

GULF COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

Special Workshop

Monday, November 17, 2025, at 4:00 P. M., EST.

The Gulf County School Board held a special workshop Monday, November 17, 2025, at 4:00 EST at their Administrative Office in Port St. Joe. Superintendent Norton and the following School Board Members were present: Chairman Brooke Wooten, Vice Chairman Ruby Knox, Chad Bailey, Equillar Gainer, and Matt Terry

SPECIAL WORKSHOP AGENDA:

-Proposed Half-Cent Sales Tax-

Chairman Wooten called the workshop to order at 4:00.

No one from the public was present.

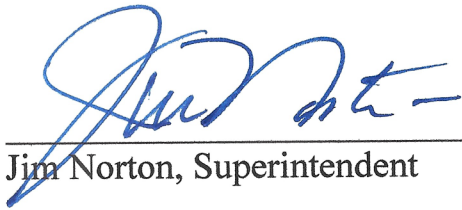
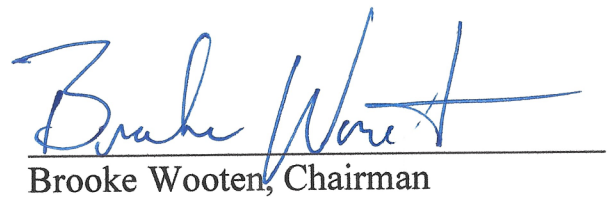
(SM:25/26 – 068)

Superintendent Norton and CFO Evan Clark shared information with the board showing a 10-year decrease for the RLE and a 7-year decrease for LCI.

Superintendent Norton drew the board members' attention to the fact that the Wewahitchka area is his main concern when it comes to the topic of building new schools. Of particular concern is the fact that Wewahitchka Elementary is land-locked and already busting at the seams. He further stated that before the school district can legitimately request funds from the state, we must show our good faith effort to maximize our own local resources. Gaining a *Half-Cent Sales Tax* will help set the trajectory for any future school facility construction projects.

All board members indicated their support for proceeding with the necessary steps to have the referendum placed on the November 2026 General Election Ballot. Attorney Costin will draft a Half-Cent Sales Tax Resolution to be included in the December 9 agenda packet for board action. Communication is key, and it is critical that district employees and the public are educated on the purpose and goal of the sales tax referendum. Additional workshops will be scheduled for 2026.

Chairman Wooten adjourned the workshop at 4:35.


Jim Norton, Superintendent
Brooke Wooten, Chairman