October 2, 2026

The Board of Trustees of Willis ISD met in a Special Board Meeting on October 2, 2026, 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

Board President, Kyle Hoegemeyer called the Special Board Meeting to order at 7:00AM, announcing that a quorum was present and that notice of the hearing had been posted for the time and manner required by law.

Board Secretary, Chad Jones called the roll.

Members Present: Scott Carson, Kyle Hoegemeyer, Nikita Lagway, and Chad Jones

Members Absent: Cliff Williams, Charles Perry, and Paulett Traylor

Note: Trustee Charles Perry arrived at the meeting at 7:03 a.m., following the initial roll call.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

During the public comments section, speaker Scott Baker thanked the board for their prompt response to recent safety concerns while arguing that metal detectors and extra deputies are insufficient on their own. He urged the district to adopt the Texas School Marshal Program, pointing out that armed resource officers cannot be everywhere at once and that response times in active attacks are critical. Baker highlighted that marshals are thoroughly vetted, TCOL trained district employees who serve as an immediate on-site force multiplier and deterrence against attackers seeking soft targets. He noted that metal detectors fail to cover outdoor areas like parking lots or entry plazas and create vulnerable morning choke points for students. Citing TCOL records, he emphasized that marshals have a safe track record and strict legal limitations governing their use of force. Ultimately, Baker recommended maintaining the existing contract with armed deputies while adding school marshals so every campus has immediate, trained resistance.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Out of State Travel – FFA National Convention Amanda Traylor

   Speaker(s): Noah Hollander, Exe. Director Secondary Education

B. Approval of the Final Payment to Performance Services for Yates Stadium Scoreboard Project

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

C. Approval of the Terms and Condition of the Administrative Employment Contract

   Speaker(s): Dr. Kimberley James, Superintendent

Motion by Scott Carson and seconded by Chad Jones to approve the Consent Agenda Items. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS

A. Discuss and Consider Approval of Action to Approve the Purchase of Weapons Detection Systems

   Speaker(s): Ginger Deck, Director of Procurement

Question (Board Member): Asked if there was any desire to see a video of the system in action (*"For those of you that have not seen the system, we have a short video if you'd like to see it in action."*).

Response (Board Member): Confirmed interest in watching the video demonstration (*"I think it'd be good. Yes, ma'am."*).

Question (Board Member): Asked Dr. James and Bob (Administration) whether representatives from Extract One provided specific examples of the system successfully stopping threats at other locations.

Response (Administration): Clarified that Extract One did not provide specific incident examples, but noted that Manor ISD implemented the systems across all campuses after an incident and reported recovering numerous weapons (both large and small) from entering students. He further detailed the procurement breakdown: 11 "One Gateway" units for main entrances (High School, CTE, and Middle School) where students carry backpacks, and 4 "Smart Gateway" units for high-volume, low-bag areas like athletic stadiums.

Board Comment: A board member expressed support, noting that trustees had personally observed the system in action at a school, were impressed by its efficiency, compared it favorably to a model seen previously at a Texas 9th-grade campus, and were excited to add this layer of protection.

Motion by Scott Carson and seconded by Charles Perry to approve the purchase of a weapon detection system from Xtract One in the amount of $973,080.00. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

B. Discuss and Consider Approval of the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) for the Willis High School Multi-Use Gymnasium

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

Contract Term Clarification (Stipulated Sum): Administration reported that following consultation with legal counsel, the proposed contract delivery method with Performance Services for the Willis High School Multi-Use Gymnasium base bid was updated from a Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) to a Stipulated Sum. The Stipulated Sum establishes a fixed-price contract, structured similarly to the district's prior scoreboard contract, and is fully recommended by legal counsel and administration.

Question (Board Member): Asked how much contingency was included in the $5,725,000 construction cost.

Response (Administration): Stated that there is currently $143,000 in contingency included in that figure.

Question (Board Member): Asked if that construction cost figure included fire suppression and how much was allocated for it.

Response (Administration): Confirmed fire suppression is included, currently estimated at $425,000. He noted that once designed and bid out, administration feels very comfortable that the $425,000 figure will decrease.

Motion by Chad Jones and seconded by Scott Carson to approve the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP)

not to exceed $6,584,627.00 for the Willis High School Multi-Use Gymnasium base bid as presented by Performance Services and delegate the authority to Dr. James to Negotiate, finalize, and execute the final GMP Amendment Document. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

BOARD COMMENTS

Board Member: Expressed strong approval for the downscaled gymnasium project, noting that utilizing bond savings to complete it will have a massive positive impact on district programs and students. He praised the entire district team—including high school staff, custodians, counselors, and campus administrators—for pulling together to implement new safety protocols seamlessly within 24 hours. A second board member verbally concurred 100% with these sentiments, thanking staff for their hard work.

Additional Board Member: Defended the board's long-standing commitment to student safety, emphasizing that the district spends over $3 million beyond standard school resource officer contracts to provide top-tier security measures. He highlighted past safety investments such as window tinting, Raptor systems, and classroom landlines, noting that the board continually finds creative funding solutions without state assistance. He concluded by sharing his pride in the team for proactively keeping the district at the forefront of school safety standards.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Superintendent Dr. James expressed gratitude to the board and district staff for acting quickly to prioritize student safety, emphasizing that effective security relies on both strong personal relationships and multi-layered protection. She detailed the planned deployment of the 15 newly acquired screening units across the district, allocating three to the high school, two to the CTE center, two to each middle school, and reserving the remaining units for high-traffic venues such as the performing arts center and stadium. Furthermore, Dr. James highlighted the mobility of the new equipment, noting that it allows administration to flexibly deploy security screening wherever needed across district campuses and events.

ADJOURNMENT OF REGULAR MEETING

Motion by Scott Carson and seconded by Chad Jones to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:18AM