

WILLOWS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Regular Meeting – May 7, 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, Lourdes Ruiz, Jered Shipley, and Gina Taylor.
- 1.2 Welcome to Visitors
- 1.3 Flag Salute was led by Jeromy Geiger.

2. AGENDA/MINUTES

- 2.1 Approve the Agenda for May 7, 2026.
Kirsten Gray moved, seconded by Lourdes Ruiz to approve the Agenda for May 7, 2026.
AYES: Geiger, Gray, Ruiz, Shipley, Taylor
NOES: None
MOTION PASSED: 5-0
- 2.2 Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 2, 2026.
Lourdes Ruiz moved, seconded by Kirsten Gray to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 2, 2026.
AYES: Geiger, Gray, Ruiz, Shipley, Taylor
NOES: None
MOTION PASSED: 5-0

3. RECOGNITION OF RETIREES

- 3.1 KATHLEEN POLDERVAART (10 years of service)
- 3.2 ANA GONZALEZ (32 years of service)

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

5. REPORTS

5.1 Associated Student Body President – President Aiden Chavez:

- The ASB Team is currently recognizing and celebrating staff members and teachers throughout the month of May.
- Shared plans for an upcoming Field Day event for 8th-grade students and presented the event agenda to the Board. Gina Taylor asked for the date of the event, and it was confirmed to be scheduled for May 28.
- The annual Powderpuff Game is coming up.
- Election for next year’s student officer positions are being conducted.

5.2 Employee Associations (WUTA & CSEA)

WUTA – President Cathy Fleming:

- WUTA had their last Executive Board meeting of the school year.
- Cathy shared her plan that next year will be her final year in the district.
- Jenn Dace will serve as Co-President next year.
- Negotiations are currently underway and are progressing smoothly, with both parties working cohesively.
- Board members invited to attend the year-end social gathering.
- Cathy expressed her appreciation for her substitute, Amelia Courtois.
- Cathy shared her excitement about transitioning into the Visual and Performing Arts teaching position next year.

CSEA – No report.

5.3 Principals

Willows Community High School – Emmett Koerperich:

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

Willows High School – Chris Harris and Assistant Principal John Calonico:

- Chris provided a follow-up report to the Board.
- Gina Taylor asked for an update on the status of senior portfolios. Chris reported that senior portfolios are continuing to come in and that the process is being wrapped up through the seminar class. Gina confirmed that portfolios are a graduation requirement.
- Jeromy Geiger wished Chris the best.
- John provided an athletics update. Gina asked if coaches are lined up for fall. John stated that he will bring a list of coaches to the next board meeting but he is currently in the process of hiring for coaching positions.

Willows Intermediate School – Durell Siplin:

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

Murdock Elementary School – Stacy Lanzi:

- Click [here](#) for the report that Stacy provided to the Board.
- Gina Taylor asked about TK/K enrollment for next school year. Stacy reported that enrollment is growing.

5.4 Director of Food Services – Mike Bottarini:

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

5.5 Director of Business Services – Diana Baca:

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

5.6 Director of Community Schools – Julie Carriere:

- Click [here](#) for the report that Julie provided to the Board.
- Gina Taylor asked how many students the Expect Success Summer Camp can accommodate. Julie gave the answer of just over 100 students. She added that they are advertising the field trips they are going on including a Giants baseball game. Kirsten Gray jokingly remarked that she would be willing to serve as a chaperone for the Giants game.

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

- Michelle provided a follow-up report to the Board.
- Lourdes Ruiz confirmed the date of the Multilingual Learner Celebration of June 1st.

5.8 Superintendent – Emmett Koerperich:

- Click [here](#) for the report that Emmett provided to the Board.

5.9 Board of Education Members

Kirsten Gray:

- ADA recovery efforts have been very successful.
- Recognized Ms. Poldervaart for her leadership and the awards earned through her leadership program. Kirsten noted that Ms. Poldervaart will be greatly missed.
- Shared that it was a pleasure to serve as a judge for the Murdock Elementary School art show and enjoyed seeing the students' excitement about their work.
- Attended the spring band concert and expressed how impressed she was with Ms. Winslow's work with students, including their ability to speak and conduct during the performance.
- Extended best wishes to Mr. Harris, noting that he will be missed.

Lourdes Ruiz:

- Congratulated district retirees.
- Recognized Ms. Poldervaart for her accomplishments with FCCLA.
- Attended the Murdock Elementary School art show and enjoyed helping judge the student artwork.
- Attended the WIS track meet and appreciated the support of volunteers and the opportunity to see so many talented student-athletes compete.
- Reported on a productive Wellness Committee meeting.
- Commended students who participated in the county-wide scholarship night, noting perfect attendance by applicants, their preparedness, and professional appearance.
- Visited the high school to present to the EMS Core program and expressed pride in the campus improvements and renovations.
- Wished Chris Harris success in his future endeavors.

Jered Shipley:

- Attended the Jog-a-Thon and praised the event's organization and strong participation, including parents running alongside their children.
- Expressed appreciation for Chris Harris.

Gina Taylor:

- Commented on the many exciting activities taking place as the school year comes to a close.
- Wished everyone a safe and enjoyable Glenn County Fair. Expressed hope for attendance to show positive results.
- Shared disappointment regarding the WHS Open House attendance and voiced support for the proposed adjustments discussed in the principal's report and that the FFA Banquet and WHS Open House are two distinct events that deserve the spotlight separately.
- Reported that she will be attending the upcoming GSRMA Authority Board meeting and emphasized the importance of student safety. She noted concerns regarding overnight field trip requests and acknowledged the work being done to address those issues.
- Congratulated district retirees.
- Thanked Chris and wished him continued success.
- Encouraged everyone to celebrate the many successes achieved throughout the school year.

Jeromy Geiger:

- Agreed with the importance of celebrating successes while maintaining focus on finishing the school year strong.
- Commended staff, students, and the community for their collective efforts and accomplishments throughout the year.
- Expressed pride in the students who will be traveling to the Midwest for band activities and praised the work of the band program and its teacher.
- Highlighted the value of football players attending summer camp and the opportunities for team building.
- Wished Chris the best.
- Encouraged everyone to enjoy the fair season.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR**A. GENERAL**

1. Accept donation from Willows Pediatrics for \$500.00 for the WHS Softball Program.
2. Approve the WUSD Obsolete Technology Equipment List.

B. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

1. Approve Interdistrict Request for Student #25-26-68 to attend school in the Willows Unified School District for the 2025/26 school year.
2. Approve Interdistrict Requests for Students #26-27-20 through #26-27-22 to attend school in the Willows Unified School District for the 2026/27 school year.
3. Approve 2026/27 textbook lists for WUSD schools (MES/WIS/WHS/WCHS).
4. Approve the School Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA) for Murdock Elementary School, Willows Intermediate School, Willows High School, and Willows Community High School.
5. Approve the Overnight Field Trip Request for WHS Football to attend the South Tahoe Football Camp in Lake Tahoe, CA, June 22-25, 2026.
6. Approve the Overnight Field Trip Request for WHS FFA to attend the Willows FFA Officer Retreat in Santa Cruz, CA, July 14-17, 2026.

C. HUMAN RESOURCES

1. Accept the retirement of Kathleen Poldervaart, WHS Child Development and Food Service Teacher, effective 6/5/26.
2. Accept the retirement of Evelyn Niehues, MES Library Media Specialist, effective 6/12/26.
3. Accept the retirement of Ana Gonzalez, WHS Custodian, effective 6/16/26.
4. Accept the resignation of Andrew Roper, Groundskeeper II, effective 5/22/26.
5. Accept the resignation of McKenzie Maszk, Instructional Coach, effective 6/5/26.
6. Accept the resignation of Armando Montejano, WHS Physics/Chemistry Teacher, effective 6/5/26.
7. Accept the resignation of Chris Harris, WHS Principal, effective 6/18/26.

8. Approve the employment of Mason Livingston, WIS History Teacher, effective 8/4/26 (pending clearance).
9. Approve the employment of Amelia Courtois, WIS History Teacher, effective 8/4/26 (pending clearance).
10. Approve the employment of Karen Chavez Acevedo, WIS/WHIS ELD/Spanish Teacher, effective 8/4/26 (pending clearance).
11. Approve the employment of Hana Lani Hanson, WHS Integrated Ag Science, I, II, and III Teacher, effective 8/4/26 (pending clearance).
12. Approve the employment of Ryann Vierra, WHS Integrated Ag Science I, II, and III Teacher, effective 8/4/26 (pending clearance).
13. Approve the employment of Alexis Edmondson, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/HR Specialist, effective 6/1/26.
14. Approve the employment of Shelby Jones, Director of Business Services, effective 7/1/26.
15. Approve the employment of the following Expect Success Summer Camp positions that runs from 6/8/26 – 7/10/26:

Teachers	Kayla Cushman, Lukas Harrison
Counselors	Emily Silva, Sophia Triance, Araceli Rojas, Jessica Rivera, Kyleigh Fleming, Jamie Hashman
16. Approve employment for the Summer Food Program staff utilizing the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) Food Service program that runs from 6/8/26 – 7/29/26:

Food Service Assistants	Cristina Duenas, Sarah Macdonald, Sarah Hill, Jessica Dunlap, Rosa Gonzalez, Brenda Villa Cisneros
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17. Approve the Classified Sub List.
18. Approve employment of the revised extra duty assignments at WHS for the 2025/26 school year.

D. BUSINESS SERVICES

1. Approve warrants from 3/31/26 through 5/3/26.
2. Approve ASB Quarterly Reports (MES/WIS/WHIS).

Lourdes Ruiz pulled items 6.B.5. and 6.B.6. for discussion.

Jeromy Geiger thanked retirees and wished them nothing but the best, noting the many years of service within the retirees.

Jeromy Geiger moved, seconded by Gina Taylor to approve the Consent Calendar without the pulled items.

AYES: Geiger, Gray, Ruiz, Shipley, Taylor

NOES: None

MOTION PASSED: 5-0

6.B.5. Discussion:

- Lourdes Ruiz asked for clarifying information. Gina Taylor had additional questions. John Calonico reviewed the details and answered questions regarding the football camp.

Jeromy Geiger moved, seconded by Kirsten Gray to approve the Overnight Field Trip Request for WHS Football to attend the South Tahoe Football Camp in Lake Tahoe, CA, June 22-25, 2026.

AYES: Geiger, Gray, Ruiz, Shipley, Taylor

NOES: None

MOTION PASSED: 5-0

6.B.6. Discussion:

- Jeromy Geiger asked Chris Harris if he had any information on this item. Chris Harris shared and discussion ensued between Chris and the Board Members.

Jeromy Geiger moved, seconded by Jered Shipley to approve the Overnight Field Trip Request for WHS FFA to attend the Willows FFA Officer Retreat in Santa Cruz, CA, July 14-17, 2026.

AYES: Geiger, Gray, Shipley

NOES: Ruiz, Taylor

MOTION PASSED: 3-2

7. DISCUSSION/ACTION CALENDAR

A. GENERAL

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

BP 0450	Comprehensive Safety Plan
BP 1340	Access to District Records
BP 5125	Student Records
BP 5125.1	Release of Directory Information

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, Ruiz, Shipley, Taylor

NOES: None

MOTION PASSED: 5-0

2. **(Action)** Approve Resolution #2025-26-08 Lincoln’s Birthday Observance.
Lourdes Ruiz moved, seconded by Jeromy Geiger to approve Resolution #2025-26-08 Lincoln’s Birthday Observance. (Roll call vote was taken.)

AYES: Geiger, Gray, Ruiz, Shipley, Taylor

NOES: None

MOTION PASSED: 5-0

B. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

1. **(Action)** Approve prospective graduates from WIS.
Lourdes Ruiz moved, seconded by Jeromy Geiger to approve prospective graduates from WIS.

AYES: Geiger, Gray, Ruiz, Shipley, Taylor

NOES: None

MOTION PASSED: 5-0

2. **(Action)** Approve prospective graduates from WHS.
Jeromy Geiger moved, seconded by Gina Taylor to approve prospective graduates from WHS.

AYES: Geiger, Gray, Ruiz, Shipley, Taylor

NOES: None

MOTION PASSED: 5-0

3. **(Action)** Approve prospective graduates from WCHS.
Gina Taylor moved, seconded by Jered Shipley to approve prospective graduates from WCHS.

AYES: Geiger, Gray, Ruiz, Shipley, Taylor

NOES: None

MOTION PASSED: 5-0

4. **(Information)** Revision of the WHS graduation requirements.
Click [here](#) for the presentation and click [here](#) for the handouts that Emmett Koerperich shared with the Board.
Discussion ensued.

5. **(Action)** Approve the proposed restructuring of the WCHS day and program.
Bibi McNeill summarized the proposal. Discussion ensued.
Gina Taylor moved, seconded by Lourdes Ruiz to approve the proposed restructuring of the WCHS day and program.

AYES: Geiger, Gray, Ruiz, Shipley, Taylor

NOES: None

MOTION PASSED: 5-0

C. HUMAN RESOURCES

1. **(Action)** Approve Resolution #2025-26-09, Teacher Appreciation Week, May 4-8, 2026.
Gina Taylor moved, seconded by Lourdes Ruiz, to approve Resolution #2025-26-09, Teacher Appreciation Week, May 4-8, 2026. (Roll call vote was taken.)

AYES: Geiger, Gray, Ruiz, Shipley, Taylor

NOES: None

MOTION PASSED: 5-0

2. **(Action)** Approve Resolution #2025-26-10, Classified School Employee Week, May 17-23, 2026.

Gina Taylor moved, seconded by Kirstin Gray, to approve Resolution #2025-26-10, Classified School Employee Week, May 17-23, 2026. (Roll call vote was taken.)

AYES: Geiger, Gray, Ruiz, Shipley, Taylor

NOES: None

MOTION PASSED: 5-0

- 3. **(Action)** Approve employment of Certificated personnel for 2026/27.

Jeromy Geiger moved, seconded by Lourdes Ruiz, to approve employment of Certificated personnel for the 2026/27 school year.

AYES: Geiger, Gray, Ruiz, Shipley, Taylor

NOES: None

MOTION PASSED: 5-0

- 4. **(Action)** Approve employment of Classified and Confidential personnel for 2026/27.

Lourdes Ruiz moved, seconded by Gina Taylor, to approve employment of Classified and Confidential personnel for the 2026/27 school year.

AYES: Geiger, Gray, Ruiz, Shipley, Taylor

NOES: None

MOTION PASSED: 5-0

- 5. **(Action)** Approve employment of Management personnel for 2026/27.

Gina Taylor moved, seconded by Jeromy Geiger, to approve employment of Management personnel for the 2026/27 school year.

AYES: Geiger, Gray, Ruiz, Shipley, Taylor

NOES: None

MOTION PASSED: 5-0

- 6. **(Action)** Approve the Side Letter of Agreement between the Willows Unified School District and the Willows Unified Teacher Association (WUTA) for the summer school and intersession pay rate.

Lourdes Ruiz moved, seconded by Jeromy Geiger, to approve the Side Letter of Agreement between the Willows Unified School District and the Willows Unified Teacher Association (WUTA) for the summer school and intersession pay rate.

AYES: Geiger, Gray, Ruiz, Shipley, Taylor

NOES: None

MOTION PASSED: 5-0

D. BUSINESS SERVICES

- 1. **(Discussion)** Propose Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELOP) Facility Development.

Diana Baca reported that ELOP grant funds remain available and should be encumbered this fiscal year. Staff is exploring options for utilizing the remaining funds. Discussion ensued. The Board directed administration to continue evaluating options and return with a prioritized list of potential projects for further consideration.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

8.1 Teacher Appreciation Week is May 4-8, 2026.

8.2 Educator’s Hall of Fame Ceremony will be held on May 6, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at Glenn Success Square Conference Room in Orland.

8.3 Lamb Derby festivities will take place May 7-10, 2026.

8.4 Glenn County Fair will be held May 14-17, 2026.

8.5 Classified Employees Week is May 17-23, 2026.

8.6 WHS Scholarship Night will be held on May 21, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

8.7 The following are the dates and times for Graduations:

Willows Community High School	Wed, June 3, 2026	10:00 a.m.	Sycamore Park
Willows Intermediate School	Thurs, June 4, 2026	7:30 p.m.	WHS Football Field
Willows High School	Fri, June 5, 2026	7:30 p.m.	WHS Football Field

8.8 The Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) Public Hearing and Preliminary Budget Public Hearing will be held on June 22, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

8.9 The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on June 25, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING CLOSED SESSION ITEMS – None

At 8:45 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.

10. **CLOSED SESSION**

Closed session began at 8:56 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: Administrative/Management Organizational Structure – Consideration of Reorganization of Management Positions.

11. **RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION**

11.1 Announcement of Action Taken in Closed Session.

At 10:46 p.m., the meeting reconvened to Open Session. Jeromy Geiger reported:

10.1 Update given to the Board. Direction given to the Superintendent.

10.2 Update given to the Board.

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 10:47 p.m.