

WILLOWS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Regular Meeting – October 9, 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 – Vice President Gina Taylor called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present were Gina Taylor, Kirsten Gray, and Lourdes Ruiz. Jeromy Geiger and Margaret Parisio were absent.
- 1.2 Welcome to Visitors
- 1.3 Flag Salute was led by Stacy Lanzi.

2. AGENDA/MINUTES

- 2.1 Approve the Agenda for October 9, 2025.
Lourdes Ruiz moved, seconded by Kirsten Gray to approve the agenda for October 9, 2025.
AYES: Gray, Ruiz, Taylor
NOES: None
ABSENT: Geiger, Parisio
MOTION PASSED: 3-0
- 2.2 Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 11, 2025.
Kirsten Gray moved, seconded by Gina Taylor to approve the minutes for September 11, 2025.
AYES: Gray, Ruiz, Taylor
NOES: None
ABSENT: Geiger, Parisio
MOTION PASSED: 3-0

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

4. REPORTS

4.1 Associated Student Body President – President Aiden Chavez reported:

- Each class is actively fundraising for its own activities and events.
- Seniors participated in painting their designated parking spots and all designs were pre-approved prior to painting. The turnout was strong and the finished parking spots look great.
- The junior class hosted a movie night with approximately 100 students in attendance.
- A color war and games event was also held, drawing about 50 participants.
- Homecoming is scheduled for next week with a Disney theme. The Homecoming dance will take place on Saturday, the 18th, at the new barn.
- Gina Taylor inquired about ongoing student activities throughout the year.
 - Aiden responded that things are going well so far. He added that the events are not only effective for fundraising but also help boost school spirit.

4.2 Employee Associations (WUTA & CSEA)

WUTA – President Cathy Fleming reported:

- First Regular Executive Board Meeting today for WUTA.
- Last month, WUTA had a new teacher social.
- She gave reports on behalf of the sites:
 - Guiding Coalition teams are still finding their rhythm but have had a positive start overall.
 - WIS staff are enjoying working with their new principal.
 - WHS reports good administration.
 - Murdock expressed concerns about the absence of aides:
 - Lack of aides is impacting differentiated instruction.
 - Staff understands the broader situation but would like aides reinstated.
 - An advisory representative for WASC is expected to visit.
 - A new SEL (Social Emotional Learning) period has been introduced:

An Equal Opportunity Employer

- Some grade levels are responding positively.
- Others feel the content is too juvenile; follow-up will be conducted to assess.
- Emmett and herself are conversing but there are no current matters for board involvement.
- Murdock staff would like to formally invite the school board to their Fall Festival.

CSEA – No report.

4.3 Principals

Murdock Elementary School Principal – Stacy Lanzi:

- Lourdes Ruiz asked about Grindstone transportation.
 - Stacy responded that we're at a point where a 3rd van is needed.
- Gina Taylor asked her about the Wellness Coach and Nest.
 - Stacy confirmed that it is a part of the Community Schools Grant. Daniel, the current Wellness Coach, is available all day and is in charge of helping kids who are dysregulated, sad, scared, or have high stress needs. The Wellness Center is set up to accommodate 5-8 individuals at a time.

Willows Intermediate School Principal – Durell Siplin:

- Durell provided a follow-up report to the board.
- Gina Taylor asked for clarification on the Guided Coalition.
 - Durell responded with comparing Guided Coalition to a leadership team and says it helps the school continue to focus on improving instruction for all students.
- Lourdes Ruiz inquired about student behavior at Osprey.
 - Durell responded that it's a work in progress. He is collaborating with Kyle Taylor to support ongoing efforts.
 - Gina Taylor clarified that there is a new program director at Osprey, but the same teacher remains in place.

Willows High School Principal – Chris Harris:

- Chris provided a follow-up report to the board.
- Gina Taylor inquired about the Ag teaching facility and its planned usage.
 - It was shared that decisions go through Chris, but are coordinated closely with the teachers using the space.
 - The Homecoming dance is scheduled for next Saturday.
 - After the dance, the next step will be to install new panels.
 - Gina asked who makes decisions about general facility usage:
 - The process involves Chris, in collaboration with staff.
- Lourdes Ruiz asked about the status of the electronic pass.
 - Chris responded that a decision hasn't been made yet. He wants it to be a helpful tool, not a burden for teachers.
- Gina Taylor inquired about attendance interventions—specifically the roles of Mr. Calónico and Mr. Bazan.
 - It depends on the situation: if there's a crisis, trauma, or a family reaches out, Mr. Bazan becomes involved sooner.
 - Mr. Bazan and Mr. Calónico meet regularly and collaborate on cases.
- Gina Taylor asked about overnight field trips, noting that details on the request often seem vague.
 - Chris said he does receive more detailed information and routinely asks questions about location, activities, and chaperones.
 - Gina also asked if chaperones are properly informed on school policies.
 - Chris acknowledged he needs to be more involved in ensuring chaperones are briefed appropriately.

Willows Community High School Principal – Emmett Koerperich:

- He highlighted that all WCHS students are enrolled in a Butte College class.

4.4 Director of Food Services – Mike Bottarini:

- Mike provided a follow-up report to the board.
- Gina Taylor congratulated him on the positive fund balance.
 - Mike contributes that to the success in the summer program, to the staff, and moving forward with healthy food.

4.5 Director of Business Services – Diana Baca:

- Diana congratulated Mike Bottarini and his team for their hard work.
- Gina Taylor asked about how the solar monitoring is going.

- The solar system is fully operational with the panels being cleaned and the system being actively monitored and maintained.

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

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

- Michelle gave handouts to the board. Click [here](#) for handout 1. Click [here](#) for handout 2.
- Gina Taylor asked about having a more consistent schedule for student test data, and how that data will be used constructively.
 - Principals typically review data at the end of the school year and again early in the following year.
 - At this time, it's uncertain whether data will be available earlier, but it is expected to be released slightly before November this year.
- Gina also asked about the difference between DELAC and ELAC:
 - DELAC (District English Learner Advisory Committee) functions at the district level.
 - ELAC (English Learner Advisory Committee) operates at the school site level.
 - The district is currently considering a rebrand name for these committees.
- Gina inquired about committee membership:
 - Each school site has a representative who participates in DELAC.
 - There is regular two-way communication between site-level ELACs and the district-level DELAC, sharing updates and information.

4.8 Superintendent – Emmett Koerperich:

- Click [here](#) for report that Emmett provided to the board.
- Emmett also discussed investing in Solution Tree and adopting their terms as we move forward.
 - Gina Taylor asked for a glossary of those terms.

4.9 Board of Education Members

Kirsten Gray reported:

- She hoped everyone had an enjoyable break.
- Gave a shoutout to FFA (Future Farmers of America) for organizing a well-executed dinner event that was easy to pick up and take home — she really enjoyed it.
- Expressed appreciation for the mission, vision, and goals that were recently shared.

Lourdes Ruiz reported:

- Attended a storytelling core presentation and was pleased to see WUSD students and parents in attendance.
- Participated in a COYA (California Opportunity Youth Apprenticeship) Paraprofessional Planning Grant and expressed excitement about the potential implementation of an apprenticeship pathway for paraprofessionals at WHS.
- Gave a shoutout to the WHS cheer squad as she was able to watch them perform.
- Enjoys following MES updates on social media, highlighting the school's engaging content.
- Noted that all three schools appear to be thriving.

Gina Taylor: No report.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. GENERAL

1. Approve the WUSD Obsolete/Surplus Kitchen Equipment List.

B. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

1. Approve Interdistrict Request for Students #25-26-47 through #25-26-48 to attend school in the Willows Unified School District for the 2025/26 school year.
2. Approve Interdistrict Request for Students #25-26-42 through #25-26-49 to attend school in another district for the 2025/26 school year.

C. HUMAN RESOURCES

1. Accept resignation of Elaine Kendrick, ELD teacher at MES, effective 9/26/25.
2. Approve employment of Karissa Lutz, After School Program Activity Assistant, effective 9/12/25.
3. Approve employment of the revised extra duty assignments at WHS for the 2025/26 school year. (See attached list)

4. Approve the employment of the following employees for the Temporary ELO-P Intersession Camp that runs from October 1 – October 3, 2025:

Cook	Sarah Hill
Food Service Assistant	Marissa Medina
Engagement Staff	Jayden Coleman, Jazmyn Hernandez, Gene Smith, Brenda Valenzuela, Karissa Lutz, Gloria Barragan, Karlee Lavalle
5. Approve the Revised Classified Substitute List.

D. BUSINESS SERVICES

1. Approve warrants from 8/26/25 through 10/3/25.

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

AYES: Gray, Ruiz, Taylor

NOES: None

ABSENT: Geiger, Parisio

MOTION PASSED: 3-0

6. DISCUSSION/ACTION CALENDAR

A. GENERAL

1. **(Information)** Williams Uniform Complaints Quarterly Report. (There were not any complaints.)
2. **(Action)** Approve Kirsten Gray to serve on the Willows Unified School District Wellness Policy Committee. Lourdes Ruiz moved, seconded by Gina Taylor to approve Kirsten Gray to serve on the Willows Unified School District Wellness Policy Committee.

AYES: Gray, Ruiz, Taylor

NOES: None

ABSENT: Geiger, Parisio

MOTION PASSED: 3-0
3. **(Action)** Second Reading for the addition of Board Policy on Recognition of Deceased Students at High School Graduation Ceremonies. Lourdes Ruiz moved, seconded by Kirsten Gray to approve the Second Reading for the addition of Board Policy on Recognition of Deceased Students at High School Graduation Ceremonies.

AYES: Gray, Ruiz, Taylor

NOES: None

ABSENT: Geiger, Parisio

MOTION PASSED: 3-0

B. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

1. **(Discussion/Possible Action)** Approve the 2025/26 WUSD Mission, Vision, and Goals. Gina Taylor commented that this is an annual review. Kirsten Gray moved, seconded by Lourdes Ruiz to approve the 2025/26 WUSD Mission, Vision, and Goals.

AYES: Gray, Ruiz, Taylor

NOES: None

ABSENT: Geiger, Parisio

MOTION PASSED: 3-0
2. **(Information)** Bell schedule presentation. Information only. Presentation given by Willows High School Principal, Chris Harris. Click [here](#) for presentation.

C. HUMAN RESOURCES

1. **(Action)** Approve the Memorandum of Understanding By and Between Reach University and The Willows Unified School District. Lourdes Ruiz moved, seconded by Kirsten Gray to approve the Memorandum of Understanding By and Between Reach University and The Willows Unified School District.

AYES: Gray, Ruiz, Taylor

NOES: None

ABSENT: Geiger, Parisio

MOTION PASSED: 3-0

2. **(Action)** Approve the request of unpaid leave for personal reasons from Dawna Keolanui. Lourdes Ruiz moved, seconded by Gina Taylor to approve the request of unpaid leave for personal reasons from Dawna Keolanui.
AYES: Gray, Ruiz, Taylor
NOES: None
ABSENT: Geiger, Parisio
MOTION PASSED: 3-0

D. BUSINESS SERVICES

1. **(Action)** Approve Resolution #25-26-05 Adoption of the “Gann Limit”. (Annual Requirement) Gina Taylor moved, seconded by Lourdes Ruiz to approve Resolution #25-26-05 Adoption of the “Gann Limit”. (Roll call vote was taken.)
AYES: Gray, Ruiz, Taylor
NOES: None
ABSENT: Geiger, Parisio
MOTION PASSED: 3-0
2. **(Action)** Approve the Unaudited Actuals Financial Report for the Fiscal Year 2024-25. Lourdes Ruiz moved, seconded by Gina Taylor to approve the Unaudited Actuals Financial Report for the Fiscal Year 2024-25.
AYES: Gray, Ruiz, Taylor
NOES: None
ABSENT: Geiger, Parisio
MOTION PASSED: 3-0

7. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- 7.1 The MES Fall Festival will be held on Wednesday, October 29, 2025 from 4:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
- 7.2 The WCHS Halloween Carnival will be held on Friday, October 31, 2025 from 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
- 7.3 The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on November 6, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

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

At 8:01 p.m., the Book took a short recess after the Regular Meeting before going into Closes Session. Vice President Gina Taylor will report out into Open Session upon conclusion of Closed Session.

9. **CLOSED SESSION**

Closed Session began at 8:24 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.
- 9.2 Pursuant to Government Code §54957: Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release.

10. **RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION**

10.1 Announcement of Action Taken in Closed Session.

At 9:12 p.m., the meeting reconvened to Open Session. Vice President Gina Taylor reported out:

- 9.1: Update given to the Board.
- 9.2: Update given to the Board.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.