

WILLOWS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Regular Meeting – April 4, 2024

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, and Gina Taylor. Margaret Parisio was absent.
- 1.2 Welcome to Visitors
- 1.3 Flag Salute was led by Chris Harris

2. AGENDA/MINUTES

- 2.1 Approve the Agenda for April 4, 2024.
President Jeromy Geiger requested to pull Item 6.D.1. Business Service Action Item-Approve the 2023/24 Second Interim Budget Report. Will bring back next month. President Jeromy Geiger requested to pull Item 6.D.4. Business Service Action Item – Accept base bid for the MES and WHS Toilet Room Modernization Project, and authorize the Superintendent to enter into a contract with the construction company. Jeromy Geiger moved, seconded by Kirsten Gray to approve the Agenda for April 4, 2024 as amended.
AYES: Geiger, Gray, Ruiz, Taylor
NOES: None
ABSENT: Parisio
MOTION PASSED: 4-0-1
- 2.2 Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 7, 2024.
Gina Taylor moved, seconded by Kirsten Gray to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 7, 2024.
AYES: Geiger, Gray, Ruiz, Taylor
NOES: None
ABSENT: Parisio
MOTION PASSED: 4-0-1

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

4. REPORTS

4.1 Associated Student Body President – No report.

4.2 Employee Associations (WUTA & CSEA)

WUTA – President Cathy Fleming reported:

- Evaluation Sub Committee has been meeting and things are going well.
- There is a sub shortage. Teachers are using their prep time to fill in for absent teachers. This happens often due to the sub shortage. Teachers are losing many prep periods. Would like to see Murdock teachers have the additional option of Sub Comp Time, the same procedure as WIS and WHS. They currently only have the option of receiving pay on the supplemental payroll for missed preps.
- Thank you to Ashlynn Geiger for all of her hard work on the Health Insurance Committee.

CSEA – No report.

4.3 Principals

WCHS – Emmett Koerperich reported:

- Unfortunately, we were unable to attend the Snowshoe Hike at Lassen National Park last week due to weather conditions. That was the last day of the ranger led program scheduled for the year.

- Next week, the class will be conducting an egg drop competition where teams compete to drop a raw egg from a given height without breaking the egg. Partners collaborate to design a safety device to place the egg in and drop it. The collaboration and critical thinking required to complete a successful drop is a fun way to engage students.
- In an effort to make sure every community high school student graduates with at least one career certification, we have ordered 18 OSHA courses for students to complete this spring. The courses offered include the following: Healthcare, Agriculture, Automotive, Culinary, Cosmetology, Law Enforcement, Public Safety, and Construction.
- You are welcome to attend our Open House which will be held April 24, 2024, at 4:30 p.m. We will be serving ice cream sundaes.
- We have had 5 more students either graduate or return to WHS as they wanted, bringing us up to 15 students total.
- The current enrollment is 17, which is down 4 from last month. 3 of the 4 completed enough units to graduate early.

WHS – Julie Carriere reported:

- Current enrollment is 442 students.
- Currently interviewing for all open positions and hope to have all vacancies filled by the middle of April.
- Attended the last Hatching Results with the counselors and are planning the end of the year activities. The SBAC testing is more that halfway completed. Math will be tested in the first week of May.
- Attended the North State Summit as part of the Glenn2Greatness coalition and learned about a program called CalKIDS. This is the California Kids Investment and Development Saving program, which is to give the California youth a head-start on saving for education after high school. Upon inquiring about the program further, found out that there are 102 eligible seniors who haven't taken advantage of this opportunity with over \$52,000 still on the table. Emails were sent out to parents to inform them of this opportunity.
- Will be attending the Rural School Summit: From Cradle to Career in Lexington Kentucky at the end of the month. Looking forward to bringing back strategies for all to use.
- Prom is this Saturday at the Silos in Woodland. There about 135 students signed up.
- FCCLA had a very successful Bake Sale at Roundtable Pizza last week.
- The annual Student vs. Staff basketball game was a success for the students. The new Herkimer debuted at the game.
- Sports reported by Bob Rawles:
 - Bob gave a reporting of all Spring Sports – baseball, softball, boys tennis, golf, and track and field.

WIS – Chris Harris reported:

- Current enrollment is 331 students.
 - 6th – 109
 - 7th – 117
 - 8th – 105
- Chronic absenteeism is unfortunately up to 15.85% from 15% reported in January. In actual numbers that is 52 students who are chronically absent. April 26th is the 150th day of school. Will continue communication to students that have missed 10% (15 days) at that point in the year. Letters will be sent home.
- 6th Grade Basketball has finished and now it is time for Track & Field. Initially had large numbers sign up but those have dwindled. We have three great coaches and have expanded the season to 4 – 5 meets.
- The 3rd quarter ended March 22nd. The staff used this past Wednesday to analyze grades in their own classrooms, but also to draw comparisons between student achievement and behaviors.
- Michelle O'Dell is the district lead for the Community Engagement Initiative grant. Our district team met in-person with the rest of the cohort, April 3, 2024. Preparing for the trip to southern California at the end of April.
- Xochitl and the rest of the counseling team wrapped up the Hatching Results. Scott Booth is commended for putting this training together and we will see where we will go from here, but most importantly, he has created a true Counseling Team within our district.
- Working hard to finalize the master schedule for next year. Really looking forward to seeing what the 5th grade team has to offer.

- Wrapping up Physical Fitness Testing as well as ELPAC testing, with the rest of the school taking the MAP Growth testing in ELA and math. CAST (science) testing will start toward the end of April.
- Open House is next Wednesday, April 10, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. Hope to see you there.
- Looking forward to hosting the Chief Justice of the State of California next Friday. She will be visiting Mr. Vought's class along with selected students with a particular interest.

MES – Miguel Barriga reported:

- The second trimester awards were presented on March 21, 2024. The recognition helps all of our students. It is always fulfilling to see our students gain pride for their learning.
- In the last of the Map Growth testing cycle. The data gathered is district wide, normed, and a longitudinal tool with immediate data to look at and help us drive instruction. This is just one set of data to be used as a multiple measure.
- Values are a foundational component of high-performance school culture. At Murdock, we value creating positive behavior. Mrs. Lanzi has worked hard to keep the Mallard store open with help from the PTO. Students are encouraged to demonstrate good behaviors, and in doing so earn "Mallard Bucks" to spend at the store.
- Another important value is school attendance. Murdock has made great efforts to address attendance with support from the District office. Happy to report that efforts are paying off. Data from Aeries Analytics show an improvement in chronic absenteeism across the board. The focus demographic has been Hispanic students. Chronic absenteeism has decreased from 27.4 to 17.4, to 12.4 as of today.
- Hatching Results, a PD program designed to develop the counseling program and establish norms, expectations, and program changes has not concluded. A couple of months ago, the counselors gave a presentation to the Board explaining how they have benefited. Thank you to the counselors and the District office for having the vision for transformative change.
- Murdock PTO continues to be our partner. The Pulled Pork Dinner, Movie Night, and now the Galactic Glow Mother/Son event to be held this Saturday, April 6, 2024 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. We are thankful to the PTO and all the experiences they help to create for our children.
- Thankful for the addition of the TK playground that is on tonight's agenda.
- Murdock is now in full construction mode. There is much demolition and construction going on. This has caused a change in the traffic pattern. All students go through the cafeteria in the morning when they arrive at school. This has caused an increase in breakfast participation. Thank you to Cristina and the cafeteria crew.
- Next week, the 5th grade will be headed to Shady Creek. Thankful for the opportunity to have our students experience outdoor education in such a significant way. Thankful for the group of teachers who support and encourage our students to expand their comfort zone and grow.
- On the playground, we are increasing our connections with our students by focusing on creating connections with students who we know are struggling during unstructured times. This has helped prevent possible behavior issues.
- Current enrollment is 623 students
 - TK – 29
 - K - 92
 - 1st – 87
 - 2nd – 88
 - 3rd – 93
 - 4th – 133
 - 5th – 101
- TK/K registration is open. Currently have 29 TK and 26 K students enrolled for next school year.
- Congratulations and welcome to Mr. Calonico.

4.4 **Director of Food Services** – No report.

4.5 **Director of Business Services** – No report.

4.6 **Director of Instructional Support Services – Michelle O'Dell reported:**

- **After School Program**
 - Partnered with Carolina Cabral from Health and Human Services Agency and the Willows High School Students Working Against Tobacco (SWAT) group to work on our healthy choices program standard. The high school students planned and led activities and discussions that taught our 3rd- 5th grade students about the dangers of tobacco use.
- **Expanded Learning Opportunities Program Plan**
 - Registration opened April 1, 2024 for the Expect Success Summer Camp.

An Equal Opportunity Employer

- As of April 3, 2024, there are currently 40 students enrolled.
- The Camp is fully staffed.
- **Long-term Independent Study**
 - Enrollment is 21 students: MES – 2, WIS – 4, WHS - 15
- **Engagement Team**
 - The Community Engagement Initiative (CEI) is working on identifying a problem of practice for a presentation that we have to make later this month in Ontario. We have identified two root causes we want to work on: the belief that the system’s success is critically dependent on its relationship with students, families and the community; and that systems and tools are made to be community friendly.
 - The WUSD listening campaign student survey findings are: themes of mental health challenges like anxiety, depression, lack of motivation, perfectionism, and self-doubt, access to resources (transportation, financial constraints), academic challenges (overwhelming workload, procrastination, problems understanding, and distractions).
 - Parent survey findings are: themes of bullying and school climate, academic challenges, lack of communication, mental health and well-being, and parental involvement.
 - How do we provide mental health supports to all students so they can have more success in school – need to provide communication on what is available.

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

- This is the busiest time of year for the LCAP - development of the drafts which include the Annual Update and the new 2024/25 LCAP.
- Hosted the last DELAC on March 20, 2024 and LCAP Advisory on March 27, 2024, which included homemade albondigas for dinner!
- Have closed the LCAP surveys for students and parents, while opening our staff surveys through next Friday, April 19, 2024.
- Future meetings to review draft items will include: an LCAP Advisory (April 29, 2024), CIA (April 23, 2024), and DELAC (May 15, 2024). This is in addition to scheduling consultations with our labor partners and upcoming site meetings:
 - Murdock: ELAC (May 10, 2024 at 8:30 a.m.); SSC (April 24, 2024 at 7:00 a.m.)
 - WIS: ELAC (May 8, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.); SSC (April 25, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.)
 - WHS: ELAC (May 1, 2024 at 3:15 p.m.); SSC (TBD)
- Participated in SPSA workouts (February 12, 2024; March 5, 2024; March 25, 2024). Site principals are adding the finishing touches to their School Plans for Student Achievement, which will be presented to their respective site councils, prior to coming to the Board this next month. Appreciate all of their work in putting together a plan for continuous school improvement.
- Gearing up for the EOY reporting for CALPADS (1,2,3, and 4), which is set to start in early May.
- Had the latest CIA Advisory meeting this last Tuesday, that provided a time to survey our Local Performance Indicators and review supplemental materials and two new courses (Construction II and Construction III).
- Testing is well underway. WIS is in the midst of PFT testing and WHS continues to work through English and CAST testing makeups. They will be tackling the Math portions later this month. Murdock will begin their state testing in early May, but are finishing the last bit of Summative ELPAC testing, prior to Spring break.

4.8 Superintendent – Emmett Koerperich reported:

- Exciting news - Will be meeting with our new physics teacher tomorrow (April 5, 2024), as he has accepted the position.
- Construction projects are underway at both Murdock and the high school. Students have been lining up at the fence watching the heavy equipment operators. Abatement at both sites is now complete and work on the TK building, the after school modular building and the high school office started today.
- Later in the agenda, you will have the opportunity to take action on facilities that could really enhance both Murdock and WIS.
 - Provided a PowerPoint presentation on the proposed TK playground at Murdock and the 5th/6th Grade playground at WIS.
- In an effort to support the community with limited access to baseball facilities in town, Steven Permann and I have been working with Little League to add an additional practice facility in the Northwest corner of the Murdock grass field. All the work is being done by volunteers. They have created an infield and they plan to clean up the old practice batting cage.

- District enrollment is 1,411, which is up 2 from last month.

4.9 Board of Education Members

Kirsten Gray reported:

- Enjoyed the Kings Game district-wide outing that was on March 16, 2024.

Lourdes Ruiz reported:

- Would like to recognize the Murdock PTO for all of the wonderful events and postings on Facebook. They are doing a really good job of building community at Murdock.
- Would like to recognize the Engagement Team. The Expect Success Summer Camp is advertised and it looks very well organized. Looking forward to all the good things that the students will be learning during the camp.
- Thank you to the community for trusting us with the 5th Grade move to WIS.
- Congratulations to Miss Glenn County, who is one of our high school students. Like to see students excelling not only in school, but in activities outside of school as well.

Gina Taylor reported:

- Attended the Staff vs. Student basketball game last week. It was lots of fun and was a fantastic activity and very well attended.
- Glenn County Fair is coming up. Looking forward to attending and seeing all the good work our students have done throughout the year.
- Encourages everyone to take the time to celebrate successes as we get towards the end of the school year.
- Attended a Golden State Risk Management Authority (GSRMA) bimonthly meeting held in March. The work that they do is just phenomenal in terms of risk management and how they serve our public entities, including our school district. Just a reminder that they have a lot of resources available to us. The safety and other items on their website are very robust and they have a lot of links in resources available. Encourages everyone to check them out.
- Proud of the work that all of us have done this year to help our students and in providing a safe environment for learning. Thank you to everyone.

Jeremy Geiger – No report.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. GENERAL

1. Accept donation from Willows Alumni Association in the amount of \$1,000 for WHS Baseball.
2. Approve the WUSD Obsolete Technology Equipment list.

B. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

1. Approve Interdistrict Requests for Students #23-24-55 through #23-24-56 to attend school in another district for the 2023/24 school year,
2. Approve Interdistrict Requests for Students #24-25-10 through #24-25-13 to attend school in the Willows Unified School District for the 2024/25 school year.
3. Approve Interdistrict Requests for Students #24-25-04 through #24-25-09 to attend school in another district for the 2024/25 school year.
4. Approve the Overnight Field Trip Request for students to attend the Community Engagement Initiative Peer Leading and Learning Network Meeting to be held at the Ontario Convention Center in Ontario, CA April 24-26, 2024.

C. HUMAN RESOURCES

1. Accept resignation of Patrick Sears, WHS Swim Head Coach, effective 3/7/24.
2. Accept resignation of Gary Pogue, WHS Assistant Principal, effective 6/30/24.
3. Accept retirement of Julie Roessel, MES ELD Teacher, effective 6/8/24.
4. Approve employment of Mariah Baker, Yard Duty Supervisor at WIS, effective 3/11/24.
5. Approve employment of Brenda Villa Cisneros, Yard Duty Supervisor at WIS, effective 3/26/24.
6. Approve employment of Erika Johnstone, Instructional Aide I at MES, effective 3/26/24.
7. Approve employment of the following Expect Success Summer Camp positions (22 days, June 10 - July 12):
Teachers: Susan Cameron, Sara Cervantes, Yesenia Diaz, Elizabeth Hansen, Patricia Lev, Lucero Malagon, Aaron Vought

Coordinator: Gene Smith
 Clerical: Julia Medina
 Counselors: Mariah Atilano, Rebecca Ayala, Gloria Barragan, Leeci Camarena, Valeria Chavez, Veronica Feregrino, Rosa Lomeli, Panra Lor, Karissa Lutz, Daniel Macias, Angel Medina, Marissa Medina, Tanya Medina-Mercado, Rebeka Mercado, Alexia Mercado-Parra, Sheyenne Munguia, Erin Pasero, Erika Pineda, Isabel Robles, Kaitlyn Swihart, Haley Thomas, Irma Weinrich

- 8. Approve the Classified Substitute List.

D. BUSINESS SERVICES

- 1. Approve warrants from 3/5/24 through 4/1/24.

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

AYES: Geiger, Gray, Ruiz, Taylor

NOES: None

ABSENT: Parisio

MOTION PASSED: 4-0-1

6. DISCUSSION/ACTION CALENDAR

A. GENERAL

- 1. **(Action)** Approve the Certificated/Student Calendar with Collaboration Days for 2024/25 School Year.

Lourdes Ruiz moved, seconded by Gina Taylor to approve the Certificated/Student Calendar with Collaboration Days for 2024/25 School Year.

AYES: Geiger, Gray, Ruiz, Taylor

NOES: None

ABSENT: Parisio

MOTION PASSED: 4-0-1

- 2. **(Action)** Approve the 2023/24 CSSP (Comprehensive School Safety Plan).

Gina Taylor moved, seconded by Kirsten Gray to approve the 2023/24 CSSP (Comprehensive School Safety Plan).

AYES: Geiger, Gray, Ruiz, Taylor

NOES: None

ABSENT: Parisio

MOTION PASSED: 4-0-1

- 3. **(Action)** Accept selection committee’s recommendations for the 2024 Glenn County Educator’s Hall of Fame Award recipients. (Gina Taylor & Lourdes Ruiz)

Kirsten Gray announced the committee’s recommendation for the 2024 recipients as Steve Sailsbery (Posthumous) and Shelley Taylor.

Gina Taylor moved, seconded by Lourdes Ruiz to accept the committee’s recommendation of Steve Sailsbery and Shelley Taylor as the 2024 Glenn County Educator’s Hall of Fame Award recipients for WUSD.

AYES: Geiger, Gray, Ruiz, Taylor

NOES: None

ABSENT: Parisio

MOTION PASSED: 4-0-1

- 4. **(Information/Discussion)** Williams Uniform Complaints Quarterly Report. (There were no complaints) Information only – no action taken.

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

BP 1160

Political Process

BP 1330

Use of School Facilities

BP 3312	Contracts
BP 3460	Financial Reports and Accountability
BP 3551	Food Service Operations/Cafeteria Fund
BP 4151/4251/4351	Employee Compensation
BP 5131.9	Academic Honesty
BP 6154	Homework/Makeup Work
BP 6162.5	Student Assessment
BB 9124	Attorney

Lourdes Ruiz 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, Taylor

NOES: None

ABSENT: Parisio

MOTION PASSED: 4-0-1

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

BP 0460	Local Control and Accountability Plan
BP 0500	Accountability
BP 0520	Intervention in Underperforming Schools
BP 1431	Waivers
BP 3400	Management of District Assets/Accounts
BP 5116.2	Involuntary Student Transfers
BP 5131.2	Bullying
BP 6142.8	Comprehensive Health Education
BP 6146.1	High School Graduation Requirements
BP 6146.4	Differential Graduation and Competency Standards for Students with Disabilities
BP 6170.1	Transitional Kindergarten
BB 9321	Closed Session

Jeromy Geiger moved, seconded by Kirsten Gray 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, Taylor

NOES: None

ABSENT: Parisio

MOTION PASSED: 4-0-1

B. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

- 1. **(Action)** Approve the WUSD Transportation Plan.

Gina Taylor moved, seconded by Kirsten Gray to approve the WUSD Transportation Plan.

AYES: Geiger, Gray, Ruiz, Taylor

NOES: None

ABSENT: Parisio

MOTION PASSED: 4-0-1

C. HUMAN RESOURCES

D. BUSINESS SERVICES

- ~~1. **(Action)** Approve 2023/24 Second Interim Report. Pulled from agenda.~~
- 2. **(Action)** Accept Proposal from Park Planet for 5th/6th Grade Playground Equipment at Willows Intermediate School.

Jeromy Geiger moved, seconded by Lourdes Ruiz to accept the Proposal from Park Planet for 5th/6th Grade Playground Equipment at Willows Intermediate School.

AYES: Geiger, Gray, Ruiz, Taylor

NOES: None
ABSENT: Parisio
MOTION PASSED: 4-0-1

3. **(Action)** Accept Proposal from Park Planet for TK Playground Equipment at Murdock Elementary School.

Lourdes Ruiz moved, seconded by Gina Taylor to accept the Proposal from Park Planet for 5th/6th Grade Playground Equipment at Willows Intermediate School.

AYES: Geiger, Gray, Ruiz, Taylor

NOES: None

ABSENT: Parisio

MOTION PASSED: 4-0-1

- ~~4. **(Action)** Accept base bid for the MES and WHS Toilet Room Modernization Project, and authorize the Superintendent to enter into a contract with the construction company.~~ **Pulled from agenda.**

7. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

7.1 There will be a district-wide break from April 15-19, 2024.

7.2 The following are the dates and times for Open House at the different school sites:

Wednesday, April 10, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.	Willows Intermediate School
Wednesday, April 24, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.	Willows Community High School
Wednesday, May 8, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.	Willows High School
Wednesday, May 22, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.	Murdock Elementary School

7.3 The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on May 2, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

7.4 Educators' Hall of Fame will be held on Wednesday, May 8, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

7.5 Lamb Derby festivities will take place May 9-12, 2024.

7.6 Glenn County Fair will be held May 16-19, 2024.

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

At 8:02 p.m., the Board took a short recess after the Regular Meeting before going into Closed Session. President Geiger will report out into Open Session upon the conclusion of Closed Session.

9. **CLOSED SESSION**

Closed Session began at 8:09 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.

10. **RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION**

10.1 Announcement of Action Taken in Closed Session.

At 9:32 p.m., the meeting reconvened to Open Session. President Geiger reported out:

10.1 Update given to the Board.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 9:33 p.m.