October 21, 2026

The Board of Trustees of the Willis Independent School District will meet in a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, October 21, 2026 at 6:15PM 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 TO ORDER

Board President, Kyle Hoegemeyer called the Regular Business Meeting to order at 5:55PM 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: Scott Carson, Kyle Hoegemeyer, Paulett Traylor, Nikita Lagway and Chad Jones

Members Absent: Cliff Williams and Charles Perry

PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

Dr. Kim James announced the next steps for the meeting calling Cannan Elementary Principal, Brooke Paulson and students to lead the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

RECOGNITIONS

Principal Brooke Paulson recognized Gabriela Raquejo-Cabra as the Cannan Elementary Student of the Month for her outstanding character, positive attitude, and dedication to excellence. She was commended for bringing a welcoming smile, kindness, and helpfulness to her school daily while treating classmates with respect. Furthermore, Gabriela exemplifies Cannan's "FIERCE" values—being friendly, innovative, encouraging, responsible, courageous, and empathetic—by consistently giving her best and following school expectations.

Principal Tiffany Mathews presented Tucker Chapman as the Willis High School Student of the Month, highlighting his strong character, natural leadership, and lifelong journey in Willis ISD. He was commended for bringing determination, a positive attitude, and an exceptional work ethic into the classroom while serving as an encouraging role model for his peers. Following high school, Tucker plans to attend Lone Star College for two years before transferring to the University of Houston to major in sports media or photography.

Dr. Sarah Blakelock, Chief Communication Officer, recognized several dedicated community members for their invaluable support during recent district events. She expressed deep appreciation for their assistance during the Willis High School security screening, as well as their swift response and aid during the water outage. Their collaborative efforts and ongoing partnership demonstrated exceptional commitment to the safety, well-being, and operational support of Noah

Hollander and Dr. Ivan Velasco recognized the Willis ISD principals for their dedication, heart, and strong campus leadership. They emphasized that effective principals are key drivers of student achievement who build relationships, support families, and guide their school communities through daily challenges and successes. The presentation highlighted that great schools rely on leaders who genuinely care about the people they serve, honoring these administrators for their steady presence and commitment to their campuses. PUBLIC COMMENTS

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Board President Hoegemeyer reviewed the procedures and guidelines for public comments.

The Board heard from one speaker, Jan Cook, representing the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). Ms. Cook spoke about the Texas State Regent's Project publication, *Texas before the Lone Star* (*Texas antes de la Estrella Solitaria*), which highlights historically accurate contributions of early Texas residents to the American Revolution. She announced the donation of hardbound English and Spanish copies of the book to each Willis ISD elementary school library and presented the books to the elementary principals.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes
B. Approval of Walsh and Gallegos' Renewal of Membership Retainer Program
   Speaker(s): *Dr. Kimberley James, Superintendent*
C. Approval of Grant Purchase over $100,000
   Speaker(s): *Meghan Ballard, Director of Federal Prog. /Compliance & Grants*
D. Approval of the 2026-2027 JJAEP Memorandum of Understanding
   Speaker(s): *Eric King, Director of Student Services*
E. Approval of the 2026-2027 SHAC Members
   Speaker(s): *Hailey Dobraski, Director of Nursing*
F. Approve the selection of the Delivery Method for FF&E for the NewTransportation and 9th Grade Campus
   Speaker(s): *Bob Eaton, Chief of Construction and Operations*
G. Approval of Student Educational Advocacy Partnership with Child Advocates of Montgomery

County

Speaker(s): *Eric King, Director of Student Services*

H. Approve CDA (local) Pertaining to Investments and Approval of Brokers

Speaker(s): *Garrett Matej, CFO*

I. Approve a Right-of-way resolution conveying an eighteen-foot easement to Entergy Texas, Inc. across 60.984 acre of District-owned property located along the north line of SH 75, Willis, Texas

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

J. Approve a Right-of-way resolution conveying an eighteen-foot easement with two 5 X 30-foot anchor easements to Entergy Texas, Inc. across 53.00 acre of District owned property located along the north line of SH 75, Willis, Texas.

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

K. Approve the Cost Sharing Resolution between WISD and Howard Hughes

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

Motion by Paulett Traylor and seconded by Nikita Lagway to approve the Consent Agenda Items with the exceptions of Item C requested by Board Secretary and Item G requested by Board Vice President for further discussion. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

Board Member Question: Will any Willis ISD employees receive residual or additional pay while rolling out this program?

District Response: Yes. While not part of the Region 6 contract itself, the grant funds are used to provide supplemental pay to teachers participating in required 2-hour professional development sessions after school to internalize the Bluebonnet Learning curriculum.

Board Member Question: How are teachers selected to attend these training sessions? Is it open to anyone, or selected by campus?

District Response: The training is required for all teachers who teach the specific grade levels and subjects using the Bluebonnet Math curriculum across the district. Specialized district coaches lead these grade-level specific sessions, ensuring all applicable teachers receive identical, detailed training on upcoming weekly lessons.

Motion by Chad Jones and seconded by Scott Carson to approve Item C Grant Purchase over $100,000 after further discussion. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0

District leadership introduced Ann Marie Ronin, President and CEO of Child Advocates of Montgomery County to outline their educational advocacy partnership aimed at addressing student attendance issues by providing at-home support and resources for at-risk families in Willis ISD.

Board Member Question: How many families did Child Advocates of Montgomery County reach out to last year?

Response (Ann Marie Ronin): While the specific breakdown for Willis was not immediately available, Child Advocates served approximately 80 families across Montgomery County.

Board Member Question: Is there any cost to the school district for this program?

Response (Ann Marie Ronin): There is no cost to the school district; the program is funded entirely through the organization's independent fundraising efforts.

Motion by Scott Carson and seconded by Chad Jones to approve Item G Approval of Student Education Advocacy Partnership with Child Advocates of Montgomery County after further discussion. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

October 21, 2026

PROGRESS MONITORING UPDATES

A. National Academic Recognitions

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

Willis ISD proudly recognized students who earned national academic distinctions through the National Merit Scholarship Program, placing them among the top-performing high school scholars across the country. The presentation detailed the rigorous progression of the competition, highlighting Commended Students for their exceptional PSAT performance and Semi-Finalists who represent less than 1% of graduating seniors nationwide with the opportunity to compete for National Merit Scholarships. Willis High School Principal Tiffany Mathews was then welcomed to the podium to personally present and honor these distinguished scholars.

B. BOY MAP Data

Speaker(s): *Dr. Susan Clardy, Exe. Director of Continuous Improvement and Accountability*

C. HB3 Updated Goals for 26-27

Speaker(s): *Dr. Susan Clardy, Exe. Director of Continuous Improvement and Accountability*

Motion by Paulett Traylor and seconded by Nikita Lagway to adopt the 2026 – 2027 HB 3 annual goals and targets for 3rd Grade Reading, 3rd Grade Mathematics, and College, Career, and Military Readiness (CCMR), as presented Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

D. Safety Update

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

Board Member Question: On the Raptor door checks, how often will audits be done, and is it a daily thing where real-time updates can be viewed?

District Response: The system provides real-time updates accessible at any time. State guidelines mandate weekly door audits, and district policy requires exterior doors to be checked at least once a day when students are in the building. SROs typically audit doors two to three times daily (after morning arrival, around lunch, and following dismissal).

Board Member Question: Regarding the new law for extracurricular event security, does that apply to outside entities using district facilities? Are we charging them for extra security/admin staff, and is our district ratio already at 1:250?

District Response: Yes, the requirement applies to outside entities. Third-party organizations pay to use district facilities and cover the cost of the required security officers. Willis ISD already meets the recommended 1:250 officer-to-participant ratio for outside events; the primary new task involves drafting and uploading the mandatory security and medical plans into the state's Sentinel system.

OTHER BUSINESS

A. Financial Reports

Speaker(s): *Garrett Matej, CFO*

B. Investment Report FY 26 Fourth Quarter

Speaker(s): *Garrett Matej, CFO*

C. Delinquent Tax Collections Report

Speaker(s): *Leslie Schkade, Purdue Brandon*

D. Board Members Training Hours Report

Speaker(s): *Kyle Hoegemeyer, Board President*

Board President Kyle Hoegemeyer announced the status of continuing education credits for the Board of Trustees in accordance with Texas Government Code 552.012 and district policy. He reported that all board members have fully met and completed their required annual training hours, including cybersecurity, team building, and elective training via the

Lone Star Governance framework. Additionally, President Hoegemeyer confirmed that all trustees completed their required biennial training modules, covering child abuse prevention, student outcome evaluations, and school safety.

October 21, 2026

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS

A. Discuss and Consider Approval of the Active Attack Response Equipment Grant Program
Speaker(s): *Meghan Ballard, Director of Federal Prog. /Compliance & Grants*

Motion by Scott Carson and seconded by Chad Jones to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the Active Attack Response Equipment Grant Award. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

B. Discuss and Consider Approval of the Acceptance of Effective Advising Framework Implementation Year 1 APP
Speaker(s): *Meghan Ballard, Director of Federal Prog. /Compliance and Grants*

Motion by Paulett Traylor and seconded by Scott Carson to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the Effective Advising Framework Implementation Year 1 Grant. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

C. Discuss and Consider Approval of 2027 - 2028 Course Catalog
Speaker(s): *Noah Hollander, Exe. Director of Secondary Ed.*

Board Questions: How will parents be contacted and required to sign the proposed Advanced Academic Course Agreement?

District Response: Administration explained that parent signatures can be collected electronically through the district's PowerSchool portal during the online course selection process, alongside direct outreach via emails, phone calls, and campus newsletters.

Board Questions: Can the Board vote on adopting the Advanced Academic Course Agreement if the exact implementation process is not yet defined?

District Response: Trustees expressed concern over approving an agreement without a fully finalized communication plan. District leadership clarified that the vote is to approve the course catalog policy content itself rather than internal administrative procedures, but acknowledged the need for clear guidelines.

Board Questions: What happens to a student's grades if they drop an advanced course and move to a regular level course?

District Response: Trustees questioned how grades earned in an advanced course would carry over into a standard-level class so students are not unfairly penalized. Administration noted that state guidelines offer several options (such as applying a 10-point grade adjustment), and Willis ISD will establish a clear, consistent policy for grade conversions.

Board Questions: Why is a 6-week "freeze" required before a student can drop an advanced course, and could this create classroom disruptions?

District Response: Trustees raised concerns that keeping a struggling or disengaged student locked into an advanced course for six weeks could disrupt the learning environment for other students. They suggested incorporating more flexible drop windows—such as 3, 6, and 9 weeks, or at the semester break. Administration clarified that the rule is designed to prevent knee-jerk drops and encourage tutorial intervention, but confirmed that students struggling significantly would be reviewed and transitioned earlier.

Motion by Scott Carson and seconded by Nikita Lagway to table this item for further discussion and approval at a later date. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

D. Discuss and Consider Approval EIC LOCAL Policy Update
Speaker(s): *Noah Hollander, Exe. Director of Secondary Ed.*

Motion by Scott Carson and seconded by Paulett Traylor to approve the Superintendent's recommendation of the proposed updates to EIC local policy as presented. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

E. Discuss and Consider Approval of the December 2026 Resource Officer Retention Incentive Resolution and related amendments to the General Fund and Child Nutrition Fund budgets
Speaker(s): *Garrett Matej, CFO*

Motion by Chad Jones and seconded by Scott Carson to approve the Superintendent's recommendation and approve the December 2026 Employee and School Resource Officer Retention Incentive Resolution and the related General Fund and Child Nutrition Fund Budget Amendments as presents. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

F. Discuss and Consider Approval of Amendment to Interlocal Agreement with Montgomery County for Additional School Resource Officer (SRO)
Speaker(s): *Garrett Matej, CFO*

Motion by Chad Jones and seconded by Nikita Lagway to approve the Superintendent's Recommendation to Amend the Interlocal Agreement between Willis Independent School District and Montgomery County, Texas Authorizing the addition of a 16th full-time School Resource Officer and authorize the Superintendent to Execute the amendment on behalf of the District Motion carried 4-0-1 abstaining, Scott Carson.

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

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

1. Discuss, consider and take possible action regarding the termination of a Chapter 21 Contract of a Cannan Teacher
2. Discuss, consider, and possibly take action regarding the contract abandonment of a teacher at Cannan Elementary School
3. Discuss, consider and take possible action regarding the termination of a Chapter 21 Contract of a Lagway Teacher
4. Discuss, consider, and possibly take action regarding the contract abandonment of a teacher at Lagway Elementary School

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

1. Closed Session Discussion 1 acre Land Swap Transportation Site
2. Closed Session - City of Willis Proposal for Felder & Turner St. Cul-de-Sacs

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

The Board convened into Closed Session at 8:12PM

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

Consideration and possible action on matters discussed in Closed Session. The Board reconvened into Open Session at 9:40PM. President Hoegemeyer asked if there are any motions from closed session

Motion by Scott Carson and seconded by Chad Jones to approve the personnel as listed. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

Motion by Scott Carson and seconded by Paulett Traylor to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and find there is good cause to terminate the Chapter 21 contract of Kelly Reding, Cannan teacher, and direct the Superintendent to carry out such duties as necessary to effectuate the same Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

Motion by Scott Carson and seconded by Paulett Traylor based on Texas Education Code 21.105 move we find good cause did not exist for Kelly Reding to abandon her term employment contract and authorize our Board President to file a written complaint to the State Board of Education Certification. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

Motion by Scott Carson and seconded by Paulett Traylor to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and find there is good cause to terminate the Chapter 21 contract of Josette Trantham Lagway teacher, and direct the Superintendent to

carry out such duties as necessary to effectuate the same Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

Motion by Scott Carson and seconded by Chad Jones based on Texas Education Code 21.105 move we find good cause did not exist for Josette Trantham to abandon her term employment contract and authorize our Board President to file a written complaint to the State Board of Education Certification. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

Motion by Paulett Traylor and seconded by Scott Carson to approve the Resolution Authorizing the advertisement for Exchange of Real Property as proposed by Administration for an approximate 1.00 acre portion of the property located at the Willis Independent School District including the delegation of authority as set out in more detail in the resolution.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

There were no comments by members of the Board.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

There were no comments by the Superintendent.

FUTURE BUSINESS/MEETINGS

The Superintendent announce the next regular board meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 11, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Scott Carson and seconded by Chad Jones to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.
The meeting adjourned at 9:45PM