

GULF COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

Tuesday, December 9, 2014

The Gulf County School Board met in regular session Tuesday morning, December 9, 2014, at 9:45 (Agenda Workshop) and 10:00 (Board Meeting), at their Administrative Office in Port St. Joe. Superintendent Norton, Attorney Costin, and the following board members were present: Chairman, Danny Little, Vice-Chairman John Wright, Billy C. Quinn, Jr., Linda R. Wood, and Brooke Wooten.

Agenda Workshop: The board reviewed handouts to the day's board meeting packet.

BOARD MEETING AGENDA

I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Little called the meeting to order at 10:00.

II. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA:** On motion by Mr. Wright and seconded by Mrs. Wood the Board unanimously approved the amended agenda to include the replacement of page 3.02 and the addition of the November SRO reports.

III. **RECOGNITIONS:**

Wewahitchka High School Teacher – Lana Harrison – along with her Pre-Med / Pre-Nursing students gave a brief presentation on the worthwhile program now being offered to WHS seniors. There are only 15 slots available for the program each year. Interested students may apply for the course and are advised that they must take Anatomy & Physiology during their junior year in order to take the medical program as a senior. WHS is able to offer this program through the Race to the Top CTE STEM Program Expansion Grant funds.

IV. **HEAR FROM THE PUBLIC:** None

V. **CONSENT MATTERS:** On motion by Mr. Wright and seconded by Mr. Quinn the Board voted unanimously to take the following action:

Approved November 18 Minutes. (SM:14/15 – 079)

Approved Budget Matters and Payment of Bills. (SM:14/15 – 080)

PERSONNEL: (SM: 14/15 – 081)

Approved Kristal Smallwood's resignation from duties in the after-school tutoring program at Port St. Joe High School.

Approved Brenda Chancey for the temporary Pre-K Paraprofessional position at Port St. Joe Elementary School.

Approved the amended 2014-2015 Fall Supplement List to reflect Daphne Lister as the Odyssey of the Mind Sponsor for Wewahitchka High School effective December 1, 2014.

Approved the following Out of Field Teachers for the 2nd semester:

Port St. Joe Elementary School: Donna Thompson (*Gifted*)

Port St. Joe Jr.-Sr. High School:

Simona Beard (*World History*), Fred Flowers (*Reading 3*), Buck Watford (*Civics*), Rachel Crews (*Gulf Academy, except PE and English 5-9*)

Wewahitchka Elementary School: None

Wewahitchka Jr.-Sr. High School: Karen Turner (*Gulf Academy, except Math and Social Studies*), Brittany Smith (*Personal & Family Finance*), Micah Peak (*Personal & Family Finance*), Pat Patterson (*M/J Comprehensive Science, M/J Language Arts, M/J Pre-Algebra, M/J Reading 2 & 3, Intensive Reading*) Kendra McDaniel (*World History, Regular and Honors*), Alisa Burnette (*M/J Chorus, Chorus*), Debra Ake (*M/J Band, Band*), Martin Adkison (*M.J Comprehensive Science*)

VI. **PROGRAM MATTERS:** On motion by Mr. Wright and seconded by Mr. Wooten, the Board voted unanimously to take the following action:

Approved the Comprehensive School Counseling Plan. (SM:14/15 – 082)

Approved the Amended School Improvement Plan for Port St. Joe High School. (SM:14/15 – 083)

Approved forms for the Return on Investment – Parent Notification (*RE: Industry Certification* students) (SM:14/15 – 084)

VII. **BID MATTERS:** On motion by Mr. Wright and seconded by Mr. Quinn the unanimously approved the following bid matters:

A. District Critical Server Backup System

(SM:14/15 – 085)

B. Network – Lab Upgrade

C. Network Fiber – Cable Upgrade

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VIII.	SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:
IX.	BOARD MEMBER CONCERNS:
X.	ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Little adjourned the meeting at 10:53 A. M.

The School Board and District Staff met at OIS for the annual Christmas luncheon at 11:25 A. M.

Workshop - 12:15 P. M.

WORKSHOP AGENDA: Redistricting

Chairman Little brought the workshop to order at 12:15 P. M. The Superintendent and all board members were present. Attorney Costin joined the workshop discussion at 12:50.

Chairman Little asked Superintendent Norton to begin the workshop by outlining the redistricting issue facing the school board. Superintendent Norton explained that the law requires the Board to address the issue of distributing the number of citizens in the county as evenly as possible between the 5 board member districts. Mr. Norton and Mr. Costin reminded The Board that the language of the law refers to the distribution of *citizens* not of *voters*. Mr. Quinn voiced his concern that adjusting the district numbers could possibly jeopardize the minority district and the minority representation on The Board. Superintendent Norton stressed to board members that the school board is not under the same federal decree as the county and therefore not bound to consider race in the adjustment of the districts. Mr. Quinn stated that he understood the school board was not bound by the federal decree but added that it possibly could have been if the school board had not been sensitive to the issue and had the foresight to divide the districts in such a way as to best protect the minority district.

Mr. Norton expressed that after speaking with Supervisor of Elections John Hanlon it was clear that the Board could opt to make some obvious and painless adjustments to district lines or it could call a meeting and vote to bring in a consultant or firm to conduct an all-out study and provide an official recommendation of the steps the board should pursue to bring the numbers in compliance. Mr. Wright stated that he would not support a motion to put a financial burden on the budget to hire a consultant when the matter could easily be rectified by tweaking the numbers.

The workshop ended with Chairman Little asking Superintendent Norton to gather the most up-to-date census numbers available and present the information to The Board at the next meeting so that the issue could be further discussed and a decision made. Mr. Costin encouraged The Board to have hearings in January and be ready to adopt their updated redistricting lines at the February 3 meeting.