

**WILLOWS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Regular Meeting – February 5, 2026**

**Regular Session 7:00 p.m.**

**Willows City Council Chambers**

**201 N. Lassen Street, Willows, CA 95988**

**MINUTES**

1. **OPEN SESSION – CALL TO ORDER**

1.1 Roll Call – President Jeromy Geiger called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present were Jeromy Geiger, Kirsten Gray, Lourdes Ruiz, Jered Shipley, and Gina Taylor.

1.2 Welcome to Visitors

1.3 Flag Salute was led by Ashlynn Garcia.

2. **AGENDA/MINUTES**

2.1 Approve the Agenda for February 5, 2026.

Lourdes Ruiz moved, seconded by Kirsten Gray to approve the Agenda for February 5, 2026.

**AYES: Geiger, Gray, Ruiz, Shipley, Taylor**

**NOES: None**

**MOTION PASSED: 5-0**

2.2 Approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of January 6, 2026.

Jeromy Geiger moved, seconded by Lourdes Ruiz to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of January 6, 2026.

**AYES: Geiger, Gray, Ruiz, Shipley, Taylor**

**NOES: None**

**MOTION PASSED: 5-0**

2.3 Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 8, 2026.

Kirsten Gray moved, seconded by Gina Taylor to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 8, 2026.

**AYES: Geiger, Gray, Ruiz, Shipley, Taylor**

**NOES: None**

**MOTION PASSED: 5-0**

3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** - None

4. **REPORTS**

4.1 **Associated Student Body President – Senior Class President Bailey Lerstang reported:**

- Winter Homecoming activities were successful.
- WHS hosted a CTE pathway day where 8<sup>th</sup> grade students from WIS and Walden were provided a tour and were able to learn about pathways the school has to offer.
- Upcoming events include a movie night and prom.

4.2 **Employee Associations (WUTA & CSEA)**

**WUTA – Representative Ashlynn Garcia reported:**

- WUTA formally demands to bargain over the proposed schedule change and requests that the District pause action and engage in the legally required bargaining process before any implementation occurs.

**CSEA – No report.**

4.3 **Principals**

**Willows Community High School Principal – Emmett Koerperich:**

- Emmett provided a follow-up report to the Board.

**Willows High School Principal – Chris Harris:**

- Chris provided a follow-up report to the Board.

**Willows Intermediate School Principal – Durell Siplin:**

- Durell provided a follow-up report to the Board.

- Durell answered follow-up questions from the Board.
- Murdock Elementary School Principal – Stacy Lanzi:**
- Stacy provided a follow-up report to the Board.
- 4.4 Director of Food Services – Mike Bottarini:**
- Mike provided a follow-up report to the Board.
  - Jeromy Geiger asked about the possibility of a second chance breakfast at Murdock. Mike responded saying that yes, he is going to partner with Stacy Lanzi on this.
- 4.5 Director of Business Services – Diana Baca:**
- Diana provided a follow-up report to the Board.
  - Gina Taylor asked about the construction audit plan since there are access issues. Diana explained that the county has to work with the system’s owner to recover the system and gain access. Diana reviewed some of the other implications from the access issue.
- 4.6 Director of Community Schools – Julie Carriere:** No report.
- 4.7 Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment: Michelle O’Dell:**
- Michelle provided a follow-up report to the Board.
- 4.8 Superintendent – Emmett Koerperich:**
- Click [here](#) for report that Emmett provided to the Board.
- 4.9 Board of Education Members**
- Kirsten Gray reported:**
- Toured the Ag facility and was impressed with students actively cleaning and working hands-on with their animals.
  - Participated in Head Football Coach interviews and noted that there was a strong pool of applicants with a tough decision to make but appreciated the collaborative interview process.
- Lourdes Ruiz reported:**
- Extended appreciation to School Counselors.
  - Gave a shout-out to Murdock for hosting the Father/Daughter Dance and enjoyed seeing pictures from the event.
  - Attended a soccer game where there was an injury that was handled professionally with Administrators present and the situation well managed.
- Jered Shipley reported:**
- Encouraged everyone to visit the mural at WIS.
- Gina Taylor:** No report.
- Jeromy Geiger:** No report.

**5. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**A. GENERAL**

1. Accept donation from Ed and Linda Zuckerman for \$1,000.00 for the WHS Wrestling Program.
2. Accept donation from Gandy & Staley Oil Company for \$500.00 the WHS Baseball Program.
3. Approve the Damaged Class Novels List from Willows Intermediate School.
4. Approve the WUSD Obsolete Technology Equipment List.

**B. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**

1. Approve Interdistrict Requests for Students #25-26-62 through #25-26-63 to attend school in the Willows Unified School District for the 2025/26 school year.
2. Approve Interdistrict Requests for Students #26-27-03 through #26-27-07 to attend school in the Willows Unified School District for the 2026/27 school year.
3. Approve the Overnight Field Trip Request for WHS FFA to attend an Ag Sales competition at Reedly Community College in Reedley, CA from March 6-7, 2026.
4. Approve the Overnight Field Trip Request for WHS Softball Team to attend softball games in Arcata and Fortuna, CA from March 12-14, 2026.
5. Approve the Overnight Field Trip Request for WHS FFA to attend State FFA Conference in Anaheim and Ontario, CA from March 19-24, 2026.
6. Approve the Overnight Field Trip Request for WHS FFA to attend FFA State Finals at California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo, CA from April 30-May 2, 2026.
7. Approve the Spring 2026 Butte College Concurrent (Non-CCAP) Enrollment for WHS students.
8. Approve the 2025-26 Consolidated Application and Reporting System (CARS) Winter Collection.

**C. HUMAN RESOURCES**

1. Accept the resignation of Dwight Hendrix Jr., Head Varsity Football Coach, effective 10/21/25.
2. Accept the resignation of William Weller, Head Golf Coach, effective 1/12/26.
3. Accept the resignation of Tyler Lombard, WHS Emergency Response Teacher, effective 6/5/26.
4. Accept the retirement of Diana Baca, Director of Business Services, effective 10/31/26.
5. Approve the employment of Trina Massey, Yard Duty Supervisor/Crossing Guard at MES, effective 1/20/26 (pending clearance).
6. Approve the following WHS Spring Sports Coaches for the 2025/26 school year:
 

Baseball Volunteer Coach	Seth Ramsey
Baseball Volunteer Coach	Manuel Rakestraw
Softball Volunteer Coach	Audra Vessels (pending clearance)
Track Volunteer Coach	Paul Manuel
7. Approve the Classified Substitute List.

**D. BUSINESS SERVICES**

1. Approve warrants from 1/6/26 through 2/2/26.
2. Approve ASB Quarterly Reports – MES/WIS/WHs.

Gina Taylor questioned a name she didn’t recognize on one of the Overnight Field Trip Request forms. Chris Harris confirmed the identity of the chaperone.

Lourdes Ruiz moved, seconded by Kirsten Gray to approve the Consent Calendar.

**AYES: Geiger, Gray, Ruiz, Shipley, Taylor**

**NOES: None**

**MOTION PASSED: 5-0**

**6. DISCUSSION/ACTION CALENDAR**

**A. GENERAL**

1. **(Information)** First Reading of the following additions/deletions/changes to Board Policies per CSBA’s Policy Guide Sheet Recommendations:

BP 3515	Campus Security
BP 3515.4	Recovery for Property Loss or Damage
BP 5113	Absences and Excuses
BP 5113.12	District School Attendance Review Board
BP 5113.2	Work Permits
BP 5141	Health Care and Emergencies
BP 5141.4	Child Abuse Prevention and Reporting
BP 5142	Safety
BP 6141.4	International Baccalaureate Program
BP 6178.1	Work-Based Learning
BB 9005	Governance Standards

2. **(Action)** First Reading of the following additions/deletions/changes to Board Policies per CSBA’s Policy Guide Sheet Recommendations:

BP 1445	Response to Immigration Enforcement
BP 5145.13	Response to Immigration Enforcement

Jeromy Geiger explained that the reason this First Reading is an action item is due to recent changes to California State Law and CSBA time constraints.

Lourdes Ruiz moved, seconded by Gina Taylor to approve the First Reading of the following additions/deletions/changes to Board Policies per CSBA’s Policy Guide Sheet Recommendations.

**AYES: Geiger, Gray, Ruiz, Shipley, Taylor**

**NOES: None**

**MOTION PASSED: 5-0**

3. **(Action)** Second Reading of the following additions/deletions/changes to Board Policies per CSBA’s Policy Guide Sheet Recommendations:

BP 0420.4	Charter School Authorization
BP 1000	Concepts and Roles

BP 1114	District-Sponsored Social Media
BP 2120	Superintendent Recruitment and Selection
BP 3470	Debt Issuance and Management
BP 4000	Concepts and Roles
BP 5000	Concepts and Roles
BP 5020	Parent Rights and Responsibilities
BP 5117	Interdistrict Attendance
BP 5138	Conflict Resolution/Peer Mediation
BP 6020	Parent Involvement
BP 6143	Courses of Study
BP 6146.2	Certificate of Proficiency/High School Equivalency
BP 7000	Concepts and Roles
BP 7131	Relations with Local Agencies
BB 9310	Board Policies
BB 9321	Closed Session

Jeromy Geiger moved, seconded by Lourdes Ruiz to approve the Second Reading of the following additions/deletions/changes to Board Policies per CSBA’s Policy Guide Sheet Recommendations.

**AYES: Geiger, Gray, Ruiz, Shipley, Taylor**

**NOES: None**

**MOTION PASSED: 5-0**

4. **(Action)** Approve the Certificated/Student Calendar for the 2026/27 school year.  
Gina Taylor questioned the day off in March. Michelle O’Dell explained that it is the day after the Easter holiday.

Lourdes Ruiz moved, seconded by Kirsten Gray to approve the Certificated/Student Calendar for the 2026/27 school year.

**AYES: Geiger, Gray, Ruiz, Shipley, Taylor**

**NOES: None**

**MOTION PASSED: 5-0**

5. **(Action)** Vote for the 2026 CSBA Delegate Assembly candidate to be submitted to CSBA on or before March 16, 2026.

Jeromy Geiger questioned this item. Shelby Jones explained that this has been an agenda item in the past.

Gina Taylor moved, seconded by Lourdes Ruiz to vote for the 2026 CSBA Delegate Assembly candidate to be submitted to CSBA on or before March 16, 2026.

**AYES: Geiger, Gray, Ruiz, Shipley, Taylor**

**NOES: None**

**MOTION PASSED: 5-0**

**B. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**

1. **(Information)** Annual Mid-Year LCAP Report for the 2025-26 LCAP.
2. **(Information)** Proposed restructuring of the WCHS day and program.

Bibiana McNeil presented the proposed restructuring of the WCHS day and program.

Click [here](#) for handout given to the Board.

Click [here](#) for the presentation given to the Board.

There was back and forth discussion between the Board Members and Bibiana including what the preferences are of the WCHS students and accountability.

3. **(Action)** Proposal to adopt a seven-period day at WHS beginning with the 2026/27 school year.

Click [here](#) for the handout given to the Board.

Chris Harris spoke on the proposal and the reasons behind wanting to adopt a seven-period day at WHS. There was back and forth discussion between the Board Members and Chris. There were multiple topics covered including supporting students, staff, and administrators while fostering an inclusive collaborative culture, students involved in activities and being able to see the teachers more regularly with the proposed schedule, the increase in instructional minutes, the opportunity for students to catch up if absent, concern about impacts on CTE and labs, and the suggestion to involve the unions in these discussions as this is a change in the working environment. Sherry Brott, WHS Librarian, shared her perspective about how shorter periods will keep students engaged and reduce boredom and cheating. Jeromy Geiger asked Emmett Koerperich to arrange a meeting with WUTA President, Cathryn Fleming.

There were multiple topics covered including supporting students, staff, and administrators while fostering an inclusive collaborative culture, students involved in activities and being able to see the teachers more regularly with the proposed schedule, the increase in instructional minutes, the opportunity for students to catch up if absent, concern about impacts on CTE and labs, and the suggestion to involve the unions in these discussions as this is a change in the working environment. Sherry Brott, WHS Librarian, shared her perspective about how shorter periods will keep students engaged and reduce boredom and cheating. Jeromy Geiger asked Emmett Koerperich to arrange a meeting with WUTA President, Cathryn Fleming.

Gina Taylor moved, seconded by Lourdes Ruiz to approve the proposal to adopt a seven-period day at WHS beginning with the 2026/27 school year.

**AYES: Geiger, Gray, Ruiz, Shipley, Taylor**

**NOES: None**

**MOTION PASSED: 5-0**

**C. HUMAN RESOURCES**

1. **Public Hearing:** In accordance with Government Code §3547, a Public Hearing will be held at this time to allow for public input regarding the Initial Proposal from the California School Employees Association #119 (CSEA) to the Willows Unified School District (WUSD).

Jeromy Geiger opened the Public Hearing at 7:54 p.m.

No comments.

Jeromy Geiger closed the Public Hearing at 7:55 p.m.

2. **Public Hearing:** In accordance with Government Code §3547, a Public Hearing will be held at this time to allow for public input regarding the Initial Proposal from the Willows Unified School District (WUSD) to the California School Employees Association #119 (CSEA).

Jeromy Geiger opened the Public Hearing at 7:55 p.m.

No comments.

Jeromy Geiger closed the Public Hearing at 7:56 p.m.

3. **(Action)** Approve the Initial Proposal from the Willows Unified School District to the California School Employees Association #119 (CSEA).

Jeromy Geiger moved, seconded by Gina Taylor to approve the Initial Proposal from the Willows Unified School District to the California School Employees Association #119 (CSEA).

**AYES: Geiger, Gray, Ruiz, Shipley, Taylor**

**NOES: None**

**MOTION PASSED: 5-0**

4. **(Discussion/Possible Action)** Commencement of Required Salary Reopener Negotiations – Article 28 (2025-26).

Emmett Koerperich elaborated on this item, explaining that this is something that was negotiated last time and is in the contract already so they are just bringing awareness to the Board.

Jeromy Geiger moved, seconded by Gina Taylor to approve the Commencement of Required Salary Reopener Negotiations – Article 28 (2025-26).

**AYES: Geiger, Gray, Ruiz, Shipley, Taylor**

**NOES: None**

**MOTION PASSED: 5-0**

**D. BUSINESS SERVICES**

1. **(Information)** Presentation from Eastshore Consulting on General Obligation (GO) Bond Refunding. Shin Green presented. Discussion ensued.

2. **(Action)** Approve additional HVAC units for WHS.

Jeromy Geiger pointed out that the original plan has shifted because one unit is not enough.

Jeromy Geiger moved, seconded by Gina Taylor to approve additional HVAC units for WHS.

**AYES: Geiger, Gray, Ruiz, Shipley, Taylor**

**NOES: None**

**MOTION PASSED: 5-0**

7. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

7.1 There will be a district-wide break from February 16-20, 2026.

7.2 The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on March 5, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at the Willows Civic Center.

8. **PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING CLOSED SESSION ITEMS** – None

At 8:24 p.m., the Board took a short recess after the Regular Meeting before going into Closed Session. Jeromy Geiger will report out into Open Session upon conclusion of Closed Session.

9. **CLOSED SESSION**

Closed session began at 8:35 p.m.

9.1 Pursuant to Government Code §54957, Personnel Issue. To consider public employee, evaluation, reassignment, resignation, release, dismissal, or discipline of a classified and/or certificated employee.

9.2 Pursuant to Government Code §54957.6: Labor Negotiations. To confer with the District’s Labor Negotiator, Superintendent Emmett Koerperich regarding Employee Organizations: WUTA, CSEA, Management, and Confidential.

10. **RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION**

10.1 Announcement of Action Taken in Closed Session.

At 10:01 p.m., the meeting reconvened to Open Session. Jeromy Geiger reported:

9.1 Update given to the Board.

9.2 Update given to the Board.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 10:02 p.m.