

GULF COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

Wednesday, April 1, 2026

The Gulf County School Board met in regular session Wednesday, April 1, 2026, at 8:30 (Agenda-Review 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, Equillar Gainer. The District 1 School Board Member seat remains vacant, pending the Governor's appointment to replace Matt Terry.

AGENDA WORKSHOP: The board reviewed the April 1 Agenda Packet. Following much discussion regarding the *Florida Educator Health Trust (FLEHT) Participation Agreement* (page 7), board members asked that the agreement be tabled until a workshop could be held to address all options relating to employee insurance. Mr. Norton agreed, assuring the board that a workshop would be held prior to the May board meeting, allowing further discussion. Mr. Dailey will arrange for a representative from FLEHT to attend the May workshop to address any questions/concerns relating to this matter.

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 addition of pages 4.01 and 13, the amendment of page 5, and the tabling of page 7.

III. HEAR FROM THE PUBLIC: None.

IV. SPECIAL RECOGNITION:

The board recognized the following students for special achievements:

- Gulf District Schools' 2026 Sunshine State Scholar – Taylor Pope, and
- The 2026 Superintendent's Scholarship Recipient - Emma Hill, and
- Winners of the Supervisor of Elections' "I Voted" Sticker Artwork Contest:
1st- Aubry Bailey (*Wewa Jr/Sr*); 2nd- Bristol Bird (*PSJ Jr/Sr*); 3rd- Dean Sweatt (*Wewa Jr/Sr*).

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

- Approved the March 3 Minutes, and (SM:25/26 – 092)
- Approved Budget Matters & Payment of Bills, and (SM:25/26 –093)
- PERSONNEL: (SM:25/26 –094)
- Approved Thomas Doane's resignation from his NJROTC Instructor position effective May 1, 2026, and
- Approved Linda Tschudi'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 Spring Supplemental Positions, and
- Approved substitute teacher applicant – Pamela Smith.

VI. PROGRAM MATTERS: On motion by Mrs. Gainer and seconded by Mr. Bailey the board unanimously approved taking the following action:

- Tabled the Florida Educator Health Trust (FLEHT) Participation Agreement until further review and discussion at the May workshop, and (SM:25/26 –095)
- Approved proposed changes to Paraprofessional Assessment Scoring, and (SM:25/26 –096) (SM:25/26 –097↓)
- Approved advertisement of the May Public Hearing on Proposed Changes to Gulf District Schools Board Policies, and
- Approved the Heart Screening Agreement with *Who We Play For* (ECG–Second Chance Program) Agreement. (SM:25/26–098)

VII. BID MATTERS: On motion by Mrs. Knox and seconded by Mrs. Gainer the board voted unanimously to take the following action: (SM:25/26 –099)

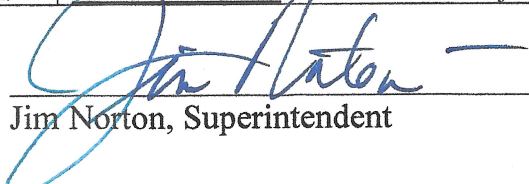
- Bid #26-007 to construct a floor system at Wewahitchka Elementary School was awarded to Conyers Hardwood Flooring in the amount of \$154,200.00, and
- The 2026-2027 Extermination Bid was awarded to Charlie Pettis Pest Services with no increase in service cost.

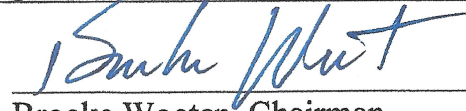
VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

IX. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS: With the resignation of Board Member Terry, Mr. Wooten agreed to serve as the FSBA Advocacy Committee Member and Mrs. Gainer will serve as alternate. (SM:25/26 –100)

X. NEOLA POLICY-REVIEW SESSION: Neola Representatives reviewed the last section of proposed policy changes. A Public Hearing on the Proposed Changes will be held at the May meeting.

XI. ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Wooten adjourned the meeting at 10:34.


Jim Norton, Superintendent


Brooke Wooten, Chairman