WILLOWS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Regular Meeting – October 8, 2026
Regular Session 6:00 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 6:00 p.m. Jeromy Geiger was absent and Lourdes Ruiz arrived at 6:26 p.m.
1.2 Welcome to Visitors
1.3 Flag Salute was led by Durell Siplin

2. **AGENDA/MINUTES**

2.1 Approve the Agenda for October 8, 2026.
Moved by Kirsten Gray and seconded by Jered Shipley.
AYES: Gray, Shipley, Taylor
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
MOTION PASSED: 3-0

2.2 Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 3, 2026.
Moved by Jered Shipley and seconded by Kirsten Gray.
AYES: Gray, Shipley, Taylor
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
MOTION PASSED: 3-0

3. **RECOGNITION OF RETIREES**

3.1 DIANA BACA – A recognition plaque was presented to Diana Baca by Emmett Koerperich.
A brief recess was taken at 6:03 p.m. for photos and cookies.
The meeting reconvened at 6:06 p.m.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS –** No Public Comments

5. **REPORTS**

5.1 **Associated Student Body President**
ASB President Omar Garcia and Vice President Mato Medina provided a report to the board.
5.2 **Employee Associations (WUTA & CSEA)**
WUTA – President Cathy Fleming reported to the board.
CSEA – President Kathleen Morrison reported to the board.
5.3 Principals
Murdock Elementary School Principal - Stacy Lazi: Stacy provided a follow-up report to the board.
Willows Intermediate School Principal - Durell Siplin: Durell provided a follow-up report to the board
Willows High School Principal – James Lothschutz: James provided a follow-up report to the board.
Willows Community High School Principal – Emmett Koerperich: Emmett provided a follow-up report to the board.
5.4 **Band Trip Update** – Roxanne Winslow gave an update on the Chicago Band trip. Action News visited yesterday. 17 of the 23 band students have RSVP'd for the trip. There are chaperone changes, David Ayala and Vicki Berens will no longer chaperone the trip. Sean Wright, add Jose Hansen and Alison Smith. $26,750, sourced 19, 924 so far. Have until November 1st to fundraise, travel agency extended the deadline to November 13th.

5.5 **Director of Food Services - Mike Bottarini:** Mike provided a follow-up report to the board. Jeromy asked Mike to thank his staff.
5.6 **Director of Business Services – Shelby Jones:** Shelby provided a follow-up report to the board.
5.7 **Director of Community Schools – Julie Carriere**: Julie provided a follow-up report to the board and distributed a handout to the Board. Click here for handout.
5.8 **Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment – Michelle O'Dell:** Michelle provided a follow-up report to the board. She handed out the Census Day report from October 7, 2026 and reviewed it. She also spoke about the new Math Program.
5.9 **Superintendent - Emmett Koerperich:** Click here for the report Emmett provided to the board.
5.10 **Board of Education Members**

Kirsten Gray Reported – She enjoyed attending the 9/11 assemblies and liked the WHS 9/11 presentation. She enjoyed watching the flag football games.

Lourdes Ruiz Reported – She watched a football and flag football game and is involved with the MES and WIS football and cheer programs and ECM at work program. She congratulated the new bus driver Kathleen and Diana on her retirement.

Jered Shipley Reported – He applauded staff and parents for their fundraising efforts. He attended the football game and appreciated the 9/11 tribute. He thinks the culture is starting to change in the right direction.

Gina Taylor Reported – She was excited to participate in the band fundraiser. Happy to see in the unaudited budget that the Fund 13 is sustainable and doesn't require the General Fund to support and thanked all those involved. She thanked Stacy for her tour of MES yesterday. Thanked Diana and said she made a profound effect on the financial status of the district.

6. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

A. GENERAL

B. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

1. Approve Interdistrict Request for Student #26-27-38 to attend school in another district for the 2026/27 school year.

C. HUMAN RESOURCES

1. Approve employment of Kaitlin Owens, Yard Duty Supervisor/Crossing Guard, effective 10/05/26.
2. Approve the employment of Navannah Chaves, Yard Duty Supervisor/Crossing Guard effective 9/24/2026.
3. Approve the employment of Jaqueline Jimenez, Cafeteria Helper I – 2 Hrs, effective 9/14/2026.
4. Approve the employment of Kathleen Morrison, Bus Driver/Custodian, effective 9/14/2026.
5. Approve the employment of Aracely Cisneros, Custodian – Site, effective 9/14/2026.
6. Approve the employment of Falon Mitts, Yard Duty Supervisor/Crossing Guard, effective 9/21/2026.
7. Approve the employment of Jordan Thuemler, Health Records Aide II, effective 9/21/2026.
8. Approve employment of the revised extra duty assignments at WHS for the 2026/27 school year. (See attached list)
9. Approve the employment of the following employees for the Temporary ELO-P Intersession Camp that runs from September 28 – September 29, 2026:

Cook	Christina Ocampo
Cook Assistant	Krystal Fields
Engagement Staff	Jayden Coleman, Abigail Grill, Jaime Hashman, Karlee Lavalle, Gene Smith

10. Approve the employment of the following employees for the Temporary ELO-P Intercession Field Trip on September 12, 2026.

Activity Assistant	Jodie Rose, Jayden Coleman, Karlee Lavalle, Abigail Grill, Gene Smith

11. Approve the Revised Classified Substitute List.

D. BUSINESS SERVICES

1. Approve warrants from 8/28/2026 through 10/05/2026.
2. Approve Budget Revision Summary.

Moved by Lourdes Ruiz and seconded by Kirsten Gray.
AYES: Gray, Ruiz, Shipley, Taylor
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

MOTION PASSED: 4-0

7. **DISCUSSION/ACTION CALENDAR**

A. GENERAL

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

B. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

1. (**Discussion/Action)** Approve the 2026/27 WUSD Mission, Vision, and Goals.
   Moved by Lourdes Ruiz and seconded by Kirsten Gray.
   AYES: Gray, Ruiz, Shipley, Taylor
   NOES: None
   ABSENT: None
   MOTION PASSED: 4-0

2. **(Action)** Adoption to the WHS Novels List of ***There There***, by Tommy Orange and ***The Nickel Boys***, by Colton Whitehead.
   Moved by Jered Shipley and seconded by Kirsten Gray.
   AYES: Gray, Ruiz, Shipley, Taylor
   NOES: None
   ABSENT: None
   MOTION PASSED: 4-0
3. **(Action) A**pprove 2026/27 Textbook Lists for WUSD Schools (MES/WIS/WHS/WCHS)
   Moved by Gina Taylor and seconded by Lourdes Ruiz.
   AYES: Gray, Ruiz, Shipley, Taylor
   NOES: None
   ABSENT: None
   MOTION PASSED: 4-0
4. **(Action)** Approve the K-12 Strong Workforce Program Data Sharing Memorandum of Understanding between Willows Unified School District and the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office.
   Moved by Lourdes Ruiz and seconded by Jered Shipley.
   AYES: Gray, Ruiz, Shipley, Taylor
   NOES: None
   ABSENT: None
   MOTION PASSED: 4-0
5. **(Discussion/Possible Action)** Discussion regarding the potential impact of continuing or withdrawing WUSD's Mild/Moderate services through GCOE.
   Shelby Jones presented a recommendation to not pursue the transfer at this time after careful consideration**.** Lourdes agreed, Jered asked when we will know more information, Gina thanked the District Office for going through the process and Kirsten asked that we continue to look into it in the upcoming year.
   Moved by Lourdes Ruiz to continue Mild/Mod services through GCOE. Seconded by Gina Taylor.
   AYES: Gray, Ruiz, Shipley, Taylor
   NOES: None
   ABSENT: None
   MOTION PASSED: 4-0

C. HUMAN RESOURCES

1. **BUSINESS SERVICES**
2. **(Action)** Approve Resolution #2026-27-05 Adoption of the "Gann Limit". (Annual Requirement)
   Moved by Kirsten Gray and seconded by Lourdes Ruiz.
   AYES: Gray, Ruiz, Shipley, Taylor
   NOES: None
   ABSENT: None
   MOTION PASSED: 4-0

3. **(Action)** Approve the Unaudited Actuals Financial Report for the Fiscal Year 2025-26.
   Moved by Gina Taylor and seconded by Jered Shipley.
   AYES: Gray, Ruiz, Shipley, Taylor
   NOES: None
   ABSENT: None
   MOTION PASSED: 4-0

8. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

8.1 The MES Fall Festival will be held on Thursday, October 29, 2026 from 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
8.2 The WCHS Halloween Carnival will be held on Friday, October 30, 2026 from 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
8.3 The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on November 5, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

9. **PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING CLOSED SESSION ITEMS –** No Comments

At 7:20 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.

10. **CLOSED SESSION**

Closed session began at 7:30 p.m.

10.1 Pursuant to Government Code §54957.6: Conference with Labor Negotiator – Agency Negotiator: Emmett Koerperich. Employee Organizations: WUTA, CSEA, Management, and Confidential.
10.2 Pursuant to Government Code § 54957: PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERSONNEL MATTERS - Appointment, employment, evaluation of performance, discipline, dismissal, or complaints or charges against a public employee.

11. **RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION**

11.1 Announcement of Action Taken in Closed Session.

At 8:39 p.m. the meeting reconvened to Open Session. Vice President Gina Taylor reported out.

12. **ADJOURNMENT**