

GULF COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

Tuesday, November 19, 2024

The Gulf County School Board held its annual Organizational Meeting Tuesday, November 19, 2024, at 9:30 (Agenda-Review Workshop) and 10:00 (School Board Meeting) at their Administrative Office in Port St. Joe. Superintendent Norton, Attorney Costin, and the following Board Members were present: Ruby Knox and Denny McGlone. Incoming board members Equillar Gainer and Matt Terry were present and officially sworn in during the Organizational portion of the meeting. Mr. Wooten was unable to attend due to a work-related appointment out of town, however, he listened to the proceedings via cell phone.

WORKSHOP AGENDA: The board reviewed the November 19 agenda packet.

BOARD MEETING:

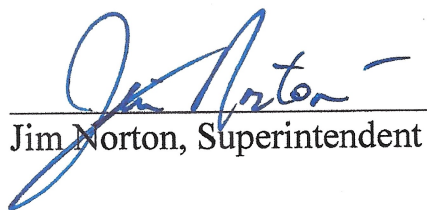
- I. CALL TO ORDER:** Superintendent Norton called the meeting to order at 10:00, and then invited Fourteenth Judicial Circuit Court Judge Devin Collier to come forward to the podium to swear-in newly elected board members Equillar Gant and Matt Terry. Judge Collier also swore Superintendent Norton in for his fifth term.
- II. ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING:** Mr. Norton opened the floor for nominations for Board Chair and Vice-Chair.
- A. Election of Chairman: On motion by Mr. McGlone and seconded by Mrs. Knox the board unanimously elected Mr. Wooten to serve as Gulf County School Board Chair for the upcoming year.
 - B. Election of Vice-Chairman: On motion by Mr. Terry and seconded by Mrs. Gainer the board unanimously elected Mrs. Knox to serve as Gulf County School Board Vice-Chair for the upcoming year.
- In Mr. Wooten's absence, Mrs. Knox assumed the gavel to chair the remainder of the meeting.
- On motion by Mr. McGlone and seconded by Mr. Terry the board unanimously approved **(SM: 24/25 – 055)**
 - C. School Board Meeting Dates, and
 - D. Board Members' anticipated travel expenses for board-related meetings, functions, training, and conferences.
- III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:** On motion by Mr. Terry and seconded by Mrs. Gainer the board unanimously approved the amended agenda to include the addition of pages 2, 2.01, 5.05, 6.01, 6.02, 8.01-8.01B, 9.03, 10.02, 13A, 18-18.12, and the replacement of pages A and B.
- IV. HEAR FROM THE PUBLIC:** None.
- V. CONSENT MATTERS:** On motion by Mr. McGlone and seconded by Mr. Terry the board voted unanimously to take the following action:
- Approved the October 1, 2024, Minutes, and **(SM: 24/25 –056)** **(SM: 24/25 –057) ↓**
 - Approved Budget Matters and Payment of Bills, including closure of the school food service account at Capital City, and
 - Declared the following item(s) surplus, subsequently approving removal from inventory records, and disposal of item(s) according to board policy: Maintenance: Reel Master, 2 Lawnmowers, OIS: Sony Video Conf Box, HP Printer, Canon Scanner, District License, District: Focus Software Lease, Copier, TouchSmart, Transportation: Honda Van, Bus, Wewahitchka High School: 3 Copiers, 5 Touch Panels, CISCO Switch. **(SM: 24/25 –058)**
- PERSONNEL:** **(SM: 24/25 –059)**
- Approved Ashley Forehand's resignation effective January 6, 2025, and
 - Approved Linda Horne's retirement letter effective December 20, 2024, and
 - Approved Marilyn Causey's letter of intent to enter DROP November 1, 2025, with an anticipated retirement date of October 31, 2033, and selection of Option 2 for terminal pay for all accrued leave.
 - Approved Rylee Scott's request for maternity leave beginning approximately the end of March 25 through the remainder of the school year, with the intention of returning to school for the 2025-2026 school year.
 - Approved Karen Lankford's letter of intent to enter DROP October 1, 2025, with an anticipated retirement date of September 30, 2033, and selection of Option 2 for terminal pay for all accrued leave.
 - Acknowledged Sherry Whitfield's letter declining the bus driving job she was recently approved for, and
 - Approved extending Jay Bidwell's DROP participation for the 2025-2026 school year, and
 - Approved Tony Price for the Maintenance Director position effective January 3, 2025, and
 - Approved Jessica Ammons for the PSJHS 8th Grade ELA Teaching position, and
 - Approved Richard Jones for the bus mechanic position, and
 - Approved William Van Der Tulip for the PSJE School Food Service position, and

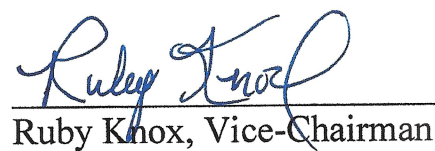
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- Approved Out-of-Field Teachers for 1st Semester in the following departments/sites: Gulf Academy, WHS, ESOL, Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), PK Disabilities, Gifted Endorsed.
 - Approved list of teachers/staff out of compliance in ESOL training, and
 - Approved 2024 Winter Sports Supplements, and
 - Approved Paul Hand, Jr., for the WHS Basketball Coach position, and
 - Approved Anne Derry for the 2024-2025 OM Coach for WHS, and
 - Approved buying Eric Bidwell's planning period as he assists with ESE staffing needs, and
 - Approved buying Lana Harrison's planning period for school year 2024-2025, and
 - Approved Bobby Jo Hanson as a School Food Service (SFS) substitute, and
 - Approved the list of Substitute Teacher Applicants, pending completion of all pre-employment requirements, and
 - Approved 2024-2025 Administrative Staff and Administrative Assistants for Special Services, and
 - Approved Salaries of Elected County Constitutional Officers and School Board Members for 2024-2025, and
- OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL: (SM: 24/25 -060)**
- Approved the WHS Wrestling Team's travel to Toombs County, GA, January 24-25, 2025, and
 - Approved the WHS Band to travel to Troy, AL, February 6-8, 2025, for Troy University Honor Band.
 - Approved the Gulf District School's Insurance Committee Recommendations, and
 - Approved the MOU with the Gulf County Education Association (Union) agreeing to the District's \$50 contribution increase per month toward the employee insurance, bringing the total to \$850 per employee per month.

- VI. PROGRAM MATTERS:** On motion by Mr. Terry and seconded by Mr. McGlon the board voted unanimously to take the following action:
- Approved the Insurance Committee Recommendations, and (SM: 24/25 -061)
 - Approved the MOU with GCEA (Union) for Health Insurance, reflecting a \$50 per month increase, bringing the District's total monthly contribution toward employee insurance to \$850, and (SM: 24/25 -062)
 - Approved Cornerstone Technologies for Pickup / Recycling of old technology equipment, and (SM: 24/25 -063)
 - Acknowledge Receipt of Internal Accounts Audit for FYE June 30, 2024, and (SM: 24/25 -064)
 - Acknowledgement of Receipt of Operational Audit for FYE June 30, 2024, and (SM: 24/25 -065)
 - Authorized Josh Dailey to pursue options for School Food Service, and to schedule a site visit to a district similar in size which contracts with an outside entity for school food service. These options are being considered to address the continuing deficit in the school food service program, as repeatedly reflected in the District's annual audits. (SM: 24/25 -066)
 - Approved the District's 5-Year Work Plan. (SM: 24/25 -067)
- VII. SCHOOL SAFETY & SECURITY MATTERS:** Mr. Hoover encouraged viewers to watch the *Fortify Florida* video which will be attached to today's meeting minutes when they are posted on the district website.
- VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**
- IX. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:**
- X. ADJOURNMENT:** Mrs. Knox adjourned the meeting at 11:08.


Jim Norton, Superintendent


Ruby Knox, Vice-Chairman