

August 19, 2026

The Board of Trustees of the Willis Independent School District will meet in a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, August 19, 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 5:30PM 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: All Board Members are presents

Members Absent:

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 Calfee MS Principal, Dr. Gerald Schattle and students to lead the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

Pledge: Everly Terry

Prayer: Micah Hooker

RECOGNITIONS

UIL Outstanding Soloists

The presentation celebrated student excellence and growth in the UIL music program, where over 100,000 students statewide compete in regional solo contests for a chance to reach the state level. Out of those receiving superior ratings at state, a select few were named Outstanding Soloists—the equivalent of state level champions. The district honored two of these top performers, including a third-year recipient from the band program and a winner from the choir program, who were presented with their UIL state championship medals.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no 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 LLMS and CMS Band Out of State Trip
 - **Speaker(s):** Noah Hollander, Exe. Director of Secondary Ed.
- C. Approval of the WHS Sweethearts Out of State Trip
 - **Speaker(s):** Noah Hollander, Exe. Director of Secondary Ed
- D. Approval of Re-selection of Testing, Adjusting, and Balancing (TAB) for the Willis High School 9th Grade Center Project
 - **Speaker(s):** Bob Eaton, Chief of Construction and Operations
- E. Approval of Lunch Prices for 2026 - 2027
 - **Speaker(s):** Michael Northey, Director of CN
- F. Approval of Multiple Awards Under RFP 26-034 for Special Education Contracted Services
 - **Speaker(s):** Ginger Deck, Director of Procurement
- G. Approval of Adoption of Resolution of Extracurricular status of 4-H Organization and Adjunct Faculty Request
 - **Speaker(s):** Eric King, Director of Student Services
- H. Approval of Two Contract Continuations with River Oaks Academy for Specialized Services
 - **Speaker(s):** Randi Gay, Exe. Director of Special Ed.
- I. Approval of the Acceptance of T-TESS Pilot District Support Grant
 - **Speaker(s):** Meghan Ballard, Director of Federal Prog./Compliance, & Grants
- J. Approval of the Acceptance of Bluebonnet Beacon Grant Award
 - **Speaker(s):** Meghan Ballard, Director of Federal Prog./Compliance, & Grants
- K. Approval to Order Calling November 3, 2026, General Trustee Election and Notice Election
- L. Approval of a Joint Election Agreement and Election Services Contracts with Montgomery and San Jacinto County for the November 3, 2026 Election
 - **Speaker(s):** Noah Hollander, Exe. Director of Secondary Ed.
- M. Approval Regarding Delegation of Authority to the Superintendent to Finalize and Execute a Proposes

Resolution Agreement Related to an EEOX Charge

- **Speaker(s):** *Travis Utecht, Chief Human Resources Officer*
- N. Approval of Coop Member Agreement with ESC Region 13
- **Speaker(s):** Ginger Deck, Director of Procurement

Q: A board member asked whether supplemental income was tied to item J through federal grants.

A: Yes.

Motion by Cliff Williams and seconded by Paulett Traylor to approve the Consent Agenda Items. Motion carried unanimously, 7-0.

PROGRESS MONITORING UPDATES

- A. Lone Star Governance Update – Early Math
- **Speaker(s):** Dr. Susan Clardy, Exec. Director of Continuous Improvement and Accountability

Q: Can NWA MAP provide STAR projected proficiency data for second-grade students as well, or is that projection only available for third grade?

A: Yes, MAP does project STAR proficiency for second-grade students (though they do not do so for younger grades because it is less accurate). The district acknowledges the value of examining that incoming second-grade cohort data, but emphasizes the need to evaluate multiple data points—such as end-of-unit assessments and benchmarks—rather than relying solely on MAP projections. Additionally, because this discrepancy between MAP growth projections and actual STAR performance was seen across the state, the district has been invited to participate in a national NWA linking study to help address the issue.

Motion by Paulett Traylor and seconded by Scott Carson to approve the HB3 Early Math. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

- B. 2025 – 2026 STAAR Data Report
- **Speaker(s):** Dr. Susan Clardy, Exec. Director of Continuous Improvement and Accountability

Q: Are students in Special Education also included in the numbers on the Special Education slide?

A: Yes, they are.

Comment (Board Member): When our numbers for "Did Not Meet" are above 20%, that is scary—some were in the 40s and 50s. That is not acceptable; those are the kids we are leaving behind. We also aren't pushing enough students in the "Meets" category to reach "Masters." We have two outliers on opposite ends: "Did Not Meet" students who need extensive intervention, and "Meets" students who need to be pushed to "Masters."

Response (Presenter): You have highlighted our exact areas of concern—third and fourth-grade scores, as well as moving students from Approaches to Meets, and Meets to Masters. We will be discussing our specific action plan to address both of these ends.

Comment (Board Member): It would be very helpful to bring data breaking down the "Did Not Meet" category into low, medium, and high sub-levels.

Response (Presenter): That speaks directly to student growth. A student could score "Did Not Meet Low" initially and grow to "Did Not Meet High"—they may still technically be failing, but they showed growth and earned a full point for that progress.

Board Member Follow-up: Right, that way staff knows which "bubble kids" to focus on who are just one or two correct answers away from reaching "Approaches."

Q (Board Member): In middle school, did we double-block math and reading for 6th grade in 2025–2026?

A: Yes, we did double-block both. For 7th grade this year, we are moving to 1.5 blocks (rather than two full blocks) to help drive similar academic gains.

Q: What is the target student-to-teacher ratio for elementary schools under the action steps, and how are class sizes being handled?

A: The district is maintaining the state-mandated target of **22:1** for grades K–4 across most campuses, submitting requests for new positions if class sizes exceed that ratio. However, for **CC Hardy** and **Cannan Elementary**, the district is targeting a lower ratio of **18:1** (with discussions around getting class sizes down closer to **15:1** where possible).

Comment (Board Member): The Board is frustrated by reactive decision-making regarding low-performing campuses and wants to ensure money is being spent effectively to move the needle. Whatever financial support, additional staffing, or non-traditional solutions (such as part-time retired teachers or classroom paras) are needed, the Board will fully support it—especially to handle behavior management and allow teachers to focus on instruction.

Response (Administration): Enrollment at CC Hardy dropped from ~830 to ~650 students, which naturally reduced ratios. To directly support instruction and classroom environment, the district has:

- Added certified teachers (bringing Hardy up to 12 certified teachers, with two more in progress).
- Hired two full-time instructional coaches dedicated to Hardy and Cannan (instead of part-time interventionists) to support teacher quality.
- Assigned a dedicated math specialist to split time between Hardy and Cannan.
- Put in requests for additional classroom paraprofessionals to assist with classroom management and student needs.

Q: What adjustments are being made specifically for the Bilingual Program at CC Hardy and Cannan?

A: The district restructured instructional time for bilingual classes. All K–2 bilingual students are now required to receive the exact same foundational English reading instruction (using Heggerty in every class) as regular education classrooms, prioritizing foundational skills even if it impacts Spanish instructional minutes. A record number of students are expected to exit the bilingual program this year.

Q: How is the Texas A–F Accountability System calculated overall?

A:

- **70%** of the score comes from the **better** of Domain 1 (*Student Achievement*) or Domain 2 (*School Progress*, which evaluates either Academic Growth or Relative Performance).
- **30%** of the score comes from Domain 3 (*Closing the Gaps*).

Q: How did Willis ISD perform overall in the 2026 A–F Accountability Ratings compared to 2025?

A:

- **District Overall:** Maintained a **77 (C)** grade.
- **Campus Breakdown:** 80% of campuses are rated C or above. Compared to 2025, **3 campuses** stayed the same, **1 increased**, and **5 decreased**.

Q: What were the individual campus ratings and key drivers for 2026?

A:

- **AR Turner Elementary: 78 (C)** — *Driven by Relative Performance (81/B). Earned two Distinction Designations in Math and Post-Secondary Readiness.*
- **CC Hardy Elementary: 58 (F)** — *Requires intensive support; dropped across all domains (Achievement: 56, Growth: 55, Relative Performance: 56, Closing Gaps: 61/D).*
- **Cannan Elementary: 67 (D)** — *Showed decent Achievement (70/C) and Relative Performance (72/C), but was pulled down by low Growth (56/F) and Closing Gaps (56/F).*
- **Lagway Elementary: 83 (B)** — *Driven by strong Student Achievement (86/B).*
- **Meador Elementary: 79 (C)** — *Just 1 point shy of a B; driven by Student Achievement (80/B).*
- **Parmley Elementary: 75 (C)** — *Relative Performance (77/C) pulled up lower scores in Growth (56/F) and Closing Gaps (69/D).*
- **Brabham Middle School: 74 (C)** — *Demonstrated high consistency across all domains (all scores between 72–75).*
- **Calfee Middle School: 77 (C)** — *Consistent performance across domains, with room for improvement in student growth.*
- **Lynn Lucas Middle School: 78 (C)** — *Significant improvement highlight; achieved an **81 (B)** in Closing the Gaps.*
- **Willis High School: 82 (B)** — *Driven by strong Relative Performance (85) and an outstanding College, Career, and Military Readiness (CCMR) score of **94 (A)**.*

Q: How was the District’s overall 2026 A–F score of 77 (C) calculated using enrollment weighting?

A: The district rating uses a proportional calculation based on student enrollment across campuses:

- **Domain 1 (Student Achievement): 78**
- **Domain 2A (Academic Growth): 70 | Domain 2B (Relative Performance): 78**
- **Domain 3 (Closing the Gaps): 74**

Calculation Breakdown: The better of Domain 1 or Domain 2 is **78**. Taking **70%** of that yields **54.6 points**. Adding **30%** from Domain 3 (**22.2 points**) results in the overall district score of **76.8**, rounded to **77 (C)**.

Comment / Q (Board Member): Lagway Elementary had an overall score of 91 (an A rating) the year before, so they dropped down a bit this year to an 83 (B).

Response (Presenter): Yes, Lagway was previously rated an A and did experience a slight drop.

Summary Statement (Presenter / Administration):

The district views these accountability ratings as actionable data rather than just letter grades:

- **Areas to Celebrate:** 80% of campuses scored a C or higher; Willis High School and Lagway earned B ratings; Willis High School showed exceptional CCMR performance (94); Lynn Lucas Middle School demonstrated strength in Closing the Gaps (81/B); and AR Turner Elementary earned two Distinction Designations (Math and Post-Secondary Readiness).
- **Areas Requiring Focused Attention:** CC Hardy (F) and Cannan (D) require intensive, targeted support, while multiple campuses need focused intervention to improve individual Academic Growth and Closing the Gaps.
- **Goal for 2026–2027:** The focus is not merely chasing a letter grade, but using student-level and instructional data to drive targeted campus action plans, continuously monitor growth, and directly improve the student outcomes behind the numbers.

Q: Is it fair to say that the district really needs to dig deep into the data, and where is the primary area of focus moving forward?

A: Absolutely. The real key to improvement lies in **student growth**—the district must place a heavy emphasis on growing individual students to move scores across all campuses.

OTHER BUSINESS

A. Financial Reports

- Speaker(s): Garrett Matej, CFO

Q: What is the current financial status of the district through the end of July as the fiscal year closes?

A:

- **Revenues & Expenditures:** Total revenues reached \$96.65 million, with expenditures and encumbrances totaling \$92.7 million.
- **State Funding:** Of the remaining \$8.9 million in anticipated revenue, \$6.6 million is an expected Foundation School Program (FSP) payment from TEA arriving by the end of next week.
- **August Payroll & Raises:** August payroll will reflect minor increases from the new compensation plan as staff return.
- **Fiscal Year Surplus:** Despite relying on some one-time funding, the district anticipates a slight budget surplus for the fiscal year.

Q: What major investments were made during the past budget year?

A:

- **Staff Retention Payments:** Totaling \$3 million (\$1,000 paid in December 2025 and \$1,500 per employee paid out last week at a cost of \$1.7 million).

- **Technology Upgrades:** \$1 million invested in teacher laptops, CTE lab computers, ZT Center computers, and elementary iPads.
- **Operations & Safety:** \$378,000 spent on standardizing district radios and purchasing two new activity buses.

Q: How does the first-day enrollment compare to last year, and what are the projections?

A:

- **First-Day Comparison:** First-day enrollment was **9,453 students**, which is **243 more** than the first day of the previous year (9,210).
- **Target Projection:** The superintendent's projection targets approximately **9,754 students** (budgeted for 200 students over last year's end-of-year total of 9,560).
- **Growth Timeline:** District enrollment typically peaks around Labor Day through October, and current figures indicate a solid, positive trajectory.

Comment / Q (Board Member): Is any additional assistance or funding needed to support the rollout of PowerSchool and related technology operational needs?

Response (Superintendent & Presenter): While the team is performing exceptionally well, additional operational and technology support is always beneficial due to the growing reliance on instructional technology. Specifically:

- **Key Staffing Need:** A dedicated **Data Specialist** position was requested in the spring to manage data integration across software platforms. Though cut during initial budget balancing, this role remains a priority to ensure smooth system functionality.

Board Member Follow-up: The Board remains open to supporting necessary funding requests for operational and technology roles like the Data Specialist to keep systems running effectively.

B. IT&L Drop-out and Credit Recovery Update

Note: Agenda Item requested by Board Vice President

- ***Speaker(s):** Noah Hollander, Exe. Director of Secondary Ed.*

Q: What are the graduation rates for Willis High School?

A:

- **Historical Baseline:** Statewide, the Texas high school graduation rate is approximately 90%.
- **2024–2025 School Year:** Willis High School achieved a **93.4%** 4-year graduation rate and a **96.5%** 5-year graduation rate for the same cohort.
- **2025–2026 Preliminary Data:** The preliminary 4-year graduation rate is **96.3%**.
- **Accountability Note:** Official state accountability ratings utilize whichever cohort rate (4-year or 5-year) is higher, which includes students recovered through Hope Academy.

Q: What is the current district dropout rate and how is it calculated?

A:

- **Cohort Dropout Rate:** For the 2024–2025 senior cohort, the actual dropout rate was **4.2%**.
- **7th–12th Grade Unaccounted Rate:** The broader 7th–12th grade rate stands at **9.09%**.
- **Key Distinction:** The 9.09% figure reflects students who are unaccounted for after the enrollment window (e.g., moved out of state, switched to homeschooling, or transferred without immediate system tracking), not necessarily students who permanently dropped out. Official dropout data is finalized in the state's fall PEIMS submission.

Q: (Trustee Question) Are unaccounted dropouts included in the district's chronic absenteeism metrics?

A:

- **Response:** Not directly. Unenrolled/unaccounted students do not impact chronic absenteeism calculations. However, the dropout population and the chronically absent population heavily overlap, as chronic absenteeism is often a precursor to dropping out.

Q: (Trustee Question) How does the high school's chronic absenteeism rate compare to state averages, and what steps are being taken to address it?

A:

- **State vs. District Rates:** The state average for chronic absenteeism is approximately **19% to 20%**. Willis High School's rate was higher at **33%** last year (with specific campuses like Lynn Lucas Middle School at 27% and Brabham Middle School at 20%).
- **Intervention Strategies:**
 - **Systematic Outreach:** Parent contact begins at **3 days** of absence via classroom teachers, escalating to campus administration at **5 days**, followed by 8- and 10-day benchmarks.
 - **Barrier Removal:** Partnering with home outreach services to identify and alleviate root causes preventing student attendance.
 - **Incentives & Culture:** Utilizing positive campus-wide incentives and student rewards to build attendance habits.
 - **Court Referrals & Prevention:** Increasing truancy court referrals when necessary while simultaneously expanding early prevention measures.
 - **Feeder Pattern Alignment:** Leveraging attendance improvements achieved at the elementary and middle school levels to build long-term momentum as students transition into high school.

Q: How is credit recovery structured at Willis High School, and what were the outcomes?

A:

- **2024–2025 Performance:** Served **344 students** who completed **649 half-credit courses**, resulting in a **90.34%** graduation rate for participating students.
- **2025–2026 Shift:** Shifted to the **Edgenuity** platform to increase academic rigor, eliminate cheating vulnerabilities present in the prior software, and ensure strict alignment with Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS).
- **2025–2026 Performance:** Served **74 students** completing **223 courses**, yielding a **91.07%** graduation rate among participants.

- **Instructional Strategy:** The district intentionally reduced total credit recovery enrollments by re-incorporating more students into initial, in-person Tier 1 classroom instruction or summer school rather than relying exclusively on online modules. Three dedicated high school teachers manage the credit recovery program.

Q: What is the purpose of Hope Academy, and how does it operate differently from Stubblefield Academy?

A:

- **Program Separation:** While sharing a physical facility, **Stubblefield Academy** is the district's Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) for Student Code of Conduct violations. **Hope Academy** is an alternative education program explicitly dedicated to dropout recovery.
- **Target Student Population:** Designed primarily for **18- to 20-year-old students** behind on credits or fifth/sixth-year seniors who face unique life hurdles (e.g., young parents, family caregivers, or those incompatible with a traditional 2,900-student high school setting).
- **Enrollment Criteria:** Requires administrator/counselor recommendation, at least **12 high school credits**, passing scores on at least **3 out of 5 EOC exams**, and an application/interview process. Cap capacity allows space for up to 15 current seniors if available.

Q: What are the recent student achievement numbers for Hope Academy?

A:

- **2024–2025:** Served **26 students; 24 graduated** (252 total courses completed).
- **2025–2026:** Served **16 students; 11 graduated** (115 total courses completed).
- **Current Outreach:** High school and Stubblefield counselors personally contact every non-graduating student to facilitate re-enrollment in Hope Academy, transition to neighboring district programs, or assist with alternative credentials such as a GED.

Comment (Superintendent / Trustee):

- **Recognition:** Commended campus leadership and staff—specifically highlighting Lynn Lucas Middle School and its elementary feeder campuses (Hardy, Parmley, and Cannan)—for driving academic growth and cultural shifts that better prepare students for secondary success.

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

1. Discuss Teacher Resignations and Consider Approval of Teacher Appointments. Tex. Gov't Code §551.074.
2. Deliberation regarding the appointment, employment evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or compensation of the Superintendent, including performance-based financial incentives and professional investment benefits. Pursuant to Texas Gov't Code §551.074

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

1. Discussion regarding updates to district property

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

The Board convened into Closed Session at 7:08PM

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

The Board reconvened into Open Session at 9:28PM. 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.

Motion by Cliff Williams and seconded by Scott Carson to approve the resolution authorizing the advertisement for Exchange of Real Property as proposed by Administration for an approximate 20.179 acre portion of the unimproved property located at the Willis Independent School District which is more fully described in the Board Agenda including the delegation of authority as set out in more detail in the resolution. Motion carried unanimously, 7-0.

Motion by Cliff Williams and seconded by Paulett Traylor to authorize the Superintendent to negotiate, finalize, execute, and implement a settlement and release agreement resolving the litigation in Jane AY Doe v. Willis Independent School District, strictly within the parameters discussed with the Board and legal counsel. Motion carried unanimously, 7-0.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS

A. Discuss and Consider Approval of Action to Approve Final General Fund Budget Amendment for 2025-2026

- **Speaker(s):** Garrett Matej, CFO

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

B. Discuss and Consider Approval of Action to Approve Final Debt Service Fund Budget Amendment for 2025 - 2026

- **Speaker(s):** Garrett Matej, CFO

Motion by Paulett Traylor and seconded by Charles Perry to approve the Superintendent's recommendation for the 2025 – 2026 Debt Service Fund budget amendment as presented. Motion carried unanimously, 7- 0.

C. Discuss and Consider Approval of Action to Approve Final Child Nutrition Fund Budget Amendment for 2025 - 2026

- **Speaker(s):** Garrett Matej, CFO

Motion by Chad Jones and seconded by Nikita Lagway to approve the Superintendent's recommendation for the 2025-2026 Child Nutrition Fund budget amendment as presented. Motion carried unanimously, 7-0.

D. Discuss and Consider Approval of Action to Adopt the 2026 -2027 General Fund, Debt Service, and Child Nutrition Budgets

- **Speaker(s):** Garrett Matej, CFO

Motion by Paulett Traylor and seconded by Cliff Williams to approve the Superintendent's recommendation for the 2026-2027 budgets for the General Fund, Debt Service, and the Child Nutrition Fund as presented. Motion carried unanimously, 7-0

E. Discuss and Consider Approval of Action to Approve Transfer across District Funds

- **Speaker(s):** Garrett Matej, CFO

Q: Why is the district requesting authorization to transfer up to \$1 million from the general fund to the health insurance fund?

A (District Presenter): The district's health insurance fund has operated at a deficit in recent years. While health insurance contributions increased from \$7.5 million in 2024–2025 to \$8.2 million in 2025–2026 due to premium adjustments and the implementation of Next Level Prime, total claims reached \$8.7 million. Because August claims are delayed by several weeks, the final deficit is projected to land between \$700,000 and \$1 million.

- F. Since the general fund is expected to end the fiscal year with a surplus, this authorization gives administration the flexibility to transfer up to \$1 million from the general fund to cover the health insurance deficit as final books are closed over the coming months.

Motion by Scott Carson and seconded by Charles Perry to approve the Superintendent's to transfer and amount not to exceed \$1,000,000 from the General Fund (199) to the Health Insurance Fund (753) Motion carried unanimously, 7-0

- G. Discuss and Consider Approval of Debt Service Tax Rate Above the Minimum Required Rate Pursuant to Texas Education Code §44.004 ©(5)(A)(ii)(b) and Texas Tax Code §26.05(a-1)

- **Speaker(s):** *Garrett Matej. CFO*

Motion by Scott Carson and seconded by Nikita Lagway to approve the proposed rate to pay debt service of \$0.3680 per \$100 of taxable value. This rate exceeds the District's debt service rate determined under Texas Education Code 44.004©(5)(A)(ii)(b) \$0.3411 by \$0.0269. The excess revenue collected from the proposed rate will be used to accelerate repayment of principal and interest on the District's outstanding bonded indebtedness and to support the District's long-term debt management strategy. Motion carried unanimously, 7-0

- H. Discuss and Consider Approval of Action to Approve the Certification of Debt Service Collection Rate for the 2026 -2027 Fiscal Year and Excess Collections for 2025 Debt Service

- **Speaker(s):** *Garrett Matej. CFO*

Motion by Paulett Traylor and seconded by Cliff Williams to approve the Superintendent's recommendation for the certification of the debt service collection rate and excess collections as presented. Motion carried unanimously, 7-0

- I. Discuss and Consider Approval of Action to Adopt the 2026 Ad Valorem Tax Rate for Maintenance and Operations, \$.6318/\$100

- **Speaker(s):** *Garrett Matej. CFO*

Motion by Scott Carson and seconded by Cliff Williams to approve the Superintendent's recommendation for the 2026 Ad Valorem tax rate for Maintenance and Operations of \$0.6318 per \$100 valuation. Motion carried unanimously, 7-0

- J. Discuss and Consider Approval of Action to Adopt the 2026 Ad Valorem Tax Rate for Debt Service, \$.3680/\$100, and the 2026 Total Ad Valorem Tax rate, \$.9998/\$100

- **Speaker(s):** *Garrett Matej. CFO*

Motion by Scott Carson and seconded by Nikita Lagway to approve the Superintendent's recommendation for the 2026 Ad Valorem Tax rate for Debt Service of \$0.3680 per \$100 valuation. I further move that the total property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.9998 per \$100 valuation, which is effectively a 1.80 percent increase in the tax rate. Motion carried unanimously, 7-0

- K. Discuss and Consider Approval of Action to Approve Agreement for the Purchase of Attendance Credit (Option #3) and to delegate contractual authority to the Superintendent

- **Speaker(s):** *Garrett Matej. CFO*

Motion by Cliff Williams and seconded by Scott Carson to approve the Superintendent's recommendation for the 2026-2027 school year, we delegate contractual authority to obligate the school district under Texas Education Code (TEC) 11.1511©(4) to the Superintendent solely for the purpose of obligating the district under TEC 48.257 and TEC, Chapter 49, Subchapters A and D, and the rules adopted by the commissioner of education as authorized under TEC 49.006. This included approval of the Agreement for the Purchase of Attendance Credit, the Agreement for the Purchase of Attendance Credit (Netting Chapter 48 Funding) or the Agreement for Purchase of Attendance Credit and Netting Chapter 48 Funding. Motion carried unanimously, 7-0

- L. Discuss and Consider Approval of Action to Approve Commitment of Fund Balance

- **Speaker(s):** *Garrett Matej. CFO*

Motion by Cliff Williams and seconded by Scott Carson to approve the Superintendent's recommendation for the Board to rescind all previous designations and replace them with the \$17,950,000 in commitments as presented. Motion carried unanimously, 7-0

- M. Discuss and Consider Approval of Revisions to CH (LOCAL) – Purchasing and Acquisition

- **Speaker(s):** *Garrett Matej. CFO*

Motion by Scott Carson and seconded by Paulett Traylor to approve the Superintendent's proposed revisions to Board

Policy CH (LOCAL) Purchasing and Acquisition as presented. Motion carried unanimously, 7-0

- N. Discuss and Consider Approval of Design-Build Rankings (RFQ 26-032) for the Willis High School Multi-Use Gymnasium and Delegation of Authority to the Superintendent

- *Speaker(s): Ginger Deck, Director of Procurement*

Q: What are the design-build firm rankings and timeline for the Willis High School multi-use gymnasium project?

A:

- **Recommended Rankings:**
 1. **Performance Services** (Qualification score: 91.5 | Fee score: 15% | Duration: 10 months)
 2. **Millennium Project Solutions**
 3. **Russell Miller Construction**
 4. **Westfall Constructors**
 5. **Hellas Construction**
- **Projected Timeline & Next Steps:**
 - **GMP Approval:** Targeted for Board approval in September.
 - **Groundbreaking:** Expected between late December (after Christmas) and January following design completion and permitting.
 - **Substantial Completion Target:** Required contractually by **June 1st**.

Q (Trustee Question): What is the estimated project duration and target start date?

A (Presenter): The duration is **10 months**. The team aims to bring the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) to the Board for approval in September, break ground around December or January after permitting, and complete substantial construction by **June 1st**.

Q (Trustee Question): What does delegating authority mean in the event that the superintendent is unable to act?

A: If the superintendent is not in her capacity to act, designated authority would fall to whichever individual is formally appointed as her designate by the School Board.

Motion by Chad Jones and seconded by Cliff Williams to approve the Superintendent's for the proposed ranking and authorize the Superintendent or designee to proceed with contract negotiations in accordance with Texas Government Code Chapter 2269 and District Requirements. Motion carried unanimously, 7-0

- O. Discuss and Consider Approval of the Competitive Sealed Proposal (CSP 26-033) for the A.R. Turner Elementary School Expansion and Delegation of Authority to the Superintendent

- *Speaker(s): Ginger Deck, Director of Procurement*

Motion by Chad Jones and seconded by Scott Carson to approve the Superintendent's recommendation for the rankings for CSP 26-033 and authorize the Superintendent or designee to proceed with contract negotiations in accordance with Texas Government Code Chapter 2269. Motion carried unanimously, 7-0

- P. Discuss and Consider Approval of the Deductive Change Order and Final Payment for VLK Architects Inc. from the Cost Savings for the Calfee Middle School Project

- *Speaker(s): Ginger Deck, Director of Procurement*

Q: What are the financial details of the deductive change order and final payment for VLK Architects on the Lagway (Calfee) Middle School project?

A:

- **Deductive Change Order (Cost Savings):** \$44,578.14 will be deducted from the contract and returned to the district due to overall construction savings rolling over to design fees.
- **Contract Adjustment:** Reduces VLK Architects' original contract from \$3,057,000 down to \$3,012,421.86.
- **Final Payment Amount:** Approves the release of their final payment totaling \$16,437.89.

Q (Trustee Question): Will any of this final payment be withheld until outstanding site issues (such as water issues) are fully resolved?

A (Presenter): Correct. This follows the exact same closeout process and standards being applied to the general contractor, ensuring all outstanding performance and site issues are addressed.

Motion by Scott Carson and seconded by Paulett Traylor to approve the Superintendent's recommendation and approve the deductive change order to release funds back to the District for the Calfee Middle School Project in the amounts of \$44,578.14 and approve the final payment in the amount of \$16,437.89. Motion carried unanimously, 7-0

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

- **Unwavering Board Support and High Expectations:** Trustees emphasized that the Board will fully support staff and supply every possible resource within their means to ensure success. However, they stressed that the ultimate execution lies with administration and campus leadership. They issued an urgent call to action—particularly targeting immediate progress at low-performing campuses like CC Hardy Elementary—stating, "We've got to act now."
- **Welcoming Staff Back for the New School Year:** Trustees commended staff and leadership for a successful start to the school year through the first six days, acknowledging their hard work in working through initial software rollout issues.
- **Operational Praise:** A trustee humorously noted that it has been a long time since they heard *fewer* complaints regarding car rider lines and late buses, praising operations and transportation teams for a smooth start to the year.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

- **Successful Start to the School Year:** The Superintendent expressed appreciation to the administrative team and campus principals for making the opening of the school year a success.
- **Smooth Issue Resolution:** She noted that while they worked through a few minor initial issues, the overall start of the school year has been very positive and smooth.

FUTURE BUSINESS/MEETINGS

Regular Board Meeting – September 9, 2026 at 5:30PM

ADJOURNMENT OF REGULAR MEETING

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:57PM

