GULF COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

Thursday, October 16, 2025

The Gulf County School Board met in regular session Thursday, October 16, 2025, at 9:30 (Agenda-Review 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, Chad Bailey, Equillar Gainer, and Matt Terry.

AGENDA WORKSHOP: The board reviewed the October 16 Agenda Packet. Mr. Terry asked several questions regarding the upcoming employee insurance renewal. Mr. Norton stated that district staff has been in discussion with our insurance brokers for the past several months. He invited Mr. Terry to attend the next insurance staff meeting and be prepared to offer his insight and suggestions. Mr. Dailey reminded everyone that employee insurance appears to be a national issue, and further stated that Superintendent Norton has advised district staff to dig deep and think outside the box.

BOARD MEETING:

I.	**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Wooten called the meeting to order at 10:00.
II.	**Swearing in of District 1 School Board Member:** Gulf County Judge Tim McFarland administered the Oath of Office to Mr. William "Chad" Bailey who was appointed by Governor DeSantis on October 10 to fill the District 1 School Board Member seat vacated when Mr. Denny McGlon retired at the beginning of the year. **(SM: 25/26-051)**
III.	**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:** On motion by Mrs. Knox and seconded by Mr. Terry the board unanimously approved the amended agenda to include the addition of pages 2.01B, 5A, 8.01, 8.01A, and 15.
IV.	**HEAR FROM THE PUBLIC:** None.
V.	**CONSENT MATTERS:** On motion by Mr. Terry and seconded by Mrs. Gainer the board voted unanimously to take the following action: -Approved the September 4 Minutes, and **(SM: 25/26-052)** -Approved Budget Matters & Payment of Bills, including payment for PSJHS Stadium Repair, and **(SM: 25/26-053)** Out of State Travel: **(SM: 25/26-054) ↓** -Approved the WHS Yearbook Class to travel to Blue Ridge, GA, October 27-29, 2025, for an educational trip, and PERSONNEL: **(SM: 25/26-055)** -Approved Sharon Hoffman's retirement letter effective October 31, 2025, and -Approved Donna Thompson's letter of intent to enter DROP October 1, 2026, with an anticipated retirement date of September 30, 2034, and -Approved Renee Lynn's letter of intent to enter DROP October 1, 2026, with an anticipated retirement date of September 30, 2034, and -Approved 2025-2026 Certified Out-of-Field Teachers for 1st Semester, and -Approved Debra Ake to fill the Wewahitchka Gulf Academy Instructor position effective September 16, 2025, and -Approved David Ford for the WHS ELA position effective October 27, 2025, and -Approved Brhiannan Scruggs for a WES paraprofessional position effective September 25, 2025, and -Approved Maggie McCoy for a WES teaching position effective September 29, 2025, and -Approved Kim Ludlam as a WES long-term substitute teacher to cover during Kayla Bailey's maternity leave, September 22 through November 7, 2025, and -Approved Kim Ludlam as a WES long-term substitute teacher to cover during Elizabeth Emersen's maternity leave, August 6 through September 12, 2025, and -Approved Julie Parker as a PSJH long-term substitute effective October 6, 2025, to fill the ELA vacancy resulting from the teacher's resignation, and -Approved reinstating the PSJH Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP) position as a full-time position due to the growing caseload to ensure students receive timely evaluations and appropriate services, and -Approved the list of Substitute Teacher applicants. On separate motion, made by Mr. Terry and seconded by Mr. Bailey the board voted 4-0 to take the following action: -Approved Special Services Out-of-Field Teachers for 1st Semester, and -Approved Kristin Wooten for a WHS Hospital/Homebound position. **(SM: 25/26-056)** *Chairman Wooten abstained from voting on both of these items, as they involved his wife – Kristin Wooten.*

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VI.	**PROGRAM MATTERS**: On motion by Mrs. Knox and seconded by Mrs. Gainer the board voted unanimously to take the following action: **(SM: 25/26-057) ↓** -Approved the 2025-2026 Contract with Gulf County Sheriff's Office for the School Resource Officer Program, and -Approved the 2025-2026 Salary Schedule for Elected Officials, and **(SM: 25/26-058)** -Approved the 2025-2026 MOU with the Health Department for Student Dental Care, and **(SM: 25/26-059)** -Approved the 2025-2026 Deaf / Hard of Hearing Contract. **(SM: 25/26-060)**
VII.	**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**
VIII.	**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:**
IX.	**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** School Safety Specialist Jay Bidwell provided school safety information to the board.
X.	**ADJOURNMENT:** Chairman Wooten adjourned the meeting at 10:55.

Jim Norton, Superintendent

Brooke Wooten, Chairman