

April 22, 2026

The Board of Trustees of the Willis Independent School District will meet in a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, April 22, 2026 in the Willis ISD Boardroom located at 612 N. Campbell Street in the Sharon Hill Jennette Administration Building in Willis, Texas, and the business to be conducted is listed below.

#### CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Board President, Kyle Hoegemeyer called the Regular Business Meeting to order at 5:30 PM and announced 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, and Chad Jones

Members Absent: Nikita Lagway

Board President, Kyle Hoegemeyer turned the meeting over to Superintendent, Dr. Kimberley James

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

Dr. Kim James announced the next steps for the meeting calling Willis HS Principal, Eric King and students to lead the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS/PROCLAMATIONS/RESOLUTIONS/RECOGNITIONS

Principal Eric King proudly introduced Senior Hudson Adams as the Willis High School Secondary Student of the Month, highlighting him as a student who excels across a multitude of areas. A standout leader in the top 10% of his class, Hudson balances his rigorous academics with membership in the National Honor Society and participation on the varsity golf team. He is also deeply involved in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, earning praise from teachers for his strong conviction, admirable faith, and dedication to helping others. Characterized as polite, hardworking, and respectful, Hudson is known for his ability to collaborate effectively and support those in need. Upon graduation, he plans to take his talents to Texas A&M University, where he will begin his studies with a focus on business.

Principal Calandra Lewis of the Roark Early Education Center proudly introduced Kainon Thomas as the Elementary Student of the Month, noting his infectious smile and daily positivity. Nominated by his teacher, Kainon is recognized for arriving at school eager to learn and consistently serving as an excellent peer model for his classmates. Principal Lewis highlighted his polite nature and kind spirit, sharing that he frequently brightens the day of staff members with warm hugs and genuine compliments. Beyond his great attitude, Kainon is a talented young artist who finds joy in journal writing and drawing detailed pictures. This honor celebrates a student who is not only dedicated to his schoolwork but also brings immense joy to everyone around him.

Chief Academic Officer John Vaglienty took a moment to honor the district's assistant principals, describing them as essential leaders who serve as mentors, problem solvers, and instructional guides. He emphasized their vital role in building strong relationships with students and ensuring the overall success of their respective campuses. To conclude the recognition, he celebrated their unwavering commitment and dedication to the growth and leadership of the entire district.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Board President Kyle Hoegemeyer introduced the public comment period, strictly limiting it to 3 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.

Jessica Coker, joined by her daughter Danica to complete her remarks, addressed the Board to advocate for the "Kool Kats" athletic program, which she argued is often overlooked in favor of traditional sports and fine arts. She urged the district to align its actions with its "special education champion" titles by providing tangible support, such as coaching stipends and intentional recruitment, to meet the needs of the growing program. Ultimately, Ms. Coker called for a cultural shift where consistent investment and celebration of special education athletes are treated as an automatic priority rather than an occasional convenience.

President Hoegemeyer thanked the public speakers for their comments and advocacy before announcing that the Board would proceed to the Consent Agenda items.

#### Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Minutes
- B. Approval of the 2026-2027 Regular School Board meeting Schedule
- C. Approval of Out of State Trip – WHS TAFE
  - Speaker(s): Noah Hollander, Exe. Director of Secondary Education
- D. Approval Out of State Trip – WHS JROTC
  - Speaker(s): Noah Hollander, Exe. Director of Secondary Education
- E. Approval of Add Two Additional CTE Courses to the Course Catalog to Increase Pathway Options
  - Speaker(s): Noah Hollander, Exe. Director of Secondary Education
- F. Approval of the Multi District Social Media Litigation
  - Speaker(s): Dr. Susan Clardy, Exe. Director of Accountability, Research, and Eval.
- G. Approval of the Certification of Provision of Instructional Materials for 2026-2027
  - Speaker(s): Sarah Ballew, Exe. Director of ITL & PD
- H. Approval of District Library Materials List
  - Speaker(s): Courtney Brown, Digital Integration Coordinator
- I. Approval of Ruth Castleschouldt Elementary Library Book Purchase
  - Speaker(s): Courtney Brown, Digital Integration Coordinator
- J. Approval of 2026-2027 Conroe Regional Day School for the Deaf Shared Services Agreement
  - Speaker(s): Randi Gay, Director of Special Education
- K. Approval of Moving Partial Willis High School Fiber Run Due to HWY 75 Expansion
  - Speaker(s): Stephen Shannon, Exe. Director of Technology
- L. Approval of the Release of Contingency on the Multi-Campus HVAC Renovation Project
  - Speaker (s): Bob Eaton, Chief of Construction and Operations
- M. Approval of the Selection of Vendor for the Meador Elementary Voice EVAC – Fire Alarm Project
  - Speaker (s): Bob Eaton, Chief of Construction and Operations
- N. Approve Ratification of Permit Payment for the 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Center
  - Speaker (s): Bob Eaton, Chief of Construction and Operation
- O. Approval of the Close Out and Final Payment to Gamma Construction for the WHS Parking Lot Expansion Project
  - Speaker (s): Bob Eaton, Chief of Construction and Operations
- P. Approval of Nonbusiness Day Designations for Texas Public Information Act Purposes
  - Speaker (s): Dr. Sarah Blakelock, Chief of Communications
- Q. Approval of Local Board Policy Updates
  - Speaker (s): Travis Utecht, Exe. Director of Human Resources
- R. Approve FY 2025-2026 Financial Auditor Engagement
  - Speaker (s): Garrett Matej, CFO

Board President Kyle Hoegemeyer called for discussion regarding the consent agenda.

During the review of the Consent Agenda, the Board modified several items for further clarification, tabling, or separate action:

#### Tabled and Modified Items

- **Item K:** This item was officially tabled and removed from the current agenda.
- **Item Q (Local Board Policy Updates):** The Board moved to approve the policy updates with the exception of Policy EIC, which was removed from the list to be brought back for consideration at a later date.

## Items Requiring Further Discussion

The Board requested detailed explanations for the following items before proceeding to a vote:

- **Item E (Additional CTE Courses):**
  - **Discussion:** The Board requested the names and benefits of the two new courses being added to the catalog.
  - **Response:** District leadership identified the courses as Medical Billing and Intro to Ag Mech. Medical Billing will provide a Level 4 pathway and industry-based certification (IBC) for Health Science students, while the Ag Mechanic course establishes a sustainable new pathway for students focused on the FFA side of agricultural mechanics.
- **Item N (Ratification of Ninth Grade Center Permit Payment):**
  - **Discussion:** The Board sought clarification on a payment exceeding \$50,000 made to the City of Conroe.
  - **Response:** It was explained that the project had faced month-long delays due to permitting. To avoid waiting for the next Board meeting, Dr. James authorized the payment on April 1st to secure the building permit and begin construction immediately. Staff confirmed they now hold the building and turning lane permits for the Ninth Grade Center and are only awaiting the water permit for Elementary Number 7.

The Board moved to approve the Consent Agenda with the aforementioned changes: **Item K** was tabled, **Item Q** was approved excluding EIC, and **Items E and N** were approved following the requested clarifications.

Motion by Chad Jones and seconded by Cliff Williams to approve the Consent Agenda items. Motion carried unanimously, 6-0.

## PROGRESS MONITORING UPDATES

- A. Lone Star Governance Update on HB3 and Superintendent's Guardrails
  - Speaker(s): Dr. Susan Clardy, Exec. Director of Accountability, Research, & Eval

## Targeted Interventions

- **Board Question:** *"Can you talk a little bit what you're doing on the targeting part of things? The problem areas, the target, what are we doing?"*
- **Response:** The administration explained that the first semester was dedicated almost exclusively to the "fidelity" of the new Blue Bonnet curriculum—ensuring teachers followed the new pacing and materials. The second semester (starting in February) shifted focus to using data to drive targeted small-group instruction, spiraling missed concepts into daily "do-now" activities, and after-school tutorials to move students from "Approaches" to "Meets" and "Masters."

## Future Data Reporting

- **Board Question:** *"When you bring us this data back at the end of the year, are you going to show us the second grade STAR projections that MAP gives you?"*
- **Response:** Yes, the administration confirmed they would provide that data. However, they clarified for the board that since second graders do not take the actual STAR test, those projections serve as a predictive look at how those students will perform the following year in third grade.

## MAP Accuracy and STAR Correlation

- **Board Question:** *"All of our MAP data is what's driven our predictions... How confident are you that our MAP data is accurate?"*
- **Response:** The Superintendent stated they looked strongly at the data from last year and found a "decent correlation" between MAP scores and actual STAR outcomes. They noted that while it isn't 100% perfect, it is a reliable predictor. They attributed the current "dips" in some scores to the growing pains of a new, more rigorous curriculum, but they expect the STAR results to reflect the interventions put in place since February.

## Bilingual Curriculum Challenges

- **Board Question:** (Implicit follow-up regarding the dip in bilingual scores and curriculum pacing).
- **Response:** Administration (Ms. Paulson/Dr. Velasco) noted that the pacing is significantly different in the new curriculum compared to the old one. For bilingual teachers, the workload is doubled because they are often managing materials and professional development in both English and Spanish simultaneously, which can impact the speed of implementation.

## Curriculum Rigidity (The "Gap" Issue)

- **Board Question:** (Clarification on why scores dropped at specific campuses like Lagway).
- **Response:** It was explained that the new curriculum (Blue Bonnet) assumes students had the foundation from the previous grade level. Because this is "Year 1," current third graders started with multiplication without the second-grade Blue Bonnet "place value" foundation. Teachers felt they had to follow a "very rigid pathway" in the first semester to maintain fidelity, but have since been given the flexibility to adjust and supplement to close those specific learning gaps.

Motion by Chad Jones and seconded by Scott Carson to approve the HB3 and Superintendent's Guardrails. Motion carried unanimously, 6-0.

- B. High Quality Instructional Materials Update
  - Speaker(s): Sarah Ballew, Exe. Director of ITL&PD (This Item was tabled and will be presented in May)
- C. TEA LLMS TAP Data Stepback Meeting Update
  - Speaker(s): Sarah Ballew, Exe. Director of ITL&PD

### 1. Balancing Assessments and Instruction

- **Board Member Concern:** The board member inquired about the amount of assessment currently taking place and how it might be interrupting active classroom instruction.
- **Administration Response:** The administration acknowledged the need to "give back" time to the classroom. They are collaborating with staff (specifically Miss Jackson) to review the "big picture" for next year to streamline and reduce the assessment load so it is less disruptive to teaching.

### 2. Class Sizes at Lynn Lucas

- **Board Member Question/Comment:** The member specifically noted that changes or improvements should also affect the Lynn Lucas campus.
- **Administration Response:** The administration confirmed that reducing class sizes at Lynn Lucas is a priority. They stated that leadership (Mr. Hollander and Dr. Clardy) is currently:
  - Running numbers and analyzing class ratios.

- Reviewing positions and allocations for the upcoming year.
- Actively working on "downsizing" these numbers to ensure a better student-to-teacher ratio.

D. Safety Audit Finding Report

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

OTHER BUSINESS

A. Financial Reports

- Speaker(s): Garrett Matej, CFO

B. Investment Report FY 26 Second Quarter

- Speaker(s): Garrett Matej, CFO

C. Bond & Capital Projects Update

- Speaker(s): Bob Eaton, Chief of Construction and Operations

**Q: When will the Transportation Center be done?**

**Response:** Construction is expected to be finished in October or November. The district plans to move locations during Christmas break so the center can be fully operational by January.

D. Long-Range Planning Update

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

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

A. Personnel Matters Texas Gov't Code §551.074

- Discuss and Consider Professional Non-Chapter 21 Contracts for 2026-2027
- Discuss and Consider Professional Chapter 21 Teachers and Administrative Contracts for 2026-2027
- Discuss Teacher Resignations and Consider Appointments

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

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

The Board convened into Closed Session at 6:44 PM

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

The Board reconvened into Open Session at 8:24 PM. President Hoegemeyer asked if there are any motions from closed session.

Motion by Cliff Williams and seconded by Scott Carson to approve the Professional Non-Chapter 21 Contracts for 2026-2027. Motion carried unanimously, 6-0.

Motion by Cliff Williams and seconded by Paulett Traylor to approve the Professional Chapter 21 Teachers and Administrative Contracts for 2026-2027. Motion carried unanimously, 6-0.

Motion by Cliff Williams and seconded by Scott Carson to approve the personnel as listed. Motion carried unanimously, 6-0.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS

A. Discuss and Consider the Acceptance of Empowering ECSE Educators to Improve Student Outcomes Grant Award

- Speaker(s): Randi Gay, Director of Special Education

Motion by Paulett Traylor and seconded by Scott Carson to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to approve acceptance of the Empowering ECSE Educators to Improve Student Outcomes Grant award in the amount of \$6,050.

Motion carried unanimously, 6-0.

B. Discuss and Consider Approval of HS ELAR Adoption of Supplementary Instructional Materials for the 2026-2027 School Year

- Speaker(s): Sarah Ballew, Exe. Director of ITL&PD

Motion by Chad Jones and seconded by Charles Perry to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the purchase of the new High School ELAR instructional material for the 2026-2027 school year. Motion carried unanimously, 6-0.

C. Discuss and Consider approval of Action Regarding Determination of Proposed Willis High School Gymnasium per Texas Education Code §45.001

- Speaker (s): Garrett Matej, CFO

Motion by Scott Carson and seconded by Paulett Traylor to approve the Superintendent's recommendation and approve the determination that the proposed Willis High School standalone gymnasium qualifies as a school building under Texas Education Code §45.001 and the May 2024 bond proposition. Motion carried unanimously, 6-0.

Board Member expressed appreciation for the staff's hard work in identifying bond savings. He noted that while this facility is not the original "Student Activity Center" that failed to pass in 2024, it is a significant achievement to fund it through savings without a new bond. He highlighted that this project is "going to touch the most kids" across various programs.

D. Discuss and Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing a One-Time Employee Retention Incentive Payment

- Speaker (s): Garrett Matej, CFO

Motion by Chad Jones and seconded by Paulett Traylor to approve the Superintendent's recommendation of the resolution authorizing a one-time employee retention incentive payment for eligible Willis ISD employees and School Resource Officers, as presented. Motion carried unanimously, 6-0.

**Board Member Comment:** The board member sought to reiterate and confirm that the proposal applies to all eligible employees across every department, specifically mentioning custodians, SROs (School Resource Officers), and teachers.

**Administration Response:** The administration confirmed this is correct, stating that every employee group is included and affected by the decision.

E. Discuss and Consider Approval of the Sale of WISD Real Property to the United States Postal Service

- Speaker (s): Bob Eaton, Chief of Construction and Operation

Motion by Chad Jones and seconded by Cliff Williams to approve the Superintendent's recommendation of the Sale of the WISD one acre Real Property to the United States Postal Services in the amount of \$300,000 and Delegate the Authority to Dr. James to Finalize and Execute the Contract. Motion carried unanimously, 6-0.

F. Discuss and Consider Approval of the Guaranteed Maximum Price #2 (GMP#2) for the Yates Scoreboard

- Speaker (s): Bob Eaton, Chief of Construction and Operation

Motion by Chad Jones and seconded by Scott Carson to approve the Superintendent's recommendation of the Guaranteed Maximum Price for GMP#2 not to exceed \$22,939.00 for the Yates Stadium Scoreboard base bid as presented by Performance Services and delegate the authority to Dr. James to negotiate, finalize, and execute the final GMP#2 Amendment Document. Motion carried unanimously, 6-0.

**Board Member Question:** A member asked for clarification on what the price included, specifically asking, *"Does it come with seating or something?"*

**Response:** The administration clarified the scope (structure, electrical, and sound) but did not indicate that seating was part of this specific package.

**Board Member Question:** A member asked for a guarantee on the timeline: *"And it's guaranteed that it'll be ready by football season?"*

**Response:** The administration confirmed that the contract requires the project to be substantially completed and up and running by August 1st so that staff can begin training on the new system.

G. Discuss and Consider Approval of the Completion of the Lone Star Governance Board of Trustees' Second Quarter Self Evaluation

- Speaker (s): Board of Trustees

Motion by Chad Jones and seconded by Scott Carson to approve the completion of the Lone Star Governance Board of Trustees' Quarterly Self Evaluation. Motion carried unanimously, 6-0.

During the Lone Star Governance (LSG) evaluation, the board members engaged in a candid exchange with Coach Dr. Larry Lewis.

### Board Scoring and Progress (Vision & Goals)

- **Board Member Question:** What was our previous score, and where are we now?
- **Dr. Lewis's Response:** The board was previously at a 12. He stated they are now very close to a 15.
- **Board Member Question:** What do we need to do to get over the top to a 15?
- **Dr. Lewis's Response:** The board needs to complete the planned town hall meeting (scheduled for the following Tuesday) to demonstrate community ownership. He also suggested:
  - Using "two-way communication" by uploading LSG questions to the website.
  - Having student ambassadors take those questions back to their campuses.
  - Using the district's "business cards" to explain the board's mission and goals to parents and community members in person.

### Time Management and Meeting Efficiency

- **Board Member Question:** Why did we only score 46.3% on time invested in student outcomes? (The goal for a 15 is 50%).
- **Dr. Lewis's Response:** He noted that the board improved significantly from 18% to 46.3%. To gain the remaining 3.7%, he suggested the board review their "Other Business" and "Recognitions." He pointed out that while the March meeting was only 87 minutes, the closed session lasted 122 minutes. He urged the board to do "mirror work" to see if items could be moved to the consent agenda or handled bi-monthly.
- **Board Member Question/Comment:** Do student recognitions (like Student of the Month) not count toward student outcomes?
- **Dr. Lewis's Response:** He acknowledged that while extracurricular and morale are vital to student success, the LSG framework classifies them as "Other Topics." To meet the scoring requirements for "Mastery," the board needs to limit "Other Topics" to three or fewer per meeting. He suggested grouping recognitions (e.g., all Students of the Month under one agenda item) to keep the count low.

### Advocacy and Two-Way Communication

- **Board Member Question:** Do we have a two-way communication system in place?
- **Dr. Lewis's Response:** Yes. Even if it hasn't been fully executed yet, the plan to use the upcoming town hall, the website, and student ambassadors constitutes a system "in place." He emphasized that once this is documented, it will help move the board's score forward in the "Advocacy and Engagement" category.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS – No Comments

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS – No Comments

FUTURE BUSINESS/MEETINGS

LSG Board of Trustee Town hall Meeting – April 28, 2026 5:30PM

Regular Board Meeting – May 13, 2026

ADJOURNMENT OF REGULAR MEETING

Motion by Cliff Williams and seconded by Scott Carson to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously, 6-0.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM