

GULF COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

Tuesday, May 6, 2025

The Gulf County School Board met in regular session Tuesday, May 6, 2025, at 9:30 (Workshop) and 10:00 (School Board Meeting) at their Administrative Office in Port St. Joe. Superintendent Norton, Attorney Costin, and the following School Board Members were present: Chairman Brooke Wooten, Vice Chairman Ruby Knox, Equillar Gainer, and Matt Terry. (District 1 seat TBA)

AGENDA WORKSHOP: The board reviewed the May 6 Agenda Packet.

BOARD MEETING:

I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Wooten called the meeting to order at 10:00.

II. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA:** On motion by Mr. Terry and seconded by Mrs. Gainer the board unanimously approved the amended agenda to include the addition of pages 5.05, 5.06, and 7.02, and the removal of page 2, and the scheduling of a special board meeting Tuesday, May 27 with a 7:45 workshop and 8:00 board meeting.

III. **SPECIAL PRESENTATION:** The board was honored to welcome Mrs. Gainer's special guest – Chai Baker, a 2014 graduate of Malone High School. Chai landed a scholarship and went on to play basketball for Oregon State University. During an informal team workout at the Beavers' practice facility, Chai experienced cardiac arrest. Within a minute, the team trainer was administering CPR using an [AED] Automatic External Defibrillator. Doctors determined Chai's heart had stopped for about two minutes, and it is likely that the team's quick response and the AED saved his life. None of OSU's screenings detected the hypertrophic cardiomyopathy; it is difficult to detect because there are few, if any, symptoms. Diagnoses often come only after it's too late to help. Thankfully, Chai now has an implanted cardioverter-defibrillator (ICD) and continues to share his story and lend his voice lauding the life-saving benefits of AEDs through the program, "Who We Play For" which is a nonprofit organization dedicated to eliminating preventable sudden cardiac death in young people through affordable heart screenings and AEDs. They offer free EKG heart screenings for individuals aged 10 to 22, aiming to identify potentially life-threatening heart conditions. The organization facilitates screenings in schools and communities, ensuring that students have access to these vital health checks. Chai's story hits close to home as we remember Port St. Joe High School's Chance Gainer collapsing during a football game in Liberty County September 7, 2024, after going into cardiac arrest. Chance subsequently passed away. Senator Corey Simon and Representative Jason Shoaf co-sponsored Senate Bill 1070, called the "Second Chance Act," that requires student-athletes to have an electrocardiogram, or EKG, before they can compete on school teams. The Florida Senate approved the *Second Chance Act* in its first committee Of the 2025 Legislative Session.

IV. **HEAR FROM THE PUBLIC:** None

V. **CONSENT MATTERS:** On motion by Mrs. Knox and seconded by Mr. Terry the board voted unanimously to take the following action:
-Approved the April 8 Minutes, and (SM: 24/25 – 096) (SM: 24/25 –097) ↓
-Approved Budget Matters & Payment of Bills, including *Electronic Payments Agreement*, and one *LCI Amendment*, and
PERSONNEL: (SM: 24/25 –098)
-Approved Marcella Cowart's resignation effective the end of SY 2024-2025, and
-Approved Gabriel McClellan's resignation effective the end of SY 2024-2025, and
-Approved Shiane Stegall's resignation effective the end of SY 2024-2025, and
-Approved Tonie Weese's resignation effective the end of SY 2024-2025, and
-Approved Madison Dykes' resignation effective the end of SY 2024-2025, and
-Approved Simona Williams' letter of intent to end DROP and retire December 31, 2025, and
-Approved Anne Parker's letter of intent to enter DROP May 1, 2026, with an anticipated retirement date of April 30, 2024, and selection of Option 2 for terminal pay for all accrued leave, and
-Approved Tonya (Plair) Owens' letter of intent to enter DROP July 1, 2025, with an anticipated retirement date of June 30, 2023, and selection of Option 2 for terminal pay for all accrued leave, and
-Approved Aimee Walsh's request for a leave of absence for SY 2025-2026, and
-Approved Jeannie Baumgardner's request for maternity leave August 1 through (approximately) September 8, 2025, and
-Approved Bobby Johns for the Administrator of Special Projects position effective July 1, 2025,
-Approved Lyndsey Cox for a WES teaching position effective August 1, 2025, and
-Approved Angie Dillon for a PSJE teaching position effective August 1, 2025, and
-Approved one additional maintenance position.

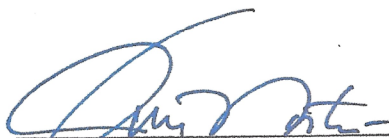
VI. **PROGRAM MATTERS:** On motion by Mrs. Knox and seconded by Mrs. Gainer the board unanimously approved the 2025-2026 MOA with Amber Wellness, LLC for mental health services. (SM: 24/25 –099)

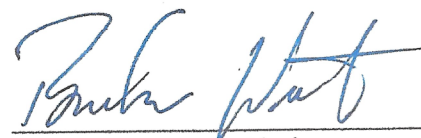
VII. **BID MATTERS:** On motion by Mrs. Gainer and seconded by Mrs. Knox the board unanimously approved the 2025-2026 Copier Maintenance Bid covering all copiers throughout the district. (SM: 24/25 –100)

VIII. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

IX. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:**

X. **ADJOURNMENT:** Chairman Wooten adjourned the meeting at 10:26.


Jim Norton, Superintendent


Brooke Wooten, Chairman