GULF COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

Tuesday, May 19, 2026

The Gulf County School Board met in special session Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at 8:30 (Workshop) and 9:00 (Public Hearing and 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.

8:30 WORKSHOP

Mr. Ted Roush with the Florida Educator Health Trust *(FLEHT)* program presented a PowerPoint to the board explaining the FLEHT program. Board Members were able to ask questions about the employee insurance program.

PUBLIC HEARING & BOARD MEETING

I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Wooten called the meeting to order at 9:00.

II. **PUBLIC HEARING**: The board advertised a public hearing regarding proposed updated/revised Gulf County School Board Policies. No one from the public was present to speak during the hearing. On motion by Mrs. Knox and seconded by Mrs. Gainer the board voted unanimously to adopt the new Gulf County School Board Policies Manual and rescind the current policy manual effective immediately. **(SM: 25/26 –100A)**

III. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA:** On motion by Mrs. Knox and seconded by Mr. Bailey the board unanimously approved the amended agenda to include the addition of pages 3.02^{A}, 7.01^{A}, 7.02^{A}-7.02^{B1}, 7.02^{C}-7.02^{D1}, 7.03, and 11.08-11.08^{B}, and the replacement of page 7.01. (Note: After *Hear From the Public*, Mr. Norton agreed to pull page 7.03 until the June 2 meeting.)

IV. **SPECIAL RECOGNITION:** The Board recognized Adriana Smiley – Winner of the Neal Dunn Congressional Art Competition. Adriana's artwork will hang in the United States Capital for the next year. Adrianna was accompanied by her parents – Billy Joe and Stacie Smiley, her PSJ High School Art Teacher – Mrs. Julie Hodges, and Principal Sissy Godwin.

V. **HEAR FROM THE PUBLIC**: Attorney Mark Levine was present to request The Board delay acting on the Superintendent's recommended Letter of Termination for PSJE Paraprofessional -LaTonya Bailey (page 7.03) until a Pre-Determination Hearing could be held. Superintendent Norton advised The Board that he would withdraw/table the recommendation until the June 2 school board meeting, while further advising Mr. Levine that he was not guaranteeing that there would be any such hearing, and further stated that this is a matter for the lawyers to handle.

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

-Approved the April 1 Minutes, and **(SM: 25/26 – 101)**
-Approved Budget Matters & Payment of Bills, including the LCI Budget Amendment, the SSDCC Assessment, and the 2026-2027 Payroll Dates, and **(SM: 25/26 –102)**
OUT-OF-STATE STUDENT TRAVEL: **(SM: 25/26 –103)**
-Approved the PSJ Varsity Cheerleaders to travel to the University of Alabama UCA Cheer Camp June 18-21, and
PERSONNEL: **(SM: 25/26 –104)**
-Approved Coach Bobby John's resignation effective April 10, 2026, and
-Approved Maggie McCoy's resignation effective the end of SY 2025-2026, and
-Approved Tonie Sharp's resignation effective the end of SY 2025-2026, and
-Approved Kara Jan Bremer's resignation effective the end of SY 2025-2026, and
-Approved David Ford's resignation effective the end of SY 2025-2026, and
-Approved Susan Bellonis' resignation effective the end of SY 2025-2026, and
-Approved Eric Bidwell's resignation letter effective September 4, 2026, and
-Approved Mary Fox's letter of retirement effective the end of SY 2025-2026, and
-Approved Aimee Walsh's letter stating she does not plan to return after her SY 2025-2026 Leave of Absence, and
-Approved Jewell Hopper's letter of intent to enter DROP June 1, 2027, with an anticipated retirement date of March 31, 2035, and selection of Option 2 for terminal pay for all accrued leave, and
-Approved Melissa Schell's letter of intent to enter DROP April 1, 2027, with an anticipated retirement date of March 31, 2034, and selection of Option 2 for terminal pay for all accrued leave, and
-Approved Adrian Baxley for the WHS Assistant Principal's position effective May 20, 2026, and
-Accepted Ashley Summerlin's resignation from his current PSJH Assistant Principal's position effective the end of SY 2025-2026, and
-Approved Jenny Clark for the PSJH Assistant Principal's position effective July 1, 2026, and
-Approved Ashley Summerlin for a PSJH Teacher-on-Special-Assignment position effective July 1, 2026, and
-Approved Stacy Bryan for a WHS Mathematics position effective August 3, 2026, and
-Approved Morgan Parker for a WES Teaching position effective August 3, 2026, and

	-Approved Kristine Gentry for a WES Teaching position effective August 3, 2026, and -Approved Cheyenne Peterson for a WES Paraprofessional position effective August 3, 2026, and -Approved Jessica Price for a WES Paraprofessional position effective May 20, 2026, and -Approved Jeannie Ford's transfer from PSJE to WES effective SY 2026-2027, and -Approved reclassifying Chad Clark's current Maintenance I position to a Maintenance Tech position effective July 1, 2026. -Approved the 4-day summer work schedule, and -Approved 2026 Summer School 3rd Grade Reading Camp employees, and -Approved additional summer work hours for specific employees as recommended by the principals, and -Approved Jarrett Browning as the summer grass cutter in Wewahitchka, and -Approved the Annual Contract Instructional Employees – Non-Renewal List for SY 2026-2027, and -Approved the Annual Contract Non-Instructional Employees – Non-Renewal List for SY 2026-2027, and -Approved the Annual Contract Non-Instructional Employees – Re-Appointment List for SY 2026-2027, and -Approved the Annual Contract Instructional Employees – Re-Appointment List for SY 2026-2027, except for the names of Kristin Wooten (WHS) and Kayla Bailey (WES). On separate motion by Mrs. Gainer and seconded by Mrs. Knox the Board voted 3-0 to approve Kayla Bailey for renewal for SY 2026-2027. Mr. Bailey abstained from voting on this item because this employee is his wife. On separate motion by Mrs. Knox and seconded by Mrs. Gainer the board voted 3-0 to approve Kristin Wooten for renewal for SY 2026-2027. Mr. Wooten abstained from voting on this item because this employee is his wife.
VII.	**<u>PROGRAM MATTERS</u>**: On motion by Mrs. Knox and seconded by Mr. Bailey the board voted unanimously to take the following action: -Approved the Florida Educator Health Trust (FLEHT) Participation Agreement, and **(SM: 25/26 –105)** **(SM: 25/26 –106 ↓)** -Approved the Master Service & Subscription Support Agreement with TYF *(TrackYourFunds)* for School Activity Funds, and -Approved the Guardian Program Agreement with Gulf County Sheriff's Department. **(SM: 25/26 –107)**
VIII.	**<u>BID MATTERS</u>:** On motion by Mrs. Gainer and seconded by Mr. Bailey the board voted unanimously to take the following action: -Awarded the 2026-2027 Copier Maintenance Bid to ABS *(Absolute Business Solutions)*, and **(SM: 25/26 –108)** -Awarded individual items on Bid #27-002 for Janitorial Bid *(in-house supplies)* to TEK Distributors, Inc. and Sanitation Products of America / SPA Concepts, Inc. **(SM: 25/26 –109)** -Awarded the 2026-2027 Gas/Diesel/Oil Bid #27-003 to JV Gander Distributors, Inc., and **(SM: 25/26 –110)** **(SM: 25/26 –111 ↓)** -Awarded individual items on the 2026-2027 Tire Bid #27-004 to Southern Tire Mart, LLC, and Neece Tire & Auto Service.
IX.	**<u>SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT</u>:**
X.	**<u>BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS</u>:** Mr. Wooten volunteered to continue serving as the representative on the Gulf County Value Adjustment Board, Mrs. Knox agreed to serve as the alternate, and Mr. Rich Wynn will serve as the citizen representative. **(SM: 25/26 –112)**
XI.	**<u>EXECUTIVE SESSION</u>:** The board held a brief Executive Session to allow time for Safety & Security Specialist Jay Bidwell to update the board on the status of implementing various safety and security measures and protocols throughout the district.
XII.	**<u>ADJOURNMENT</u>:** Chairman Wooten adjourned the meeting at 9:56.

Jim Norton, Superintendent

Brooke Wooten, Chairman