

WILLOWS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Regular Meeting – January 8, 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. All Members were present.
- 1.2 Welcome to Visitors
- 1.3 Flag Salute was led by Stacy Lanzi.

2. AGENDA/MINUTES

- 2.1 Approve the Agenda for January 8, 2026.
Jeromy Geiger requested to amend 6.B.1. to remove “WCHS” from the Graduation Requirements Adjustment.

Gina Taylor moved, seconded by Kirsten Gray to approve the Agenda as amended for January 8, 2026.

AYES: Geiger, Gray, Ruiz, Taylor, Shipley

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION PASSED: 5-0

- 2.2 Approve the Minutes of the Regular & Organizational Meeting of December 4, 2025.
Kirsten Gray moved, seconded by Jeromy Geiger to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 4, 2025.

AYES: Geiger, Gray, Ruiz, Taylor, Shipley

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION PASSED: 5-0

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

4. REPORTS

4.1 Associated Student Body President – Rally Chairman Randy Forbes reported:

- Reflected on the first semester and how ASB made a positive impact on school culture.
- Preparations are underway for the upcoming homecoming festivities, with spirit days and the dance discussed.
- ASB continues to send personalized birthday cards to students to spread positivity and school spirit.
- A pathway hosting opportunity for 8th graders noted.

4.2 Employee Associations (WUTA & CSEA)

WUTA – President Cathryn Fleming reported:

- WUTA members collected sufficient funds to provide dinners for families in need over the holidays.
- Discussed potential impact if Prop 55 funding is not extended and announced an upcoming petition for signatures.

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.
- Gina Taylor asked whether additional information is provided for overnight field trips beyond what is included on the standard forms, expressing concerns about student safety. It was clarified that additional information is provided and that a protocol is under development at the District Office.

An Equal Opportunity Employer

Willows Intermediate School Principal – Durell Siplin:

- Durell provided a follow-up report to the Board.
- Gina Taylor thanked him for going above and beyond with hosting the basketball tournament.

Murdock Elementary School Principal – Stacy Lanzi:

- Stacy provided a follow-up report to the Board.
- Lourdes Ruiz asked about the collaboration with NVIH. Stacy discussed partnering with Laura Nelson, Murdock's onsite Clinician, data tracking for students who are receiving behavior and SEL intervention, reviewing student progress bi-monthly with NVIH, and the benefit of Feather Friends.

4.4 Director of Food Services – Mike Bottarini:

- Emmett Koerperich presented the Director of Food Services report in Mike's absence. Click [here](#) for the report.

4.5 Director of Business Services – Diana Baca:

- No additional comments added to the written report.

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:**

- Wished everyone a great break.
- Gave a shout-out to students and families for participating in December community festivities.
- Congratulated and welcomed the new Board Member.

Lourdes Ruiz reported:

- Welcomed everyone back from break.
- Shared that she attended the New Year's basketball tournament and appreciated the strong attendance and support.
- Welcomed Jered.

Jered Shipley reported:

- Introduced himself.
- Expressed appreciation for the support and shared excitement about joining the Board.
- Stated his intent to listen and learn.
- Noted that he was impressed by the energy and collaboration of students and staff during his site visits.

Gina Taylor reported:

- Apologized for missing the December board meeting.
- Welcomed Jered.
- Wished everyone a happy New Year.

Jeromy Geiger reported:

- Expressed gratitude that all staff returned safely from break.
- Encouraged continued momentum.
- Welcomed Jered.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR**A. GENERAL**

1. Approve the WUSD Obsolete Wood Shop Equipment List.
2. Approve the WUSD Surplus WHS CTE Kitchen Equipment List.
3. Approve the Murdock Elementary School PTO Father Daughter Dance on January 23, 2026.

B. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

1. Approve Interdistrict Request for Students #25-26-52 through #25-26-61 to attend school in the Willows Unified School District for the 2025/26 school year.
2. Approve Interdistrict Request for Students #26-27-01 through #26-27-02 to attend school in the Willows Unified School District for the 2026/27 school year.

3. Approve the Overnight Field Trip Request for WHS Wrestling Team to attend a wrestling tournament at Yreka High School in Yreka, CA, January 9-10, 2026.
4. Approve the Overnight Field Trip Request for WHS Wrestling Team to attend a wrestling tournament at El Camino High School in San Francisco, CA, January 30-31, 2026.
5. Approve the School Accountability Report Cards (SARCs) for all schools: Murdock Elementary, Willows Intermediate, Willows High School, and Willows Community High.

C. HUMAN RESOURCES

1. Approve prep period buyout of Maria Briones (ELD) at WHS for the 2nd semester of the 2025/26 school year.
2. Approve employment of Krystal Fields, Passenger Van Driver, effective 12/15/25.
3. Approve employment of Kristine Scalvini, After School Program Activity Assistant, effective 12/15/25.
4. Approve employment of Betsy Cobarrubias, Bilingual Community Outreach Liaison, effective 1/5/26.
5. Approve employment of Cindy Espino Fernandez, effective 1/6/26 (pending clearance).
6. Approve employment of the following employees for the Temporary ELO-P Intersession Camp that will run from December 22-23, 2025:

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Engagement Staff | Jazmyn Hernandez |
| Engagement Staff | Gene Smith |
| Engagement Staff | Gloria Barragon |
| Engagement Staff | Jayden Coleman |
| Engagement Staff | Karlee Lavalle |
| Food Service Assistant | Ma Rocio Vazquez Guerrero |
| Cook | Sarah Hill |
7. Approve the following Certificated Extra Duty:
Temporary Grant Funded Wellness Coach Supervisor, effective 12/1/2025:
Xochitl Rodriguez (WIS)
8. Approve Classified Sub List.

D. BUSINESS SERVICES

1. Approve warrants from 11/27/25 through 1/5/26.

Gina Taylor moved, seconded by Lourdes Ruiz to approve the Consent Calendar.

AYES: Geiger, Gray, Ruiz, Taylor

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: Shipley

ABSENT: None

MOTION PASSED: 4-0-1

6. DISCUSSION/ACTION CALENDAR**A. GENERAL**

1. **(Information)** Williams Uniform Complaints Quarterly Report. (There were no complaints.)
2. **(Information)** First 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 |

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

| | |
|-----------|---|
| BP 6141.2 | Recognition of Religious Beliefs And Customs |
| BP 6142.1 | Sexual Health And HIV/AIDS Prevention Instruction |
| BP 6142.8 | Comprehensive Health Education |

Lourdes Ruiz moved, seconded by Gina Taylor 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, Taylor, Shipley

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION PASSED: 5-0

4. **(Action)** Approve the 2025/26 Comprehensive School Safety Plan.

Lourdes Ruiz moved, seconded by Jeromy Geiger to approve the 2025/26 Comprehensive School Safety Plan.

AYES: Geiger, Gray, Ruiz, Taylor, Shipley

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION PASSED: 5-0

B. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

1. **(Discussion)** WHS Graduation Requirements Adjustment.

Willows High School Principal, Chris Harris, proposed an adjustment to the graduation requirements.

Click [here](#) for the handout given to the Board. There was back and forth discussion between the Board Members and Chris over key topics such as changes to graduation requirements and alignment with the bell schedule, how the change would affect CTE pathways and electives, as well as use of teacher prep periods.

C. HUMAN RESOURCES

1. **(Action)** Approve Letter of Agreement between Willows Unified School District and California School Employees Association (CSEA) Willows Chapter No. 119 for a School Bus Driver Recruitment Incentive and Annual Compensation Plan.

Jeromy Geiger moved, seconded by Gina Taylor to approve Letter of Agreement between Willows Unified School District and California School Employees Association (CSEA) Willows Chapter No. 119 for a School Bus Driver Recruitment Incentive and Annual Compensation Plan.

AYES: Geiger, Gray, Ruiz, Taylor, Shipley

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION PASSED: 5-0

2. **(Action)** Approve Letter of Agreement between Willows Unified School District and California School Employees Association (CSEA) Willows Chapter No. 119 for Pay Adjustments for Passenger Van Driver Positions.

Lourdes Ruiz moved, seconded by Gina Taylor to approve Letter of Agreement between Willows Unified School District and California School Employees Association (CSEA) Willows Chapter No. 119 for Pay Adjustments for Passenger Van Driver Positions.

AYES: Geiger, Gray, Ruiz, Taylor, Shipley

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION PASSED: 5-0

D. BUSINESS SERVICES

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 7.1 Monday, January 19, 2026 is a district-wide holiday – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
- 7.2 Winter Homecoming is January 16, 2026.
- 7.3 The WHS Boosters Annual Fundraising Dinner will be held on Saturday, February 7, 2026.
- 7.4 The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on February 5, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the Willows Civic Center.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING CLOSED SESSION ITEMS – None

At 8:02 p.m., the Board took a short recess after the Regular Meeting before going into Closed Session. Jeremy Geiger will report out into Open Session upon conclusion of Closed Session.

9. CLOSED SESSION

Closed session began at 8:15 p.m.

- 9.1 Pursuant to Government Code §54957.6: Conference with Labor Negotiator – Agency Negotiator: Emmett Koerperich. Employee Organizations: WUTA, CSEA, Management, and Confidential.

10. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

10.1 Announcement of Action Taken in Closed Session.

At 9:10 p.m., the meeting reconvened to Open Session. Jeremy Geiger reported:

9.1 Update given to the Board.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.