

GULF COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

Tuesday, February 3, 2026

The Gulf County School Board met in regular session Tuesday, February 3, 2026, 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-REVIEW WORKSHOP: The board reviewed the February 3 agenda packet. They discussed the next steps necessary to get the Half-Cent Sales Tax Referendum on the November 2026 general election ballot, now that the Board of Gulf County Commissioners has approved the resolution. Mrs. Clark advised the board that she will now present the approved resolution to OPAGGA to start the process.

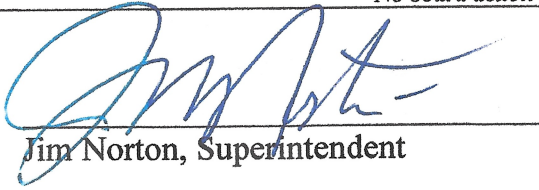
BOARD MEETING:

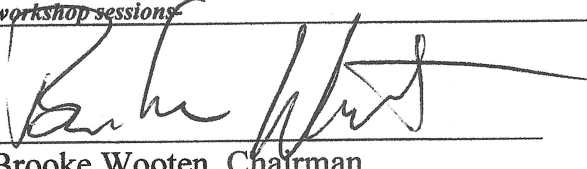
- I. CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Wooten called the meeting to order at 10:00.
- II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:** On motion by Mr. Terry and seconded by Mrs. Knox the board unanimously approved the amended agenda to include the addition of pages 5.01, 5.01A&B, 5.02, 5.03, 5.04, and 6-6.03.
- III. HEAR FROM THE PUBLIC / SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:** WHS Principal Ron Hensley briefed the board on the Debate Club recently started at WHS. The debate team recently participated in a Civics-related competition at the Capitol in Tallahassee and had a wonderful experience. Mr. Hensley said the excitement from that event is spreading to the other students. His intention is to invite 6-8 grade students to participate next year.
- IV. CONSENT MATTERS:** On motion by Mrs. Gainer and seconded by Mrs. Knox the board voted unanimously to take the following action:
-Approved the January 13 Minutes, and (SM:25/26 – 082)
-Approved Budget Matters & Payment of Bills, and (SM:25/26 –083)
PERSONNEL: (SM:25/26 –084)
-Approved Cameron “CJ” Butts’ resignation effective February 5, 2026, and
-Approved Desmond Quinn’s letter of intent to enter DROP September 1, 2026, with an anticipated retirement date of August 31, 2034, and selection of Option 2 for terminal pay for all accrued leave, and
-Approved Paulette Best’s one-year extension to DROP, with a revised retirement date of August 31, 2027, and
-Approved Jay Bidwell’s one-year DROP extension, with a revised retirement date of June 30, 2027, and
-Approved Susie McFarland’s one-year DROP extension, with a revised retirement date of October 31, 2027, and
-Approved Ashley Day for the WHS ELA position effective January 23, 2026, and
-Approved Tonie (Weese) Sharp for a WES teaching position effective February 4, 2026, and
-Approved Krissy Gentry as a long-term substitute February 2, 2026, through the remainder of the current school year during Allie Dorsch’s maternity leave, and
-Approved River Sewell as a substitute teacher applicant, and
-Approved the Winter Sports Supplement list, and
-Approved the updated 2025-2026 Certified Out-of-Field Teachers list for Semester 2, except Kristin Wooten. (SM:25/26 –085)
On separate motion by Mr. Terry and seconded by Mrs. Gainer the board voted 4-0 to approve Kristin Wooten as a Certified Out-of-Field Teacher for Semester 2. (Mr. Wooten abstained from voting on this single item relating to his wife.)
- V. PROGRAM MATTERS:** On motion by Mrs. Knox and seconded by Mr. Bailey the board unanimously approved using Tech Smart International for picking up and recycling all outdated and otherwise inoperable technology equipment. Tech Smart is a State of Florida contracted vendor.
- VI. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:**
- VII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:**
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT:** Chairman Wooten adjourned the meeting at 10:47.

WORKSHOP

- Chairman Wooten called the workshop to order at 11:00.
-Neola staff briefed the board on proposed changes and updates to Gulf County School Board Policies as prepared by the district’s administrative staff. This process of reviewing and revising will continue over the next few months prior to final board approval.
-Chairman Wooten adjourned the workshop at 11:36.

-No board action is taken during workshop sessions-


Jim Norton, Superintendent


Brooke Wooten, Chairman