

November 12, 2025

The Board of Trustees of Willis ISD met in Regular Business Session on September 10, 2025 at the Sharon Hill Jennette Administration Building in the Willis ISD Boardroom, 612 N. Campbell Street, Willis, Texas 77378, and the business to be conducted is listed below.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

President Kyle Hoegemeyer called the Regular Business Meeting to order at 5:30PM. and announce that a quorum was present and that notice of the meeting had been posted for the time and manner required by law.

Board Secretary, Chad Jones called the roll.

Members Present: Cliff Williams, Scott Carson, Charles Perry, Kyle Hoegemeyer, Paulett Traylor, Nikita Lagway, and Chad Jones

President Kyle Hoegemeyer turned the meeting over to Superintendent, Dr. Kim James. Dr. Kim James announced the next steps for the meeting, indicating she would first call on Ally Wilkins to bring her students forward for the Pledge of Allegiance and the invocation. She also requested that Mr. Anthony Roberts stay on standby, as the meeting would immediately transition to recognizing the Students of the Month afterward

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION – Hardy Elementary ANNOUNCEMENTS/PROCLAMATIONS/RESOLUTIONS/RECOGNITIONS

Sebastian Cuevas, a fifth-grade student at CC Hardy Elementary, was named Elementary Student of the Month. He was recognized as an exceptional student who consistently exemplifies the Willis ISD's behavioral expectations: Be Respectful, Be Responsible, and Be Safe. Sebastian demonstrates his respect through kindness and courtesy and shows responsibility via a strong work ethic and a willingness to help others. His consistent, positive actions are seen as inspiring to his peers. Overall, Sebastian represents the Wildkat spirit and the positive character the district strives to cultivate.

Laken Stroup, representing Calfee Middle School, was recognized as the Secondary Student of the Month for embodying excellence, integrity, and leadership. Her teachers consistently describe her as a bright, hardworking, and deeply engaged student who always gives her best effort. Laken is praised for being a great peer mentor, patiently explaining concepts to classmates who need assistance. She is known for being respectful, positive, and dependable, exhibiting maturity and a strong work ethic in all situations. Laken is celebrated as the kind of student who does the right thing even when no one is watching, making her an awesome Calfee Cougar.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Board President Hoegemeyer introduced the public comment period, strictly limiting it to 30 minutes total, with each speaker allotted a maximum of three minutes to address the board. He mandated that the board will not respond to comments and reminded speakers to respect privacy by refraining from naming students, employees, or community members. The President also reserved the right to determine if an administrative attempt at resolution has been made; if not, the speaker will be referred to the appropriate policy before proceeding.

Diane Hivnor's comments focused on the importance of the committee model in providing the best educational opportunities for Willis ISD students. She emphasized that community member volunteers must be allowed to engage in true debate and discussion, voicing both the positives and negatives of topics to reach valid conclusions. Ms. Hivnor suggested that the WISD administration should ensure that committee members are allowed to be heard without preconceived outcomes or orchestration in future processes.

Jan Dial reflected on her positive experience with the WISD naming committee, thanking the board and administration for utilizing the committee process. She suggested that the committee's past lessons should be used to refine the process by setting stricter standards for initial name proposals and also requested board direction on naming adjunct buildings.

Overall, Ms. Dial expressed her gratitude and willingness to continue serving the district.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approval of Minutes
- b. Approval of the Willis Independent School District membership to join the Region 1 EducationService Center Purchasing Cooperative
 - **Speaker(s):** Garrett Matej, CFO
- c. Approval of CDA (local) Pertaining to Investments and Approval of Brokers
 - **Speaker(s):** Garrett Matej, CFO
- d. Approval to Adopt the Texas Gulf Coast Area Prevailing Wage Rate for Construction Projects 2025-2026 and Rescind Previously Adopted Rates

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- **Speaker(s):** *Garrett Matej, CFO*
- e. Approval of the Willis ISD Library Purchase Book List
 - **Speaker(s):** *Courtney Brown, Digital Integration Coordinator*
- f. Approval of the selection of Spear Point Engineering for the Willis High School Parking A, B, & C, with a new Cross Country Track and New Access Road
 - **Speaker(s):** *Bob Eaton, Chief of Construction & Operations*
- g. Approval of the Delivery Method for the Willis High School Parking A,B, & C, with a new Cross Country Track and New Access Road
 - **Speaker(s):** *Bob Eaton, Chief of Construction & Operations*
- h. Approval of the out-of-state travel for the National Mentor Summit
 - **Speaker(s):** *Kelly Locke, Director of Guidance and Counseling*

Board Secretary, Chad Jones requested that Item F (Approval of the selection of Spear Point Engineering) and Item G (Approval of the Delivery Method) be removed from the Consent Agenda and tabled until the board has an opportunity to review the traffic study that was done prior to the vote. Board President, Kyle Hoegemeyer stated these items have been removed and asked if there was anything further to discuss. Motion by Cliff Williams and seconded by Paulett Traylor to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented, tabling agenda items F & G. Motion carried unanimously, 7-0.

PROGRESS MONITORING UPDATES

HB3 Lonestar Governance

Speaker(s): *Dr. Susan Clardy, Exe. Director of Accountability, Research, & Eval.*

Strategic Plan

Speaker(s): *Dr. Sue Clardy, Exe. Director of Accountability, Research, & Eval.*

District Improvement Plan

Speaker(s): *Dr. Sue Clardy, Exe. Director of Accountability, Research, & Eval.*

WISD Safety Update

Speaker(s): *Meghan Ballard Arthur, Director of Federal Prog./Compliance & Grants*

OTHER BUSINESS

Student Enrollment Report

Speaker(s): *Heather Gattinger, Director of PEIMS*

Financial Reports / Bill Payment / Bond Summary

Speaker(s): *Garrett Matej, CFO*

Delinquent Tax Collections Report

Speaker(s): *Leslie Schkade - Perdue Brandon*

Bond Project Update

Speaker(s): *Bob Eaton, Chief of Construction & Operations*

CLOSED SESSION*: Consideration of matters for which closed sessions are authorized by Title 5, Chapter 551, Texas Government Code Sections (.071-.084)

Personnel Matters Texas Gov't Code §551.074

- Discuss Teacher Resignations and Consider Approval of Teacher Appointments. Tex. Gov't Code 551.074

Real Estate: Pursuant to Texas Gov't Code §551.072

- Discuss and consider the approval to purchase approximately 94.23 acre of land

Consultation with Attorney: Pursuant to Texas Gov't Code §551.071

The Board convened into Closed Session at 6:39PM.

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

The Board reconvened into Open Session at 9:01PM. President Hoegemeyer asked if there are any motions from closed session.

Motion by Cliff Williams and seconded by Scott Carson to approve the personnel as listed. Motion carried unanimously, 7-0.

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Motion by Cliff Williams and seconded by Chad Jones to approve the purchase of approximately 94.23 acre of land at 601 S. Cochran Street, Willis Texas 77378 for the amount of \$1.94 per square foot gross, and delegate authority to the Superintendent or designee to negotiate and execute the real estate purchase agreement with the terms approved by the District's Legal Counsel. Motion carried unanimously, 7-0. Board Secretary Chad Jones sought confirmation that so named property would be immediately annexed by the City of Willis. Bob Eaton responded affirmatively, stating that he had already spoken with the City of Willis, who confirmed they are aware of the pending annexation and have no issues proceeding as soon as the district goes under contract.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS

Discuss and Consider Approval of the Resolution Establishing a One-Time Retention Incentive Payment for District Personnel – December 2025

Speaker(s): *Garrett Matej, CFO*

Motion by Scott Carson and seconded by Charles Perry to approve the Superintendent's recommendation and approve the proposed resolution establishing a one-time payment for district personnel who meet the established guidelines noted in the resolution. Motion carried unanimously, 7-0.

Discuss and Consider Approval of General Fund Budget Amendments for 2025-2026 Budget Year

Speaker(s): *Garrett Matej, CFO*

Motion by Scott Carson and seconded by Chad Jones to approve the Superintendent's recommendation and amend the 2025-2026 General Fund Budget as presented. Motion carried unanimously, 7-0.

Discuss and Consider Approval of the 2025-2026 Phone Free Schools Grant Award

Speaker(s): *Meghan Ballard Arthur, Director of Federal Prog./Compliance & Grant*

A board member asked if the devices being discussed were solely for confiscated phones taken from students violating policy, and not for general classroom use. The speaker confirmed that the purpose is solely to securely store these confiscated devices, which are kept in the front office, not in each individual classroom.

Motion by Paulett Traylor and seconded by Scott Carson to approve the Superintendent's recommendation and approve the acceptance of the Phone Free Schools Grant. Motion carried unanimously, 7-0.

Discuss and Consider Approval of the LASO 4 Grant Application

Speaker(s): *Meghan Ballard Arthur, Director of Fed. Prog./Compliance & Grants*

Motion by Paulett Traylor and seconded by Scott Carson to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the LASO 4 grant. Motion carried unanimously, 7-0.

Discuss and Consider Approval of the 2025/26 TAP plan for Lynn Lucas Middle School and TIP plan for CCH, PES, & TES

Speaker(s): *John Vaglienty, Chief Academic Officer*

Motion by Chad Jones and seconded by Scott Carson to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the 25-26 TAP & TIP Plans. Motion carried unanimously, 7-0.

Discuss and Consider Approval to Adopt the Method of Compliance for Cannan Elementary School Expansion

Speaker(s): *Bob Eaton, Chief of Construction & Operations*

The agenda item was tabled, and therefore, no motion was carried.

Discuss and Consider Approval of the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) for the 9th Grade Center

Speaker(s): *Bob Eaton, Chief of Construction & Operation*

Motion by Chad Jones and seconded by Paulett Traylor to approve the Superintendent's recommendation and approve the

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Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) not to exceed \$57,615,590.00 for the 9th Grade Center base bid as presented by Gamma Construction and delegate the authority to Dr. James to negotiate, finalize, and execute the final GMP Amendment Document. Motion carried unanimously, 7-0.

Discuss and Consider Approval to Vote in the Election of the Montgomery Central Appraisal District's Board of Directors

Speaker(s): Dr. Kim James, Superintendent

Motion by Paulett Traylor and seconded by Cliff Williams to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to vote in the Upcoming Election of the Montgomery Central Appraisal District's Board of Directors. Motion carried unanimously, 7-0 to cast Willis ISD's 96 votes for Arthur Bredehoff.

Discuss and Consider Approval of a Name for Elementary #7

Speaker(s): Dr. Sarah Blakelock, Chief Communications Officer

Motion by Scott Carson and seconded by Paulett Traylor to accept the top ranked name, Ruth Castleschouldt, as provided and recommended by the Facilities Naming committee. Motion carried 6-0, with Cliff Williams abstaining.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Board President, Kyle Hoegemeyer provided a direct expression of gratitude toward the community members involved in district processes. Specifically thanking those who gave of their time and effort to serve on the naming committee and other various committees over the past two years. The board member acknowledged that these volunteer efforts are valuable to the district and also extended thanks to the vendors who stayed for the duration of the meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Superintendent Dr. Kim James began by thanking the naming and other committees for their arduous work, noting that their suggestions have been brought to the board for consideration. She also expressed deep gratitude to veterans and their families, acknowledging their fight for freedom and praising the beautiful Veterans Day presentations she witnessed. Dr. James highlighted the many ongoing successes within the district, including sports playoffs, excellent band performances, cheerleading, and various student concerts, emphasizing the talent of the students. She affirmed that many academic plans are underway, with principals and teachers working extremely hard to improve outcomes. Finally, she assured the audience that the district is in good hands, with leadership stepping up their coaching and students rising to the occasion, concluding with a wish for a happy Thanksgiving.

FUTURE BUSINESS/MEETINGS

Regular board meeting is set for December 10th at 5:30 PM.

ADJOURNMENT OF REGULAR MEETING

Motion by Cliff Williams and seconded by Paulett Traylor to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously, 7-0.

The meeting adjourned at 9:39PM