

GULF COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

Tuesday, December 9, 2025

The Gulf County School Board met in regular session Tuesday, December 9, 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: Vice Chairman Ruby Knox, Chad Bailey, Equillar Gainer, and Matt Terry. Chairman Wooten was out of town and unable to attend the meeting.

AGENDA WORKSHOP:

-The board reviewed the December 9 Agenda Packet. Much of the discussion focused on the Sale's Tax Resolution. Superintendent Norton reiterated the goal of building new school facilities in the Wewahitchka area, where the need is greater than in the Port St. Joe area. Once the school board approves Resolution 2025-05, it will be forwarded to the Board of Gulf County Commissioners, requesting the Half-Cent Sales Tax Referendum be printed on the November 2026 General Election Ballot.

-Mrs. Cumbie advised board members that the policy-review session with Neola will be held at 1:00 January 13, 2026, prior to the 5:00 School Board Meeting. Mr. Dailey will forward policy drafts to the board one week prior to the January 13 review session.

BOARD MEETING:

I. CALL TO ORDER: Vice-Chairman Knox called the meeting to order at 10:00.

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA: On motion by Mr. Terry and seconded by Mr. Bailey the board unanimously approved the amended agenda to include the addition of pages 7.01, 7.02, 7.03, 7.03A, 8.01-8.03, and the replacement of pages 14-14.09.

III. HEAR FROM THE PUBLIC: None

IV. CONSENT MATTERS: On motion by Mrs. Gainer and seconded by Mr. Bailey the board voted unanimously to take the following action:

-Approved the November 4 and 17 Minutes, and (SM: 25/26 – 069)

-Approved Budget Matters & Payment of Bills, and (SM: 25/26 –070)

-Approved Certified Intern Teachers to be paid \$10,000 less than a zero (0) year teacher, and (SM: 25/26 –071)

-Acknowledged Receipt of the Internal Accounts Audit for FYE June 30, 2025, and (SM: 25/26 –072)

PERSONNEL MATTERS: (SM: 25/26 –073)

-Approved Natasha Pennycuff's resignation effective December 25, 2025, and

-Approved Denise Freeman's resignation effective November 30, 2025, and

-Approved letter to Deborah Strange thanking her for her service to the district as a full-time bus driver and informing her that effective October 24, 2025, her services are no longer required, and

-Approved creation of an Intern Teacher position. To qualify for this position, an individual must be certified as an Intern Teacher, and must be currently enrolled in a teacher preparation program.

-Approved Chevonell John's letter of intent to enter DROP December 1, 2026, with an anticipated retirement date of April 30, 2034, and selection of Option 2 for terminal pay for all accrued leave, and

-Approved Denisse Fonseca Hill for the WHS Spanish position effective December 10, 2025. *Ms. Hill recently received her Florida Teaching Certificate.*

-Approved Sadie Calareso for a WES Teaching position effective December 10, 2025, and

-Approved Eric Langston for a PSJE Paraprofessional position effective December 10, 2025, and

-Approved 2025-2026 Certified Out-of-Field Teachers for Semester 2, and

-Approved the following Substitute Teacher Applicants: Alexandra Deaver, Kendre Gant, and Shannon Puent, and

-Approved the following Long Term Substitute Teachers for WHS: Shannon Jo Martin, Brandi Shiver, and Janna Jones, and

SURPLUS MATTERS: (SM: 25/26 –074)

-Declared the following item(s) surplus, subsequently approving removal from inventory records, and disposal of item(s) according to board policy: One (1) 2004 desk oven from the PSJH lunchroom: Assess #0000000929, Model #EBS-5736.

V. PROGRAM MATTERS: On motion by Mr. Bailey and seconded by Mrs. Gainer the board voted unanimously to take the following action:

-Approved the Triumph Grant Agreement, and (SM: 25/26 –075)

-Approved the Early College High School Contract with Gulf Coast State College, and (SM: 25/26 –076)

-Approved the 2025-2026 MOA with North Florida Child Development, Inc, and (SM: 25/26 –077)

-Approved the Gulf County School Board Half-Cent Sales Tax Referendum Resolution #2025-05. (SM: 25/26 –078)

VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Mr. Norton acknowledged the recent passing of former Gulf County School Board Superintendent B. Walter Wilder, and he and other board members and district staff commented on the legacy Superintendent Walter Wilder leaves behind.

VII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: Vice Chairman Knox adjourned the meeting at 10:42.


Jim Norton, Superintendent


Ruby Knox, Vice Chairman