

WILLOWS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Regular Meeting – November 6, 2025

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, Gina Taylor, and Margaret Parisio. Lourdes Ruiz was absent.

1.2 Welcome to Visitors

1.3 Flag Salute was led by Cathy Fleming.

2. AGENDA/MINUTES

2.1 Approve the Agenda for November 6, 2025.

Gina Taylor moved, seconded by Kirsten Gray to approve the agenda for November 6, 2025.

AYES: Geiger, Gray, Taylor, Parisio

NOES: None

ABSENT: Ruiz

MOTION PASSED: 4-0-1

2.2 Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 9, 2025.

Kirsten Gray moved, seconded by Gina Taylor to approve the minutes for October 9, 2025.

AYES: Geiger, Gray, Taylor, Parisio

NOES: None

ABSENT: Ruiz

MOTION PASSED: 4-0-1

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

4. REPORTS

4.1 Associated Student Body President – Vice President Logan Elliott reported:

- The main highlight of October was Homecoming, which brought the school community together for various events and celebrations.
- The theme for November is “30 Days of Thankful Honkers.” Each day, the school will share something the community is thankful for on social media.
- Each class is also leading a special November project which includes:
 - Hosting a Friendsgiving potluck
 - Partnering with Key Club for a canned food drive and meal baskets for local families
 - Creating a large thankful poster in the hallways for students to contribute to
 - Selling and delivering “Thankful Grams” to students and staff

4.2 Employee Associations (WUTA & CSEA)

WUTA – No report.

CSEA – President Kathleen Morrison reported:

- The last meeting was held on October 22, where officer nominations for 2026 began.
- The next meeting is November 19, and nominations will remain open.
- Officer voting will take place at the December meeting.
- A staff survey was conducted to prepare for agreement negotiations, and the team is currently developing the initial proposal. A meeting with the district is scheduled for February.
- Employment contracts were distributed on time.

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:

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- Chris provided a follow-up report to the Board.
- Gina Taylor asked him to expand on the CTE Advisory night.
 - The goal is to meet with industry partners to build community connection and ensure compliance.

Willows Intermediate School Principal – Durell Siplin:

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

Murdock Elementary School Principal – Stacy Lanzi:

- Stacy provided a handout to the board. Click [here](#) for the handout.
- Gina Taylor asked about the change with the English Learner progress from the past.
 - Stacy shared that the current process is completely different from what it has been in the past. She noted that Kate Niehues has taken strong leadership in this area, creating a highly rigorous classroom environment. Kate is effectively implementing the district's program, and the students are actively engaged. Stacy described the classroom atmosphere as amazing.

4.4 Director of Food Services – Mike Bottarini:

- No follow-up report.
- Jeromy Geiger asked about second chance breakfast at Murdock Elementary School.
 - Mike said it's not currently offered due to scheduling conflicts but is looking into options for the future.
- Mike shared his gratitude for his team, administration, and law enforcement presence from last Friday's events.
- Gina Taylor asked about taste testing turnaround time.
 - The goal is to implement it the next day or so and incorporate it into the following month's menu if there was positive feedback.

4.5 Director of Business Services – Diana Baca:

- No follow-up report.

4.6 Director of Community Schools – Julie Carriere: No report.

4.7 Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment – Michelle O'Dell:

- No follow-up report.
- Jeromy Geiger asked her to share a highlight.
 - Michelle was able to see a brief glimpse of the dashboard and saw that the College and Career index for the high school was in the blue and Chronic Attendance decreased.

4.8 Superintendent – Emmett Koerperich:

- Thanked all of the faculty and staff that showed up for work Friday to support our students through a very challenging day.
- Click [here](#) for report that Emmett provided to the Board.

4.9 Board of Education Members

Kirsten Gray reported:

- Gave a shoutout to Willows Community High School for their Halloween Carnival.
- Thanked faculty and staff for their professionalism and support towards law enforcement for the event that took place on Halloween.

Margaret Parisio reported:

- Thanked faculty, staff, and law enforcement for showing up on Halloween and being there to protect the kids.
- Gave a shoutout to the Ag Floral Department for their stunning October floral arrangement and the gorgeous arrangements they provided for Monica Throm's funeral.
- Gave a shoutout to WIS for their delicious teriyaki dinner night, specifically mentioning the egg rolls.

Gina Taylor reported:

- Thanked staff and community partners for their actions last Friday in regards to safety and working together.
- Glad to see so much school spirit throughout the sites.
- Gratifying to hear enthusiasm from leaders at the meeting and feels we have a strong team.

Jeromy Geiger reported:

- Thankful that there was quick action taken by the District and thanked the staff and kids for showing up to school despite last Friday's event.

- Complemented the Ag Floral Department for their floral arrangements.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. GENERAL

1. Approve the WUSD Obsolete Technology Equipment List.
2. Accept donation from Rosa Esparza for *My Story, My Big Adventure* books for Murdock Elementary School.

B. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

1. Approve Interdistrict Request for Student #25-26-49 to attend school in the Willows Unified School District for the 2025/26 school year.
2. Approve Interdistrict Request for Student #25-26-50 to attend school in another district for the 2025/26 school year.

C. HUMAN RESOURCES

1. Accept the resignation of Armando Montejano, Boys and Girls Tennis Head Coach at WHS, effective 10/27/25.
2. Accept the retirement of Jaime Thorpe, Bus Driver Lead, effective 11/30/25.
3. Approve prep period buyout of Maria Briones (ELD) at WHS for the remainder of the 1st semester of the 2025/26 school year.
4. Approve employment of the revised extra duty assignments at MES for the 2025/26 school year. (See attached list)
5. Approve employment of the revised extra duty assignments at WHS for the 2025/26 school year. (See attached list)
6. Approve the Classified Substitute List.
7. Approve the following 2025/26 Coaches:

Head Swim Coach	Jennifer Flowerdew
Boys' Basketball Varsity Head Coach	Rosendo Zepeda
Boys' Basketball JV Head Coach	Amanda Hutson
Boys' Basketball Volunteer Coach	Jeni Carriere-LaDuke
Girls' Basketball Varsity Head Coach	Rick Beatty
Girls' Basketball JV Head Coach	Samantha Paiz
Girls' Basketball Volunteer Coach	Jaime Hobbs
Girls' Basketball Volunteer Coach	Shilo Springstead
Wrestling Varsity Head Coach	Dominic Mercado
Wrestling Volunteer Coach	Wyatt Alpert
Wrestling Volunteer Coach	Luke Hernandez
Wrestling Volunteer Coach	Megan Courtney
Boys' Soccer Varsity Head Coach	Baduel Ramirez
Boys' Soccer Assistant Coach	Francisco Zarate
Girls' Soccer Varsity Head Coach	Martin Castillo
Girls' Soccer Volunteer Coach	Ricardo Ortega

8. Approve a General Education Limited Assignment Teaching Permit (GELAP) for Certificated Substitute, Evone LaCombe.

D. BUSINESS SERVICES

1. Approve warrants from 10/4/25 through 11/3/25.
2. Approve ASB Quarterly Reports – MES/WIS/WHs.

Jeromy Geiger moved, seconded by Gina Taylor to approve the Consent Calendar.

Gina Taylor confirmed with Chris Harris that the volunteer coaches are subject to the same training and background checks as paid coaches.

AYES: Geiger, Gray, Taylor, Parisio

NOES: None

ABSENT: Ruiz

MOTION PASSED: 4-0-1

6. DISCUSSION/ACTION CALENDAR

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A. GENERAL

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

BP 0410	Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities
BP 0440	District Technology Plan
BP 0441	Artificial Intelligence
BP 0450	Comprehensive Safety Plan
BP 1113	District and School Websites
BP 1312.3	Uniform Complaint Procedures
BP 4030	Nondiscrimination in Employment
BP 4033	Lactation Accommodation
BP 4112.9/4212.9/4312.9	Employee Notifications
BP 4119.11/4219.11/4319.11	Sexual Harassment
BP 5125.1	Release of Directory Information
BP 5145.3	Nondiscrimination/Harassment
BP 5145.6	Parent/Guardian Notifications
BP 5145.7	Sexual Harassment
BP 5146	Married/Pregnant/Parenting Students
BP 6142.91	Reading/Language Arts Instruction
BP 6145.2	Athletic Competition
BB 9011	Disclosure of Confidential/Privileged Information

2. **(Action)** Approve Resolution #25-26-06 Veterans Day Observance.
Gina Taylor moved, seconded by Jeromy Geiger to approve Resolution #25-26-06 Veterans Day Observance.
(Roll call vote was taken.)

AYES: Geiger, Gray, Taylor, Parisio

NOES: None

ABSENT: Ruiz

MOTION PASSED: 4-0-1

B. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

1. **(Action)** Approve the Memorandum of Understanding By and Between North State Together, participating community college districts, the Glenn County Office of Education, and Willows Unified School District.
Gina Taylor moved, seconded by Jeromy Geiger to approve the Memorandum of Understanding By and Between North State Together, participating community college districts, the Glenn County Office of Education, and Willows Unified School District.

AYES: Geiger, Gray, Taylor, Parisio

NOES: None

ABSENT: Ruiz

MOTION PASSED: 4-0-1

2. **(Action)** Adoption to WIS Novels List of *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*, by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer, *Breaking Through*, by Francisco Jimenez, *The Circuit: Stories from the Life of a Migrant Child*, by Francisco Jimenez, *White Bird*, by RJ Palacio.
Gina Taylor moved, seconded by Kirsten Gray to approve the adoption to WIS Novels List of *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*, by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer, *Breaking Through*, by Francisco Jimenez, *The Circuit: Stories from the Life of a Migrant Child*, by Francisco Jimenez, *White Bird*, by RJ Palacio.

AYES: Geiger, Gray, Taylor, Parisio

NOES: None

ABSENT: Ruiz

MOTION PASSED: 4-0-1

3. **(Action)** Adoption to WHS Novels List of *Warriors Don't Cry: A Searing Memoir of the Battle to Integrate Little Rock's Central High*, by Melba Pattillo Beals.

Gina Taylor moved, seconded by Jeromy Geiger to approve the adoption to WHS Novels List of *Warriors Don't Cry: A Searing Memoir of the Battle to Integrate Little Rock's Central High*, by Melba Pattillo Beals.

AYES: Geiger, Gray, Taylor, Parisio

NOES: None

ABSENT: Ruiz

MOTION PASSED: 4-0-1

4. **(Action)** Approve adoption of *TEMAS AP Spanish Language and Culture, 3rd Edition* text for the AP Spanish course at WHS.
 Jeromy Geiger moved, seconded by Gina Taylor to approve the adoption of *TEMAS AP Spanish Language and Culture, 3rd Edition* text for the AP Spanish course at WHS.
 Gina Taylor confirmed that there is an AP Spanish class offered at the high school this year.
AYES: Geiger, Gray, Taylor, Parisio
NOES: None
ABSENT: Ruiz
MOTION PASSED: 4-0-1
5. **(Action)** Approve pilot Agreement between Just Right Reader, Inc. and Willows Unified School District for two classes at Murdock Elementary School to provide student reading data in exchange for personalized book bags with books based on that student's reading level and lesson plans for the teacher.
 Kirsten Gray moved, seconded by Gina Taylor to approve pilot Agreement between Just Right Reader, Inc. and Willows Unified School District.
AYES: Geiger, Gray, Taylor, Parisio
NOES: None
ABSENT: Ruiz
MOTION PASSED: 4-0-1

C. HUMAN RESOURCES

1. **(Information)** District oversight of training requirements will begin for Willows Cardinals Boosters coaches to establish and enforce training requirements to ensure compliance with safety, legal, and ethical standards consistent with District policy. The coaches will be required to complete the mandatory trainings as a condition of their continued participation in athletic programs under District liability coverage.
2. **(Discussion/Possible Action)** Restructuring the Maintenance, Operations, and Transportation Department, including the possibility of creating a Director of Maintenance, Operations, and Transportation (DMOT) position.
 Diana and Emmett are researching various solutions to identify an option that provides cost savings for the District. The District has approximately \$2.7 million in assets that require proper oversight, and they need someone who can effectively manage and maintain those assets. Beverly Appleton, CSEA Secretary, asked if the position would need to drive a bus. Emmett shared that it's something they will be looking into further. This conversation will continue in December.

D. BUSINESS SERVICES

1. **(Action)** Approve School-Based MAA (SMAA) Activities effective July 1, 2025.
 Gina Taylor moved, seconded by Kirsten Gray to approve School-Based MAA (SMAA) Activities effective July 1, 2025.
AYES: Geiger, Gray, Taylor, Parisio
NOES: None
ABSENT: Ruiz
MOTION PASSED: 4-0-1

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 7.1 Veterans' Day Holiday (no school) will be observed on November 11, 2025.
- 7.2 MES and WIS (5th grade only) will be holding Parent-Teacher Conferences November 17-21, 2025. School will be dismissed at 12:00 p.m.
- 7.3 There will be a district-wide Thanksgiving break from November 24 – November 28, 2025.
- 7.4 The next Regular & Organizational Board Meeting will be held on December 4, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING CLOSED SESSION ITEMS – none

At 7:45 p.m., the Board took a short recess after the Regular Meeting before going into Closed Session. President Jeromy Geiger will report out into Open Session upon conclusion of Closed Session.

9. CLOSED SESSION

Closed session began at 7:56 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. President Jeromy Geiger reported out:

9.1: Update given to the Board.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.