

**WILLOWS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Regular Meeting – March 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, Jered Shipley, and Gina Taylor. Lourdes Ruiz was absent.
- 1.2 Welcome to Visitors
- 1.3 Flag Salute was led by Jeromy Geiger.

2. **AGENDA/MINUTES**

- 2.1 Approve the Agenda for March 5, 2026.  
Kirsten Gray moved, seconded by Gina Taylor to approve the Agenda for March 5, 2026.  
**AYES: Geiger, Gray, Shipley, Taylor**  
**NOES: None**  
**ABSENT: Ruiz**  
**MOTION PASSED: 4-0-1**
- 2.2 Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 5, 2026.  
Jeromy Geiger moved, seconded by Kirsten Gray to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 5, 2026.  
**AYES: Geiger, Gray, Shipley, Taylor**  
**NOES: None**  
**ABSENT: Ruiz**  
**MOTION PASSED: 4-0-1**

3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** - None

4. **REPORTS**

4.1 **Associated Student Body President – President Aiden Chavez reported:**

- ASB students decorated hallway lockers to spread positivity and celebrate Valentine’s Day.
- Hosting a student vs. staff game in March with students either wearing white if they think the students will win or black if they think the staff will win.
- Freshman class planning an event in April to raise funds for the freshman class and encourage positive interactions between students and staff.
- Prom tickets are currently on sale.
- Jered Shipley was asked whether he would wear white or black; the answer is to be determined.

4.2 Employee Associations (WUTA & CSEA)

**WUTA – President Cathy Fleming reported:**

- Successful bargaining session held with the district, noted positive collaboration with Diana Baca, and hoping to ratify the tentative agreement next week.
- By the April board meeting, plans to sunshine items for the next contract that opens next year.

**CSEA – No report.**

4.3 Principals

**Willows Community High School Principal – Emmet 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 if they have full teams for spring sports. The answer depends on the sport.

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

- Durell provided a follow-up report to 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:** No follow-up report. Stacy Lanzi commented that 2<sup>nd</sup> chance breakfast starts March 17<sup>th</sup>.

4.5 **Director of Business Services – Diana Baca:**

- Diana provided a follow-up report to the Board.
- Gina Taylor inquired about accessing information on the old system. Diana explained that the county is still working on it and she has updated the project auditors with that information.
- Gina Taylor asked about how Diana anticipates using the information from the van cameras. Diana explained that she does not plan to review it proactively. Instead, she would access the recordings only in response to a complaint, in order to determine what occurred. She confirmed that this approach is consistent with the process currently used for the buses and that the cameras work and have been tested. Emmett Koerperich added that this is controlled through the District Office.

4.6 **Director of Community Schools – Julie Carriere:**

- Julie provided a follow-up report to the Board.
- Click [here](#) for handout that Julie provided to the Board.
- Gina Taylor inquired about Skills USA. Julie compared it to Future Farmers of America (FFA) in the fact that it's a career technical student organization (CTSO) and confirmed that there are skills competitions involved.

4.7 **Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment – Michelle O'Dell:** No follow-up report.

4.8 **Superintendent – Emmett Koerperich:**

- Click [here](#) for report that Emmett provided to the Board.
- Gina Taylor recommended publishing the facility improvements to show how far they've come.

4.9 Board of Education Members

**Kirsten Gray:** No report.

**Jered Shipley reported:**

- Shared observations from a visit to Tokyo and reflected on the value of observing and learning from another culture's approach to student life.
- Spaghetti dinner at the Willows Elks Lodge tomorrow night for the WIS and WHS band.

**Gina Taylor:** No report.

**Jeromy Geiger:** No report.

5. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

**A. GENERAL**

1. Accept donation from Willows Hardware, Inc. for \$50.00 for the WHS Baseball Program.
2. Accept donation from John and Babs Berens for \$100.00 for WHS Athletics.
3. Approve the Murdock Elementary School PTO Mother Son Dance on March 28, 2026.

**B. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**

1. Approve Interdistrict Request for Student #25-26-64 to attend school in the Willows Unified School District for the 2025/26 school year.
2. Approve Interdistrict Requests for Students #25-26-51 through #25-26-56 to attend school in another district for the 2025/26 school year.
3. Approve Interdistrict Request for Students #26-27-08 through #26-27-10 to attend school in the Willows Unified School District for the 2026/27 school year.
4. Approve Interdistrict Requests for Students #26-27-01 through #26-27-10 to attend school in another district for the 2026/27 school year.

**C. HUMAN RESOURCES**

1. Accept the resignation of Bailey Bean, MES Teacher, effective 6/5/26.
2. Accept the resignation of Griffin Boyd, WIS Teacher, effective 6/5/26.
3. Accept the resignation of Elizabeth Enke, WHS Teacher, effective 6/5/26.
4. Accept the resignation of Dawna Keolanui, WHS Teacher, effective 6/5/26.
5. Accept the resignation of Ron Bazan, effective 6/5/26.
6. Accept the retirement of Ernest Peters, WHS Teacher, effective 6/5/26.
7. Approve the employment of Der Xiong, After School Program Activity Assistant at MES, effective 2/23/26.

- 8. Approve the employment of Abigail Grill, After School Program Activity Assistant at MES, effective 3/6/26.
- 9. Approve the following WHS Spring Sports Coaches for the 2025/26 school year:  
Boys Tennis Head Coach Victor Jauregui
- 10. Approve the following WHS Fall Sports Coaches for the 2026/27 school year:  
Varsity Football Head Coach David Milano
- 11. Approve the Classified Substitute List.

**D. BUSINESS SERVICES**

- 1. Approve warrants from 2/2/26 through 3/1/26.

Gina Taylor congratulated Ron Bazan on his retirement.

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

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

**NOES: None**

**ABSENT: Ruiz**

**MOTION PASSED: 4-0-1**

**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 0420.4	Charter School Authorization
BP 0420.41	Charter School Oversight

- 2. **(Action)** Second 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

Jeromy Geiger 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, Shipley, Taylor**

**NOES: None**

**ABSENT: Ruiz**

**MOTION PASSED: 4-0-1**

**B. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**

- 1. **(Action)** Adoption to the WHS Novels List of *The Merchant of Venice*, by William Shakespeare and *Three Cups of Tea*, by Greg Morentson and David Oliver Relin.

Gina Taylor moved, seconded by Kirsten Gray to approve the adoption to the WHS Novels List of *The Merchant of Venice*, by William Shakespeare and *Three Cups of Tea*, by Greg Morentson and David Oliver Relin.

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

**NOES: None**

**ABSENT: Ruiz**

**MOTION PASSED: 4-0-1**

- 2. **(Action)** Approve WHS/WCHS Expository Reading and Writing Curriculum for grades 11 and 12.

Jeromy Geiger moved, seconded by Kirsten Gray to approve WHS/WCHS Expository Reading and Writing Curriculum for grades 11 and 12.

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

**NOES: None**

**ABSENT: Ruiz**

**MOTION PASSED: 4-0-1**

3. **(Action)** Approve the WUSD Transportation Plan.

Jeromy Geiger confirmed that this is an annual requirement.

Jeromy Geiger moved, seconded by Jered Shipley to approve the WUSD Transportation Plan,

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

**NOES: None**

**ABSENT: Ruiz**

**MOTION PASSED: 4-0-1**

**C. HUMAN RESOURCES**

**D. BUSINESS SERVICES**

1. **(Action)** Approve 2025/26 Second Interim Report.

Diana Baca highlighted that WUSD has met and exceeded the required 10% reserve threshold. She noted the importance of maintaining this reserve level moving forward and indicated that work will begin on developing a budget strategy to help protect and sustain it. Diana also expressed interest in collaborating with the team to review services and evaluate upcoming contract renewals as part of the budgeting and planning process.

Jeromy Geiger expressed appreciation for the time and effort that went into preparing the report and acknowledged the work involved in compiling and presenting the financial information.

Jeromy Geiger moved, seconded by Kirsten Gray to approve the 2025/26 Second Interim Report.

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

**NOES: None**

**ABSENT: Ruiz**

**MOTION PASSED: 4-0-1**

7. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

7.1 The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on April 2, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at the Willows Civic Center.

8. **PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING CLOSED SESSION ITEMS**

Brandie Cooper, Carl Cooper's mom, thanked Shelby Jones and everyone else who helped her through the accident.

At 7:32 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 7:42 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 §54957: Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release.

9.3 Pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(d): Pending Litigation – Consideration of Claim of Brandie Cooper (mom)/Carl Cooper III (student).

10. **RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION**

10.1 Announcement of Action Taken in Closed Session.

At 8:13 p.m., the meeting reconvened to Open Session. Jeromy Geiger reported:

9.1 Update given to the Board.

9.2 No report.

9.3 Update given to the Board; the Board voted 4-0-1 to deny the claim.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.