most crimes are committed between 3PM and 6 PM. Anne Arundel County has changed their start times so we took a look at our own facilities and schools. This is ground breaking and no one has done a sleep study on youth in a correctional setting. We want to present to the board that we move the start time of school. We have shifted treatment, adjusted lighting, provide sleep masks and noise panels are being installed. The participation was good and incentives were given to the youth that participated. There is a second phase waiting for DJS to proceed.

VIII. Subcommittee Reports

- Legislation – Dr. Bernard Sadusky
- Nothing major to report
- Cory did a great job of the crossover of the bills
- Sec. Abed announced the passing of the JJRC recommendations, which are as follows:
  - Eliminate juvenile court jurisdiction for children under the age 13, except children between the ages 10-12 alleged to have committed a Crime of Violence.
  - Probation maximum length of stay. Misdemeanor offenses maximum 6 months, Felony Offenses maximum 1 year, Crime of Violence the probation rules are as they are now.
  - Detention Utilization requires courts to consider a validated risk assessment. Requires a court review every 14 days (no more than 25-day review).

Requires DJS to develop a community release plan within 10 days of a decision to detain a child. Prohibits detention for misdemeanor offenses, except handgun violations and repeat offenses misdemeanor offenses (2 prior adjudications within a year of the charge). Prohibits use of detention for technical violations of probation.

- o Intake/Pre-court eliminates requirement of victim consent for informal adjustment. Eliminates requirement for State's Attorney approval to proceed with an informal adjustment for non-violent felonies. Establishes a statutory process for the court to return a petition back to DJS intake for assessment, services and supervision, rather than formal prosecution.
- o CINS is available
  
- Summer School – Mr. Richard Stevenson
  - o Continue to meet with content area teams. Courses have been approved and lessons are in the beginning stage and will be complete by May 1<sup>st</sup> so everyone has the opportunity to get familiar with the content to be taught.
    - English -creative writing looking for different types of literature
    - Science - Forensics
    - Social Studies – Contemporary world and US issues film and TV apply to real life issues and events
    - Math – Sports – Basketball, Soccer and track and field
    - CT certificates for students as well as service learning hours
    - Next meeting in 2 weeks
    - Content teams meet weekly
    - Middle School subcommittee
    - Mr. Fink has provided data as to how many students that involves.
  
- Standards Committee- Dr. Peter Leone
  - o Met last month and discussed three policies, the transition policy, credit attainment and GED.
    - Attainment policy changes are Teachers are responsible for ongoing assessments and recording of grades. Principals responsible for reporting procedures on class consistently within schools. Students are able to earn credit or partial credit for high school graduation. Emphasized a credit for JSEP course must earn 60% of the course objectives. When students return to their home school, we want to make sure that we have a policy in place so credits are transferred. Students can earn a whole or half credit in summer school courses including credit recovery online.

Transition Policy change emphasizes that the school principal has the responsibility for the implementation and coordination of the transition policy. Transition in and out of the program is the principal's responsibility with the tasks and duties of the counselors to ensure everyone is on track.

GED policy wants to change the age from 17 to 16 to sit for the GED

Standards Committee is short one member is anyone would like to volunteer

IX. New Business

X. Board Member's Remarks

- Dr. Durant thanked everyone for her tour; it was very meaningful now that she has seen BCJJC. Mrs. Pogue said if anyone else is interested to let her know.

XI. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn Dr. Durant seconded by Dr. Leone at 10:26AM

To: Grace Reusing, JSEP Chair

From: Cory Fink, Executive Director JSEP

Date: 4/6/2022

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Covid mitigation strategies remain in place with smaller living units and we are diligently working out any issues that may impact educational operations due to space

Youth are no longer required to wear masks in the educational settings unless they choose to, and masks remain readily available. Staff must continue to wear masks when indoors unless they are in their own individual office spaces.

MSDE has transferred the vacant Principal pin from Noyes to Western MD Children's Center which will give them their own full time Principal.

DJS is in the process of recruiting a Director of Transition Services; interviews were conducted earlier this week and I hope to reach a hiring decision soon.

DJS has "loaned" 10 pins to JSEP in order to make the hiring of some key positions including IT Functional Analysts, Network Specialists, Coordinator positions including CTE, Academic with an emphasis on Math and Science, Personalized Learning & Library Media, and a school Psychologist a priority in advance of the transition. Once the transfer of pins takes place from MSDE to DJS on July 1, vacant pins will be transferred back to DJS.

The Attorney General's Office has also posted a recruitment for an Assistant Attorney General who will primarily provide legal services to the JSEP Program, Superintendent, and Board as appropriate. The position closes on April 12, 2022.

DJS' IT Unit is doing a comprehensive assessment of our current network and WIFI capabilities in each of our facilities and will be looking to expand for overall programming including educational instruction/services

DJS has instituted multiple operational changes in our residential facilities including:

- Adjusting the daily schedule to allow for later bedtimes
- Looking at increasing the use of sound panels to allow for better acoustics
- Identifying key staff to assist with the morning transition to school
- The procurement of ear buds for residential staff within the educational space to mitigate noise and distraction in the classroom.
- Posting 1 staff inside the classroom and the other outside the door to minimize distraction and still maintain safety and security

A major education expansion is underway at BCJJC which will greatly increase the footprint of educational space, including larger classrooms, offices, and dedicated library space.

- A tour was recently held with DJS staff, Superintendent Pogue, and Board Member Dr. Durant – we toured the current education space, as well as the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor which is currently being renovated.
- Library books from Waxters were taken to BCJJC and CHHS to expand the # of books available to youth

Superintendent Pogue and I attended the March State Superintendent's Meeting in Annapolis, and presented SB497 and the results of the informal feedback received from each school district. The meeting was very positive and engaging. Dr. Lawson and Mrs. Brice of MSDE provided a history of Juvenile Services Education prior to our presentation.

I, along with Superintendent Pogue met with and gave a presentation to the Student Service Directors across the state virtually on March 30<sup>th</sup> – my thanks to Lynne Muller and Walter Sallee for the invitation – the exchange of ideas, concerns, and overall communication was robust and will aid Superintendent Pogue and the Department as we move towards creating the MOU's with each local school system on transition efforts

DJS procurement continues to work diligently to transfer MSDE contracts on 7/1/22 for several services so that there is no lapse – again a partnership between MSDE and DJS on transition efforts

We continue to work with MSDE around the transfer of furnishings and IT equipment, the closure and transfer of materials from Waxters' and the new computer equipment.

Everyone should have received the link to the survey monkey to facilitate the SWOT analysis for the upcoming Board retreat. If you have not done so, please complete the anonymous survey by the end of this week.