

WILLOWS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Regular Meeting – October 12, 2023

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 Taylor called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Member present were: Kirsten Gray, Margaret Parisio, Lourdes Ruiz, and Gina Taylor. Jeromy Geiger was absent.
- 1.2 Welcome to Visitors
- 1.3 Flag Salute was led by Christine Kamienski

2. AGENDA/MINUTES

- 2.1 Approve the Agenda for October 12, 2023. Vice President Taylor requested Items 6.D.1 and 6.D.2 to be pulled from the agenda.
Lourdes Ruiz moved, seconded by Margaret Parisio to approve the Agenda for October 12, 2023 as amended.
AYES: Gray, Parisio, Ruiz, and Taylor
NOES: None
ABSENT: Geiger
MOTION PASSED: 4-0-1
- 2.2 Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 7, 2023.
Margaret Parisio moved, seconded by Kirsten Gray to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 7, 2023.
AYES: Gray, Parisio, Ruiz, and Taylor
NOES: None
ABSENT: Geiger
MOTION PASSED: 4-0-1

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

4. REPORTS

4.1 **Associated Student Body President – Jordan Thomas reported:**

- Recently had the Battle of the Axe rally and the Battle of the Axe game.
- October 13, 2023 is the start of homecoming week.
- Homecoming float and prop building started a week early, during the October break.
- Homecoming Spirit Days are: Marvel Monday, Dynamic Duo, Wear Pink, and Throwback Thursday.
- Each class chose a theme based on a movie.
- There are different lunch activities for example, Karaoke in the Quad and Buy the Candidates (homecoming). There has been a lot of participation.

4.2 Employee Associations (WUTA & CSEA)

WUTA – Cathy Fleming reported:

- Started negotiations the week before the October break. Plan is to meet again on Tuesday.
- Both groups anticipate and hope to make a mutual agreement quickly.

CSEA – No Report

4.3 Principals

MES – Miguel Barriga reported:

- A small group of Murdock teachers and Mr. Barriga are part of “Using Children’s Literature for Antibias Education” series. There are four online sessions and one in-person session. The purpose is to increase awareness of our differences and similarities in our very diverse society. Upon completion teachers will receive a set of 20 books for their classroom. Thank you to Mrs. Chavez, Mrs. Trujillo, Mrs. Cameron, Mrs. Porter, Ms. Malagon, and Mrs. Maszk for taking the initiative and the risk.

- Mr. Barriga and Ms. Malagon visited Mill Street School in Orland to look at their Dual Immersion program.
- Murdock students are fully receiving support in intervention in ELA/Math, ELD, and Sped as needed. In addition, the counselor, Behavior Aide, and the Opportunity class, as well as partnerships with GCOE and Glenn County Behavioral Health (GCBH), are providing support in social, emotional, and behavioral needs to students.
- The counseling program continues to grow and is congruent with goals.
- Mr. Barriga and Mrs. Lanzi are connected to the California School Leadership Academy as part of a collaborative network. They collaborate with principals throughout Northern California.
- Murdock had a 9/11 ceremony in partnership with local law enforcement and first responders, who were present for the flag raising.
- Enjoying fire safety week. Thank you to the local fire departments.
- Safety: Thank you for supporting Murdock in installing blinds in classrooms that needed them and we look forward to a more secure campus with a controlled main gate.
- Thank you for supporting us in the refurbishing of the Murdock kitchen and cafeteria. Staff and students are loving it.
- The Math-a-thon was a huge success netting almost \$29,000. As a reward the students had fun silly stringing the Principal and Assistant Principal.
- Thank you to Mr. Buckley, Mrs. Feeney, Ms. Lev, Mrs. Porter and all the other teachers for making the Shady Creek field trip happen and taking the 6th graders as well. Thank you to the WIS staff and admin for sending teachers.
- In recognition of Hispanic Heritage month, Murdock staff are displaying their Hispanic heritage with a brief bio and information about their experiences.
- Murdock teachers present a GOAT trophy at each staff meeting. The current recipient is Mrs. Mascadri. The best part is getting praise and recognition publicly from peers.
- Current enrollment is 603 with no students on independent study.
 - TK – 27
 - K – 88
 - 1st – 86
 - 2nd – 79
 - 3rd – 93
 - 4th – 129
 - 5th - 101

WIS – Chris Harris reported:

- The end of the 1st quarter is October 13, 2023, which will provide a great opportunity to monitor student progress and growth.
- Enrollment is currently at 322 students (6th – 108, 7th – 109, 8th – 105)
- Chronic absenteeism is going down, but still too high. “10th letters” were sent out on the 30th day of school, September 22, 2023.
- Volleyball and soccer just wrapped up and girls’ basketball is going through tryouts. Signups for boys’ basketball will begin soon.
- Athletic Boosters will meet on October 16, 2023.
- PTO will meet on October 19, 2023.
- 6th grade had a successful trip to Shady Creek. Greatly appreciate the hard work of the 6th grade teachers as well as the Murdock teachers for working out the logistics to provide this wonderful opportunity for our students.
- On 9/11, Lt. Dan Roach came with his color guard for the ceremony in the new quad area to commemorate the events of 9/11. Thank you to our new band teacher, Ms. Winslow, for having our band play the national anthem. Thank you to our maintenance department for helping with the logistics of getting the flag up and to Murdock for the loan of their sound system. WIS has since purchased their own portable sound system.
- The district-wide staff development day on September 18, 2023 was quite successful based on feedback from teachers.
- There will be presentations for the Great American Smoke-out on November 1 - 2, 2023.
- The 8th grade burrito drive thru on September 19, 2023 was a great success.

- Mr. Harris and Ms. Rodriguez will be joining the other principals and school counselors for the Hatching Results training.

WHS – Julie Carriere reported:

- WHS Administration and Mr. Zintzun are on the high school team participating in seminars for Grading Without Tears. They have attended three meetings, with a fourth coming up. They are working on a plan to introduce innovative concepts to the rest of the staff.
- Conducted their 1st successful fire drill and evacuation for the school year. Making adjustments to improve results.
- Staff evaluations are in full swing.
- Detentions on Tuesdays and Thursdays. These seem to be cutting down on tardies and cuts.
- Staff are voting for Staff Member of the Month. They are being recognized by their colleagues for their contributions to supporting our school. August was Mrs. Laufer and September it was Mr. Stupey.
- Butte College held their transfer day on September 20, 2023. There were about 40 students in attendance.
- Gear Up took 28 students to Sacramento State today to tour and expand their knowledge of post-high school opportunities.
- Ms. Carriere is part of the Glenn 2 Greatness Coalition which works towards “growing our own” workforce. Initially working on the healthcare and education pathways. Connections are being made which will help with possible multiple partnerships that can help students.
- Mr. Pogue has drafted the introduction and chapter one for the upcoming WASC evaluation.
- The first school site council meeting was held on September 1 with over 15 members attending.
- Homecoming has been happening all week with dress up days and lunchtime games. There will be closed campus lunch on Friday with the Homecoming Parade starting at 1:15.
- The 80’s Decade Reunion group will have a special roped off section at the game this Friday.
- The Homecoming Dance will be on Saturday night, October 14, 2023 from 8:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. at the Jacinto Grange Hall.

WHS Athletics – Bob Rawles reported:

- Football is facing many injuries, but battling for wins.
- Started Athletes of the Month award for all sports. Recipients receive a Honker card that they can redeem at Elenitas Restaurant for a burrito and a drink.
- Football Senior Night is Friday, October 20, 2023.
- Volleyball is charging through SVL play. Should finish 2nd in the league. Senior Night is next Thursday, October 19, 2023. It is Coach Martin’s 30th year of coaching volleyball.
- Swimming has Senior Night October 20, 2023. There are no more home meets, but the BVL championships are October 18, 2023 and Division championships are October 25, 2023.
- Girls Tennis had a highly successful run through league matches. SVL team and individual championships are October 19–20.
- Cross country is seeing success at all levels. Senior Night is October 20, 2023. There is one more SVL meet and then league championships on November 1, 2023.
- Athletes of the Month award for all sports. Recipients receive a Honker card that they can redeem at Elenitas Restaurant for a burrito and a drink.
- October 20, 2023 is Senior Night for 35 plus athletes.
- Winter sports start soon and all teams are participating in pre-season training.

WCHS – Emmett Koerperich reported:

- It’s been a very busy year thus far for Community High.
- Mr. Koerperich introduced a special guest, WCHS teacher Michaela Soeth, who reported:
 - Lassen Park ranger led Bumpass Hell Hike was on September 20, 2023.
 - Students participated in a paper airplane contest as well as a paper haunted house competition.
 - There will be a Scarecrow Competition of October 27, 2023.
 - Mrs. Soeth introduced a WCHS student in attendance with her, Connor John who shared what he liked best about the Lassen Park field trip. He reported that his favorite part was the sulfur pits.
- Current enrollment is 21.

4.4 Director of Business Services – Debbie Costello reported:

- Quick update given of our new District Accounting & Payroll Technician, Jeremy Benjamin, who started with the District on September 11, 2023. He has already been through one end of month payroll and one supplemental payroll. Has also completed open enrollment and is making great progress on many other things.
- Looking forward to Diana Baca, the new Account Manager, starting on November 7, 2023. There will be a transition timeline at the beginning. The first couple of months, she will be at the District two days a week and then after January 1, 2024 will be full time.
- Murdock kitchen has been completed, with only a few punch list items to be looked at.
- Last few punch list items are being worked on for WHS and WIS projects as well.

4.5 Director of Instructional Support Services – Michelle O’Dell reported:

- SPARK/ASAP
 - Native American Fun Friday will be November 3rd. Partnering with the Pawtin Dancers which has member of the Pomo, Wintun, and Nomlaki tribes. They will be dancing and leading activities.
 - There will be a combined WIS and Murdock after school Halloween to be held at Murdock on October 31, 2023.
 - Thanked everyone who worked the October Intersession Camp during the October break. 33 students attended the drama camp and 54 students attended tech camp. A survey was sent out after the camp ended. There has been positive parent and student feedback thus far.
- Independent Study (ISP)
 - Long term ISP enrollment: MES – 1, WIS – 2, WHS - 11
- Engagement Team
 - The 3rd Annual Wellness Walk is scheduled for October 19, 2023 from 4:00-5:30 p.m. There will be 26 different organizations and groups participating. There will also be classes this time, a yoga and U-Jam class.
 - Held the 1st Annual Go to School with Your Student Day. 86 parents participated.
 - Held our 1st Community Engagement Initiative meetings, where more about the process and requirements were learned. At the local WIS team meeting, data sources were determined which can help in achieving an asset and needs assessment which will be the focus at the November 1, 2023 state meeting.
 - Partnering with Community High School to put on a Halloween carnival for children ages 0-4 on Halloween at 9:30-11:30 a.m. Invitations were hand delivered to local preschools. Community High students are planning activities for the children. Local businesses have donated candy.
 - There will be a Multicultural Event held on November 4, 2023 from 10:00-2:00 at the Willows High gym. There are to be booths representing Hispanic, Hmong, and Portuguese cultures and performances from groups representing the Mexican, Aztec, and Brazilian cultures. Still finalizing the details.

4.6 Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment – Scott Booth reported:

- We have completed our Census Day on October 4 2023. Distributed District/School enrollment cards. Fall 1 does not close until December 15, 2023 this year. We are continuing work on our Fall 1 as well as the Civil Rights Data Collection.
- Discussion on the California State Seal of Civic Engagement. Provided a handout with details. With the 2013 initial efforts of then State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tom Torlekson; AB24 (in 2020) brought forward the recognition of students who have demonstrated excellence in civics education and participation and an understanding of the US and California Constitution, as well as the democratic system of government. A hallmark of the SSCE is student voice, equity and accessibility; the state implemented five guidelines for LEAs to develop criteria for determining if a student qualifies to earn this award. The award is a state seal placed upon the student’s diploma. The five guidelines are:
 1. Be engaged in academic work in a productive way;
 2. Demonstrate an understanding of the US and California constitutions, functions of governance at the local and tribal levels, and the role of the citizen in a democracy, and democratic principles, concept, and processes;
 3. Participate in one or more civic engagement projects that address real-world problems and require students to identify and inquire civic needs or problems, consider various responses, take action, and reflect upon their efforts;
 4. Demonstrate civic knowledge, skills, and dispositions through self-reflection; and

- 5. Exhibit character traits that reflect civic-mindedness and a commitment to positively impact the classroom, school, community, and/or society.

As we (a multi-disciplinary team) work through the creation of our rubric for evaluation of those criteria, we look forward to bringing that to the Board for approval.

- Planning for the next District-level articulation for grades 5-12, which is scheduled for November 1, 2023, and will be hosted at WIS.
- CAASPP testing data is available as a “preview” with public release of the data through the School Dashboard expected on October 18, 2023. This should also include the release of Summative ELPAC data. Data reports were shared with site administrators during the July Management meeting, to analyze and disseminate with staff. With the preview release, there has been some slight adjustments to the overall scores. Reports were distributed to the Board illustrating the updated scores, with comparison of year-to-year, for 2021-2023. More details will be shared at the November 2, 2023 Board meeting.

4.7 Superintendent – Emmett Koerperich reported:

- October 13, 2023 is the end of the first quarter. Overall, everything seems to be running smoothly.
- Met with Classified Leads this week. The Leads and Principals reported overall satisfaction with how things are going currently.
- Met with WUTA President Cathy Fleming. Discussed the September 18, 2023 in-service day for certificated staff which focused on developing a positive school climate through relationship building. There was agreement that the in-service day was a great start towards building trust and relationships district-wide.
- Phase I modernization projects are complete. Gearing up for Phase II.
- Review of Upcoming Projects – Bidding and Construction Schedules. A handout with chart was provided with details of all of the upcoming projects to include replacing the Murdock Cooling Towers and many other items. Will be meeting with KYA Group to discuss modernization of the student restrooms at Murdock and WHS, the Murdock new TK building, in addition to the many other items.
- Went over the WHS Front Office blue print and the Murdock E-LOP building.
- Attended the GCOE Safety Summit in Orland along with Mr. Booth, Mrs. O’Dell, Mr. Bazan, and Mr. Harris. The presenters represented the Child Protective Services, District Attorney’s Office, Probation, Sheriff’s Department, and a safety software vendor.
- District enrollment is 1,389.

4.8 Board of Education Members

Kirsten Gray reported:

- Hope everyone enjoyed the October break.
- Attended the 9/11 ceremony at Murdock. Thought students were well behaved.
- Enjoying the Honker Highlights.
- Love seeing all of the school spirit at all of the school sites.
- Enjoyed an FFA fundraiser tri-tip sandwich.

Lourdes Ruiz reported:

- Attended a WIS soccer game vs Durham.
- Attended the WHS football game vs Anderson.
- Spoke with a Murdock student about the Math-a-thon.
- Enjoyed a burrito from a WIS 8th grade fundraiser event.

Margaret Parisio reported:

- Attended the 9/11 ceremony at Murdock and WIS. Impressed with how well students behaved.
- Attended a couple of volleyball games.
- Attended the Battle of the Axe game.
- Enjoyed an FFA fundraiser tri-tip sandwich.
- Watched the WHS Band at one of the football games.

Gina Taylor reported:

- Thanked all staff members for how hard everyone is working.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. GENERAL

1. Approve the WUSD Obsolete Technology Equipment list.
2. Approve the disposal of Obsolete Graduation Gowns at WIS.

B. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

1. Approve Interdistrict Request for Students #23-24-42 through #23-24-43 to attend school in the Willows Unified School District for the 2023/24 school year.
2. Approve Interdistrict Request for Students #23-24-38 through #23-24-40 to attend school in another district for the 2023/24 school year.
3. Approve the Overnight Field Trip Request for FFA to attend the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana and to tour various historical sites, colleges, and agricultural tours in Kentucky and Tennessee, November 1-8, 2023.

C. HUMAN RESOURCES

1. Accept resignation of Michelle Thomas, Account Clerk-Food Services at MES, effective 9/29/23.
2. Approve dismissal of Employee ID# 1684, effective 9/22/23.
3. Approve employment of Gabriela Martinez, After School Program Activity Assistant, effective 9/5/23.
4. Approve employment of Mikayla Madden, Secretary II at WIS, effective 9/22/23.
5. Approve employment of Rosalba Flores, Instructional Aide I at MES, effective 10/10/23.
6. Approve the employment of the following employees for the Temporary ELO-P Intersession Camp that runs from October 2-6, 2023:

Teacher/Organizer	Patricia Lev
Engagement Staff	Gloria Barragan, Leeci Camarena, Jessica Dunlap, Emanuel Guadiana Maria Mendoza Franco, Maria Garcia, Daniel Macias, Julia Medina, Rebeka Mercado, Isabel Robles, Emily Silva, Gene Smith

7. Approve the extra duty assignment:

Detention at WHS	Ernesto Rodriguez
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8. Approve the following 2023/24 WHS Fall Coach:

Football Volunteer Coach	Baduel Ramirez
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9. Approve the following 2023/24 WHS Winter Coaches:

Varsity Boys Basketball – Head Coach	Andrew Sanchez
JV Boys Basketball – Head Coach	Rosendo Zepeda
Varsity Girls Basketball – Head Coach	Amanda Hutson
Varsity Girls Basketball – Volunteer Coach	Jeni Carriere-LaDuke
JV Girls Basketball – Head Coach	Julian Velazquez (pending clearance)
JV Girls Basketball – Volunteer Coach	Jamie Hobbs
Varsity Wrestling – Head Coach	Dominic Mercado
Wrestling - Volunteer Coach	Megan Courtney
Wrestling - Volunteer Coach	Luke Hernandez
Varsity Boys Soccer – Head Coach	Jose Barajas
Varsity Girls Soccer – Head Coach	TBD
Varsity Girls Soccer Volunteer Coach	TBD
10. Approve the following 2023/24 WHS Spring Coaches:

Varsity Baseball – Head Coach	Mike Rakestraw
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11. Approve Classified Substitute List.

D. BUSINESS SERVICES

1. Approve budget revision summary.
2. Approve warrants from 9/1/23 through 10/9/23.

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

AYES: Gray, Parisio, Ruiz, and Taylor

NOES: None

ABSENT: Geiger

MOTION PASSED: 4-0-1

6. DISCUSSION/ACTION CALENDAR

An Equal Opportunity Employer

A. GENERAL

1. **(Information)** Williams Uniform Complaints Quarterly Report. (There were not any complaints.)
Information only – no action taken.

B. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

1. **(Discussion/Possible Action)** Approve the 2023/24 WUSD Mission, Vision, and Goals.
Two items had been removed from the document. No further changes made.
Lourdes Ruiz moved, seconded by Margaret Parisio to approve the 2023/24 WUSD Mission, Vision, and Goals.
AYES: Gray, Parisio, Ruiz, and Taylor
NOES: None
ABSENT: Geiger
MOTION PASSED: 4-0-1

C. HUMAN RESOURCES

D. BUSINESS SERVICES

1. **(Action)** Approve Resolution #23-24-06 Adoption of the “Gann Limit”. (Annual Requirement)
Item has been pulled for a future meeting.
2. **(Action)** Approve the Unaudited Actuals Financial Report for the Fiscal Year 2022-23.
Item has been pulled for a future meeting.
3. **(Action)** HMC Agreement for Preliminary Architect & Engineering – Murdock Cooling Tower HVAC Replacement.
Kirsten Gray moved, seconded by Gina Taylor to approve the HMC Agreement for Preliminary Architect & Engineering – Murdock Cooling Tower HVAC Replacement.
AYES: Gray, Parisio, Ruiz, and Taylor
NOES: None
ABSENT: Geiger
MOTION PASSED: 4-0-1

7. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- 7.1 The MES Fall Festival will be held on Thursday, October 26, 2023 from 3:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
- 7.2 The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on November 2, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

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

At 8:09 p.m., the Board took a short recess after the Regular Meeting before going into Closed Session. Vice President Taylor will report out into Open Session upon conclusion of Closed Session.

9. **CLOSED SESSION**

Closed Session began at 8:15 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(b)(1): Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release.

10. **RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION**

10.1 Announcement of Action Taken in Closed Session

At 8:25 p.m., the meeting reconvened to Open Session. Vice President 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.