

# GULF COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

Tuesday, November 7, 2023

The Gulf County School Board held a special workshop (9:00) and their annual organizational meeting (10:00) Tuesday, November 7, 2023, at their Administrative Office in Port St. Joe. Superintendent Norton, Attorney Costin, and the following Board Members were present: Chairman Ruby Knox, Cindy Belin, and Marvin Davis, and Denny McGlon. Mr. Wooten was out of town but listened in via cell phone.

**WORKSHOP AGENDA:** The board discussed the cell phone policy and reviewed the November 7 agenda packet.

## BOARD MEETING:

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

**II. ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING:** Superintendent Norton presided over the election of officers. **(SM:23/24:065)**

- A. **Election of Chairman:** On motion by Mr. McGlon and seconded by Mrs. Belin the board unanimously approved Mrs. Knox to serve as board chairman for the next year, and
- B. **Election of Vice-Chairman:** On motion by Mr. McGlon and seconded by Mr. Davis the board unanimously approved Mr. Wooten to serve as vice-chairman for the next year.
- C. On motion by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mrs. Belin the board unanimously approved the 2023-2024 School Board Meeting Dates.
- D. On motion by Mrs. Belin and seconded by Mr. Davis the board unanimously approved board members' anticipated travel expenses for board-related meetings, functions, trainings, and conferences.

**III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:** On motion by Mr. McGlon and seconded by Mr. Davis the board unanimously approved the amended agenda to include the addition of pages 4.01, 4.02, 5.01, 5.02, 6.01, and 12.

**IV. STUDENT RECOGNITION:** The board recognized the following students for achieving a *Perfect Score* on their state tests as follows: **PSJE:** Bronson Copeland (Math and Reading); **PSJH:** Leielle Rivera (Civics); **WES:** Tanner Pippin (ELA Reading); **WHS:** Andrew Rutter (Science); Emily Powell (Geometry)

**V. PUBLIC HEARING ON ADVERTISED POLICY CHANGES:** No one from the public was present.

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

**VII. CONSENT MATTERS:** On motion by Mr. McGlon and seconded by Mr. Davis the board voted unanimously to take the following action:

- Approved the October 19 Minutes, and **(SM:23/24: 066)**
- Approved Budget Matters & Payment of Bills, including Internal Audit for SY ended 06/30/23, and **(SM:23/24: 067, 067-A)**

**PERSONNEL: (SM:23/24: 068)**

- Approved Dianne Hicks letter of intent to enter DROP December 1, 2023, with an anticipated retirement date of November 30, 2031. She has requested Option 1 for terminal pay for all accrued leave.
- Approved Maggie Strickland for the WHS ELA position effective November 27, 2023, and
- Approved Kirstin Shelby Armstrong for a bus driver position (*Wewa area*) effective November 16, 2023, and
- Approved Reginald Larry for the PSJHS Girls' JV Head Coach position (*replacing Kedrick Larry*), and
- Approved Ashley Forehand for the WHS SGA Sponsor position (*replacing Debra Ake*), and
- Approved the K-5 Reading Tutoring personnel, and
- Approved the following substitute teacher applicants: Anita Cox, Paul Jernigan, Georgia Lee, and Alexis Roland.

**OUT-OF-TOWN TRAVEL: (SM:23/24:069)**

- Approved the following out-of-state travel dates for the WHS Lady Gator Wrestling Team: December 2 (Brewton, AL); December 15-15 (Enterprise, AL); December 28-30 (Hoover, AL).

**VIII. PROGRAM MATTERS:** On motion by Mrs. Belin and seconded by Mr. McGlon the board voted unanimously to take the following action:

- Approved the following advertised Policy Updates: 2.90, 3.19, 3.40, 3.80, 4.21, 4.22, 4.24, 4.25, 5.18, 5.32, 5.62 Option 1, 5.70, 5.87, 6.29, 6.531, 7.77, and 8.16. **(SM:23/24:070)**
- Approved advertisement of the following policy updates: 5.87 (cell phones), and 7.85, and **(SM:23/24:071)**
- Approved the Reading Endorsement Matrix (PAEC), and **(SM:23/24:072)**
- Approved the School Improvement Plans, and **(SM:23/24:073)**
- Approved the Employee Insurance Renewal proposal, and **(SM:23/24:074)**
- Approved the Gulf District Schools *Family Reunification Plan* (not available to the public). **(SM:23/24:075)**

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<b>IX.</b>	<b>UPDATE – CRA:</b> No further updates at this point.
<b>X.</b>	<b>SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:</b>
<b>XI.</b>	<b>BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:</b>
<b>XII.</b>	<b>ADJOURNMENT:</b> Chairman Knox adjourned the meeting at 10:41.

### Student Expulsion Hearing(s)

The Gulf County School Board reconvened at 1:00 for the purpose of conducting an Expulsion Hearing of a Port St. Joe High School student (A. N.) for allegedly posting a bomb threat against PSJ Elementary a TikTok account.

Per parent request, the hearing was open to the public rather than conducted in a closed-door Executive Session. The hearing ended at approximately 4:15 EST. Attorneys for both sides will submit their closing arguments in writing to Attorney Costin by November 30.


The Gulf County School Board will render their decision at the December 5 board meeting.

**Approved on**

DEC 5 2023

by Gulf County  
School Board

  
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Jim Norton, Superintendent

  
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Ruby Knox, Chairman