

GULF COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

The Gulf County School Board met in special session Tuesday, January 24, 2023, at 8:00 A.M. for a special board meeting, followed by a special workshop, at their Administrative Office in Port St. Joe. Superintendent Norton, Attorney Costin, and the following Board Members were present: Chairman Ruby Knox, Vice-Chairman Brooke Wooten, Cindy Belin, and Marvin Davis. Denny McGlon was not in attendance.

BOARD MEETING:

I.	<u>CALL TO ORDER:</u> Chairman Knox called the meeting to order at 8:00.
II.	<u>ADOPTION OF AGENDA:</u> On motion by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mr. Wooten the board voted unanimously to adopt the agenda.
III.	<u>HEAR FROM THE PUBLIC:</u> None.
IV.	<u>CONSENT MATTERS:</u> On motion by Mrs. Belin and seconded by Mr. Davis the board voted unanimously to take the following action: (SM: 22/23 –080) <u>PERSONNEL:</u> -Approved paying Erin Gannon for her planning period to serve as the WHS tech assistant, and -Approved the following Hospital/Homebound Teachers: Krissy Gentry (PSJE, beginning 01/17/23), and Lana Harrison (WHS, beginning 01/18/23), and -Approved teachers to serve as instructors for the Summer STEM Camp (funded through the <i>Summer Learning Camps Grant</i>), and <u>OTHER:</u> -Approved the amendment to the TRIMUPH Contract. (SM: 22/23 –081)
V.	<u>SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:</u> Superintendent Norton asked the board to consider amending their current bid/quote policy to provide flexibility to staff when it comes to obtaining quotes for any purchases over 5K. Mr. Wooten stated that the 5K threshold amount had been in place for many years and needed updating to reflect current prices. Policy changes must be advertised prior to board approval therefore, Mr. Dailey will provide the proposed amended policy for consideration for advertisement at the February 7 board meeting.
VI.	<u>BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:</u>
VII.	<u>ADJOURNMENT:</u> Chairman Knox adjourned the board meeting at 8:20, and immediately called the workshop to order.

WORKSHOP AGENDA

NOTE: THE BOARD TAKES NO OFFICIAL ACTION DURING A WORKSHOP

I.	<u>CALL TO ORDER:</u> Chairman Knox called the workshop to order at 8:20.
II.	<u>FUTURE FACILITIES PLANNING:</u> Superintendent Norton reiterated his long-standing support of the present community-based schools in the Port St. Joe and Wewahitchka areas. He reminded everyone this has been his position since becoming Superintendent of Gulf District Schools. He stated he had been approached by state officials (especially since Hurricane Michael) stating that it would be the right time for the district to build new schools. The suggestions were not to enhance our current community-based schools, but rather focused on consolidation. Mr. Norton respectfully added that Franklin County went this route and, to date, the results have been less than ideal for the district. Superintendent Norton went on to say it was hard for him to imagine giving up what we currently have for a one-school model as Franklin County did. What would <i>one</i> school look like? Outside pressures would lend itself to saying it’s time to build new, state-of-the-art schools in Gulf County, but the question is whether or not that is the best thing for our communities and our students. Superintendent Norton noted that for the first time in many years we have someone from Gulf County – Jason Shoaf, representing us in the Florida Legislature. He further noted that Mr. Shoaf is establishing himself very well and has a promising career ahead. Representative Shoaf’s new committee assignment has landed him in chairmanship roles for higher education appropriation, which includes chairing a position for PECO funding for all the schools in the state of Florida <u>HOUSE BILL I:</u> Superintendent Norton and district staff enlightened board members as to the concerns of superintendents and administrators throughout the state regarding the possible implications and ramifications of House Bill I as it stands today. The consensus seems to be that it will not affect Gulf and other small districts quite as harshly as it will the bigger districts, but it will be challenging, and is expected to garner multiple amendments. Passage of the bill could put school districts in a state of financial instability and unpredictability when it comes to forecasting and budgeting. Superintendent Norton and Finance Director Clark encouraged board members to focus on terms such as <i>flexibility</i> and <i>elimination of categoricals</i> when they have discussion with Representative Shoaf and others in Tallahassee. In closing, Superintendent Norton encouraged board member to attend the upcoming <i>Days in the Legislature</i> in Tallahassee and reach out to Representative Shoaf during their visit. Mr. Wooten also encouraged his fellow board members to talk with the constituents in their district to determine their feelings on the subjects discussed in the workshop, and to gather feedback as they prepare to reach out to Representative Shoaf and other members of the Legislature.
III.	<u>ADJOURNMENT:</u> Chairman Knox adjourned the workshop at 9:22.