May 13, 2026

The Board of Trustees of the Willis Independent School District will meet in a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, May 13, 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, Kyle Hoegemeyer, Paulett Traylor, Nikita Lagway, and Chad Jones
Members Absent: Charles Perry
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 Parmley Elementary, Allie Wilkins and students to lead the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PROCLAMATIONS/RESOLUTIONS/RECOGNITIONS

Parmley Elementary Principal Allie Wilkins proudly introduced Josey Oldner as the elementary Student of the Month. Although she is only in the first grade, Josey is described as being wise beyond her years. She consistently displays the school's five core values of being productive, respectful, optimistic, unified, and dedicated every single day. Josey stands out for her hard work, constant positivity, and her ability to step in and help others without even being asked. Ultimately, her kindness and gracious attitude make her an amazing student, friend, and role model for her peers.

Lynn Lucas Middle School Principal Dr. Kelley Moore proudly recognized Charlotte Schiska as the Willis ISD secondary Student of the Month. After moving all the way from New Zealand last year, Charlotte immediately embraced her new community and thrived in every aspect of school life. Dr. Moore highlighted Charlotte as the perfect example of the school's vision to "witness greatness" across academics, arts, and athletics. She consistently excels in the classroom, shines with her beautiful artwork, and competes in sports with dedication and heart. Ultimately, Charlotte gives her all to everything she takes on, making her campus incredibly proud to honor her.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Board President Kyle Hoegemeyer introduced the public comment session and noted that there were no speakers.

Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes
B. Approval of a Testing, Adjusting, and Balancing (TAB) for the Willis High School 9th Grade Center Project
    - Speaker(s): Bob Eaton, Chief of Construction & Operations
C. Approval of the Deductive Change Order from HTS Consultants from the Cost Savings on the Lynn Lucas Fine Arts Project
    - Speaker(s): Bob Eaton, Chief of Construction & Operations
D. Approval of the Design Build Delivery Method for Willis High School 9th Grade Center Second Gym Project
    - Speaker(s): Bob Eaton, Chief of Construction & Operations
E. Approve the Commissioning Agent for the MEP Systems for Willis High School 9th Grade Center Project
    - Speaker(s): Bob Eaton, Chief of Construction & Operations
F. Approval of the Deductive Change Order from EMA Engineering from the Cost Savings of the Lynn Lucas Middle School Fire Sprinkler Project
    - Speaker(s): Bob Eaton, Chief of Construction & Operations
G. Approval of the Deductive Change Order from EMA Engineering from Cost Savings on the Multi-Campus HVAC Renovation Project
    - Speaker(s): Bob Eaton, Chief of Construction & Operations
H. Approval of Moving Partial Willis High School Fiber Run Due to HWY 75 Expansion
    - Speaker(s): Stephen Shannon, Exe. Director of Technology
I. Approve Payment for Fees Related to the 2023 Property Value Study Appeal
    - Speaker(s): Garrett Matej, CFO
J. Approve Additional School Resource Officer (SRO) Position for Ruth Castleschouldt Elementary School
    - Speaker(s): Garrett Matej, CFO
K. Approval of the Willis ISD Education Foundation Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

- Speaker(s): Michelle Bischof, Community Engagement and Marketing Specialist

L. Approval of Emergency Food Relief Storage MOU with Montgomery County Food Bank
   - Speaker (s): Michelle Bischof, Community Engagement and Marketing Specialist

M. Approval of the Social Media Multi-District Litigation Resolution Legal Service Contract with Thompson & Horton, LLP, Eiland & Bonnin, PC, and O'Hanlon, Demerath, & Castillo
   - Speaker (s): John Vaglienty, Chief Academic Officer

N. Approval of the Purchase of 2026-2027 Bluebonnet Learning Materials
   - Speaker (s): Sarah Ballew, Exe. Director of ITL&PD

The Board moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.
Motion by Cliff Williams and seconded by Paulett Traylor to approve the Consent Agenda items. Motion carried unanimously, 6-0.

PROGRESS MONITORING UPDATES

A. Lone Star Governance Update on HB3 Goals 3.1 and 3.2; and Superintendent's Guardrails 5.1.
   - Speaker(s): Dr. Susan Clardy, Exec. Director of Accountability, Research, & Eval.
     - Superintendent's Student Advisory Council
       - Speaker (s): Michelle Bischof, Community Engagement & Marketing Specialist

Dialogue on CCMR Outcome Bonus Funding

Following the presentation on House Bill 3 College, Career, and Military Readiness (CCMR) progress measures, a Board Member and the administration engaged in a Q&A session:

Board Question: A Board Member deliberately asked the presenter to clarify the true purpose of the initiative, emphasizing that it shouldn't just look like they are chasing state dollars based on student test counts. The Trustee asked: "Why is it important... What do we do with this money?"

Administration Response: Presenter Sue clarified that 100% of the state outcome bonus money is reinvested directly back into district programming to expand academic and career opportunities for all Willis ISD students.

Board Follow-up: The Board Member asked why providing more on-site testing windows (SAT, ACT, TSIA2) was vital, noting some stakeholders might question the increase in testing.

Administration Response: Sue explained that increased exposure reduces student test anxiety. Additionally, meeting these benchmarks saves families money by letting students bypass expensive college remedial courses and helps Career & Technical Education (CTE) students step directly into certified workforce positions.

Board Comment: The Board Member wrapped up the topic with a lighthearted remark: "We do like the money too, just so you know."

Dialogue on the Texas College Bridge Pathway

Board Question: Noting that the data showed a heavy reliance on the Texas College Bridge module rather than direct TSIA2 exam success, a Board Member asked for confirmation on the district's timeline: "So we're still using College Bridge?"

Administration Response: Sue confirmed that it is being used for the current school year, but explicitly stated, "This is the last year that we are anticipating to use it." Another administrator added that the district has used the previous two years to deliberately transition away from it.

Comments by Superintendent Dr. Kimberley James

Superintendent Dr. James spoke at length to officially recognize and thank the Student Advisory Council members and their families:

On Student Feedback: Dr. James highlighted that the council did a massive amount of work behind the scenes. She noted that district leadership directly met with the students to gather crucial feedback on improving student mental health, improving classroom instruction, and assessing what campus safety looks like practically in the hallways and restrooms.

On Navigating the District: Dr. James expressed her deep appreciation for the graduating seniors, noting that they have been working closely with her for two years and were instrumental in helping her successfully navigate her transition into Willis ISD.

On the New High School Principal: She shared a lighthearted anecdote about their final meetings regarding the search for the new Willis High School principal. She joked that the seniors' primary directive for the leadership transition was making sure administration took the new principal to eat at the local Pizza Shack.

Motion by Scott Carson and seconded by Paulett Traylor 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

OTHER BUSINESS

A. 2025 – 2026 SHAC Report
    - Speaker(s): Hailey Dobraski, Director of Nursing
B. Financial Reports
    - Speaker(s): Garrett Matej, CFO

Board Question: A board member sought clarification on the interest metrics presented, asking: "So, we made 3.1 million. Is that what we're saying?"

Response: It was noted that while the district successfully earned over $3.6 million in interest, federal regulations require an arbitrage payment to the IRS.

A board member responded to the clarification by stating, "Essentially, when you do a good job, we get penalized. Arbitrage, you know, is what it is," before concluding with, "Great job, man."

C. Health Insurance Plan Review
    - Speaker(s): Garrett Matej, CFO

Board Question: A board member asked for a timeline regarding the finalization of the figures, inquiring: ″When do you think you have a final budgetary number for that, Garrett?"

CFO Response: CFO Garrett Matej first asked for clarification on whether the trustee meant for the health insurance fund specifically or the general fund. Once the board member confirmed they meant the health insurance budgetary numbers for the upcoming year, Matej responded that while the data is easier to project due to solid enrollment numbers, they would be able to establish that budget and take a hard look at it the following month (June) if the proposed numbers are put in place.

D. Capital Projects Update
    - Speaker(s): Bob Eaton, Chief of Construction and Operations

Board Question: During the update on the district's 94-acre property purchase off of Highway 75 and Cochran Road, a board member interjected to ask for verification on the due diligence results: "All the studies came back good?"

Response: The presenter confirmed that a survey, a topography meets-and-bounds survey, and a Phase I environmental study (which led into a Phase II study) were all conducted. All reports came back completely clear, and an appraisal confirmed the district is paying fair market value.

Board Question: Following a review of deductive change orders (buyback cost savings) from completed campus HVAC, sprinkler, and fine arts projects, a board member asked: "When do we expect to see the buyback from council?"

Response: The presenter explained they had hoped to present it at the May meeting, but because the auditor is not quite finished, they have requested completion in time to bring it to the board for final project closeout at the June meeting.

Board Question: A board member followed up regarding historical precedent: "Have we gotten buybacks before on previous projects?"

Response: The presenter answered that they were personally unaware if the district had received buybacks prior to their tenure, noting, "I've been here almost three years, so I'm unaware if the district has received any buybacks or not."

Board Question/Closing: The session wrapped up with a board member complimenting the cost savings, stating, and “Good job."

Response: The presenter noted that larger projects yield larger buybacks, and since these were relatively small projects, they were very pleased with the amounts being retained by the district.

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 Teacher Resignations and Consider Appointments
    - Naming of High School Principal
B. Consultation with Attorney: Pursuant to Texas Gov’t Code §551.071

The Board convened into Closed Session at 6:28 PM

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

The Board reconvened into Open Session at 8:08 PM. President Hoegemeyer asked if there are any motions from closed session.

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

Motion by Cliff Williams and seconded by Paulett Traylor to approve Tiffany Mathews as the Willis High School Principal. Motion carried unanimously, 6-0.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS

A. Discuss and Consider Approval to Pursue the Annexation of the 94-Acre Tract into the City of Willis
    - Speaker(s): Bob Eaton, Chief of Construction and Operations

Motion by Chad Jones and seconded by Scott Carson to approve the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve the 94-acre annexation and authorize the Superintendent to submit all necessary documentation to the City of Willis. Motion carried unanimously, 6-0.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

A board member kicked off the comments by enthusiastically welcoming Tiffany Matthews back to Willis, praising the phenomenal work done by everyone involved. Thanks were also extended to Mr. King for his leadership at the high school, with the board member expressing absolute confidence that he would fully support the upcoming leadership transition. The conversation then shifted to the excitement surrounding these new leadership changes, with a member noting how positive it is for the district's trajectory that familiar leaders are returning. Finally, the board

concluded by thanking the entire administration team before the school year wrapped up, emphasizing that their leadership directly impacts positive student outcomes.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Dr. Kimberley James warmly welcomed Tiffany Mathews back to the district, noting she had heard nothing but wonderful things about her and was excited for her arrival. She shared that even at a neighboring Montgomery school board meeting the previous night, multiple people were highly praising Mathews. Dr. James then expressed her gratitude to the Board of Trustees for their continued faith and confidence in her own leadership. Additionally, she took a moment to commend the district's CFO for hitting a "home run" with a regional financial presentation earlier that day. Ultimately, she concluded by stating that the district is in great hands and praised the collective efforts of the entire team.

FUTURE BUSINESS/MEETINGS

Regular Board Meeting – June 10, 2026

Board Workshop #2 – To be announced at a later date

ADJOURNMENT OF REGULAR MEETING

Motion by Cliff Williams and seconded by Paulett Traylor to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously, 6-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM