GULF COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

Monday, June 8, 2026

(This meeting was originally scheduled for June 2 but was postponed due to lack of a quorum.)

The Gulf County School Board met in special session Monday, June 8, 2026, at 8:00 (Workshop) and 9:00 (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, and Equillar Gainer. The District 1 School Board Member seat remains vacant, pending the Governor's appointment to replace Matt Terry.

WORKSHOP:

Cell Phones: At the board's request, student cell phone usage during the school day was discussed and considered through the lens of recent data. Revisions will be included in Student Handbooks and will also be communicated to students and parents before SY 2026-2027 begins. The consensus is that changes should be *phased in* to allow time for everyone to familiarize themselves with and adjust to the new guidelines. These changes impact students in grades 9-12. The Florida Legislature has previously established cell phone usage guidelines for grades K-8. **(SM: 25/26 – 113)**

Review of June 8 Agenda Packet: The board reviewed the June 8 agenda packet.

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING:

I.	**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Wooten called the meeting to order at 9:00.
II.	**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:** On motion by Mrs. Knox and seconded by Mrs. Gainer the board unanimously approved the amended agenda to include the replacement of page A, the removal of pages 5.02 and 6, amendment of the start date on page 5.03, and the addition of pages 20.01-20.03.
III.	**HEAR FROM THE PUBLIC**: None
IV.	**SPECIAL RECOGNITION:** The board recognized representative students from Mrs. Lana Harrison's classes. Mrs. Harrison spoke of the importance of the medical classes and the doors of opportunity opened for students receiving certifications, making them more employable. In total for SY 25-26, 11 students earned dual certification in Phlebotomy and EKG, and 5 earned triple certification in Phlebotomy, EKG Technician, and Electronic Health Records.
V.	**CONSENT MATTERS:** On motion by Mrs. Gainer and seconded by Mrs. Bailey the board voted unanimously to take the following action: -Approved the May 19 Minutes, and **(SM: 25/26 –114)** -Approved Budget Matters & Payment of Bills, and **(SM: 25/26 –115)** **(SM: 25/26 –116 ↓)** -Approved out-of-state travel for WHS band students to attend Troy University Leadership and Concert Camp, June 7-11, and PERSONNEL: **(SM: 25/26 –117)** -Approved the following correction request from the May 19 list of renewals and non-renewals presented at the May 19 board Meeting: PSJE Teacher – Morgan McClain should have been on the Non-Renewal List rather than the Renewal List. Principal Brock advised Ms. McClain of the error and informed her that her contract was non-renewed. -Approved Chevonell Johns' resignation letter effective the end of SY 2025-2026, subsequently removing her name from the list of Non-Renewals as approved at the May 19 board meeting. -Approved Barbara Watt's letter of intent to enter DROP June 1, 2027, with an anticipated retirement date of May 31, 2032. -Approved Lexie Harris' maternity leave for an anticipated period of September 4, 2026 – January 3, 2027, and -Approved Richard Jones' resignation effective June 3, 2026, and -Approved changing Donna Thompson's instructional coach position to a 12-month position rather than 10-plus-2, so that her position aligns with the other instructional coaches, and -Approved Jacquelyn Stokes Taylor for the WHS Science position effective August 3, 2026, and -Approved Ashley Day for the WHS English position effective August 3, 2026, and -Approved Kristy Lee for the PSJHS Guidance position effective July 6, 2026.
VI.	**SPECIAL PERSONNEL ITEM**: **(SM: 25/26 –118)** Attorney Mark Levine addressed the board on behalf of his client, Ms. LaTonya Bailey, requesting the board consider placing Ms. Bailey on *leave-without-pay* pending settling of the case, rather than moving forward with termination. Attorney Bob Harris addressed the board via cell phone, advising board members that considering the investigative materials, video, and testimony obtained by district staff tasked with the internal investigation, the proper action for the board is to approve Superintendent Norton's recommendation for termination of this employee. Mr. Harris advised Mr. Levine that he is free to request a hearing if he chooses to do so, but that does not negate the board's responsibility to act on the Superintendent's recommendation. On motion by Mr. Bailey and seconded by Mrs. Knox the board voted 3-0 to terminate LaTonya Bailey. *(Mrs. Gainer abstained from voting on this single item because this employee is her sister.)*

VII.	**PROGRAM MATTERS**: On motion by Mrs. Knox and seconded by Mrs. Gainer the board voted unanimously to take the following action: -Approved the Neola Contract *(for continued updates and services)*, and **(SM: 25/26 –119)** -Approved the Gifted Add-on Endorsement, and **(SM: 25/26 –120)** -Approved the Autism Spectrum Disorder Add-on Endorsement, and **(SM: 25/26 –121)** -Approved the SY 26-27 PAEC Contract for District Participation, and **(SM: 25/26 –122)** -Approved the SY 26-27 PAEC Contract for Instructional Services, and **(SM: 25/26 –122)** -Approved the SY 26-27 PAEC Contract for Human Resources Support Services, and **(SM: 25/26 – 122)** -Approved the SY 26-27 PAEC Contract for Gateway Educational Computing Consultants Services, and **(SM: 25/26 –122)** -Approved the SY 26-27 PAEC Contract for Student Data Services, and **(SM: 25/26 –122)** -Approved the SY 26-27 PAEC Contract for Risk Management Services, and **(SM: 25/26 –123)** -Approved the SY 26-27 PAEC Contract for TSA Compliance Services, and **(SM: 25/26 –124)** -Approved the SY 26-27 Annual Renewal (Year 2) with Sodexo, and **(SM: 25/26 –125)** **(SM: 25/26 –126 ↓)** -Approved the SY 26-27 MOU with Florida Department of Health, Bay County for student Dental Care Services, and -Approved the SY 26-27 PAEC Contract for ESE Consultative Services, and **(SM: 25/26 –127)** -Approved the SY 26-27 Baccalaureate & Graduation Dates, and **(SM: 25/26 –128)** -Approved the Tri-Party Maritime Academy Instruction Partnership MOU. **(SM: 25/26 –129)**
VIII.	**BID MATTERS:** On motion by Mrs. Gainer and seconded by Mr. Bailey the board voted unanimously to award the bid for the PSJ Soccer Practice / Rec Field to Joe's Custom Lawn. **(SM: 25/26 –130)**
IX.	**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**
X.	**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:**
XI.	**ADJOURNMENT**: Chairman Wooten adjourned the meeting at 9:51.

Jim Norton, Superintendent

Brooke Wooten, Chairman