

**WILLOWS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Regular Meeting – April 7, 2011**

**Regular Session 6:30 P.M.**

**Willows City Council Chambers**

**201 N. Lassen Street, Willows, CA 95988**

**MINUTES**

**1. OPEN SESSION – CALL TO ORDER – 6:30 P.M.**

- 1.1 Roll Call – President Geiger called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Present were: Mr. Ward, Mrs. Knight, Mr. Geiger, Mr. Parisio, and Mr. Munguia.
- 1.2 Announcement of Items to be Discussed in Closed Session - Mr. Geiger announced the item to be discussed.
- 1.3 Public Comments Regarding Closed Session Items - None

**2. CLOSED SESSION**

The Board went into Closed Session at 6:32 p.m.

- 2.1 Pursuant to Gov. Code §54957: Public Employee Appointment: Murdock Elementary School Principal

**3. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION – 7:00 P.M.**

- 3.1 Roll Call – President Geiger reconvened to Open Session and called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with all Board members still present.
- 3.2 Welcome to Visitors
- 3.3 Flag Salute was led by Chief Peabody.
- 3.4 Announcement of Action Taken in Closed Session. No appointment or action was taken in Closed Session. The Board directed the Superintendent to advertise on Ed-Join and in EdCal for two weeks, with interviews to follow as soon as possible.

**4. AGENDA/MINUTES**

- 4.1 Approve Minutes for the Regular Meeting of March 3, 2011, the Special Meeting of March 10, 2011, and the Special Board Workshop/Town Hall Meeting of March 23, 2011. Mr. Munguia moved, seconded by Mrs. Knight, to approve the aforementioned minutes. The motion passed unanimously with 5 yes votes.
- 4.2 Approve Agenda for April 7, 2011. Mr. Ward moved, seconded by Mr. Munguia, to approve the agenda for April 7, 2011. The motion passed unanimously with 5 yes votes.

**5. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ms. Samons addressed the Board. She wanted to publicly thank the community, board members, and staff, for their donations and help in getting the ag department cleaned up and “going” after the current acts of vandalism. She appreciates very much everyone’s effort and generosity.

**6. REPORTS**

6.1 **Employee Associations (WUTA & CSEA) – No report**

6.2 **Principals**

(WCHS) – No report

(WHS) **Mr. Smith reported:**

- He shared with the Board that WHS has endured a tragic week with the loss of two former students.
- The “Every 15 Minutes Program” has been cancelled this year due to the loss of these students. It was scheduled to be in two weeks. It is a very positive anti-drinking program, but it includes a mock car accident and mock funeral. The committee for the Every 15 Minutes Program decided it

would be too much for the student body and staff to endure so soon after this accident. As an alternative, the school is planning to host an assembly in May and send a strong message to the students to cover driving issues – drinking and driving, distracted driving including texting, use of cell phones in a car, etc.

- The “WHAT” test will continue next week in preparation for testing in May.
- Student assemblies will take place before testing to provide encouragement and incentives to do well during testing.

**(WIS)** – No report

**(MES) Mrs. Parsons reported:**

- She gave a handout to the Board regarding upcoming events.
- She shared that last Saturday the fourth graders had their “Pathways to Nature” field trip. She said it was a great success and thanked Jill Egly and the other fourth grade teachers for their hard work in organizing the event. Mrs. Egly plans on a photo presentation for the Board at the May meeting.
- The annual preschool visitations are scheduled for early May.
- She and Mr. Bazan will attend a Glenn County planning meeting tomorrow on transitional kindergarten that will be coming up in the next two years.

6.3 **Director of Business Services** – No report

6.4 **Director of Technology Services** - No report

6.5 **Director of Transportation/Facilities Operations** – No report

6.6 **Superintendent** - Dr. Geivett thanked the members of the District Leadership Team (DLT) involved with coming up with a Mission Statement and discussing a Vision Statement. At their last meeting they looked into a great deal of data, achievement information, and formulating goals. They will be putting together plans for reaching those goals at the next meeting. At the previous meeting they also discussed ways of promoting the District and schools and making that one of their goals as well. He thanked Mr. West and the band for the outstanding performance held at WIS. The Safety Committee put together “flip charts” for different disasters. He thanked Mr. Junk for duplicating those for the District at a reasonable cost. The next task for the Safety Committee is to put together “safety boxes” which will have school plans which show where gas lines are, how to shut off fire alarms, keys to the sites, etc. Ms. Skala and he attended a Charter School Workshop in Woodland and learned a great deal about charter schools. He followed that meeting by chairing a WASC committee visit for three days at West County Community High School, which is a high school charter. It was a good experience and he learned a great deal. He also thanked everyone for the help with the ag department. He publicly thanked WUTA for trying something new. WUTA and management met without their CTA representative or legal counsel. It was a good opportunity for Willows people to discuss Willows problems. It was a good experience and Dr. Geivett looks forward to more of those sessions.

6.7 **Governing Board Members**

**Mr. Munguia** – No report

**Mr. Ward** – No report

**Mrs. Knight** – She thanked Jill Egly for planning a very educational field trip to Elk Creek. The students had a lot of fun. It was a huge event and she appreciated all the hard work that it took to organize and make it a successful day.

**Mr. Parisio** – He thanked Mr. Perry and Officer McIntyre for their swift action on finding the persons responsible for the vandalism on the WHS campus. He attended the ag clean-up day and appreciated the community’s involvement. He attended the Band Night at the Memorial Hall and said Mr. West once again did a fantastic job. He participated in a FFA project competition and got to see the fair animals and welding projects that are going to the fair. He reported that there are some really good projects going to the fair and good kids involved with FFA.

**Mr. Geiger** – He read a thank you note to the Board from Ron Corriea. He reported that the trees are now planted on the track. He thanked Alex Parisio and his children and his own children for helping with the planting. He said it was challenging, but the trees look nice. All items were donated. The Community Wish Foundation donated \$300 and Compost Solutions, Inc. in Orland donated all the potting soil needed. The other portion of the funding was through an anonymous donation. He directed Dr. Geivett to send them thank you notes to the appropriate parties. He really appreciates the community support on this project. He also attended the FFA project competition and was able to judge some of the projects. He has been attending negotiations for the District and is pleasantly optimistic about reaching an agreement that benefits everyone. He appreciates all sides (WUTA, CSEA, and management) in this process.

**7. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**A. GENERAL**

1. Accept donation from Carol Lemenager in the amount of \$200.00 to go towards the WHS Athletic Program.

**B. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**

1. Approve Interdistrict requests for Students #11-12-01 through #11-12-36 to attend school in another district for the 2011/12 school year.
2. Approve Interdistrict request for Student #11-12-01 through #11-12-13 to attend school in the WUSD for the 2011/12 school year.
3. Approve School Accountability Report Card (SARC) for all schools: Murdock Elementary, Willows Intermediate, Willows High, and Willows Community High.

**C. HUMAN RESOURCES**

1. Ratify employment of Brenda Valenzuela as Child Care Tutor for Adult Ed.
2. Ratify employment of Mariana Valenzuela as Child Care Tutor for Adult Ed.
3. Accept letter of resignation from Joan Wagner-Pryor, Certificated Teacher, effective June 10, 2011.
4. Approve Mr. Jerry Smith and Mr. John Perry as California Interscholastic Federation representatives for 2011/12.

**D. BUSINESS SERVICES**

1. Approve budget revisions.
2. Approve warrants from 3/2/11 through 3/30/11.
3. Approve 2009/10 Audit Findings.

Mr. Geiger pulled Item C3 for comment. Mr. Munguia moved, seconded by Mr. Ward, to approve the Consent Calendar excluding Item C3. The motion passed unanimously with 5 yes votes. Item C3: Mr. Geiger thanked and recognized Mrs. Wagner-Pryor for her years of service to the District. Mr. Geiger moved, seconded by Mr. Munguia, to accept Mrs. Wagner-Pryor's resignation, effective June 10, 2011. The motion passed unanimously with 5 yes votes.

**8. DISCUSSION/ACTION CALENDAR**

**A. GENERAL**

1. **(Action)** Accept selection committee's recommendations for the 2011 Glenn County Educators' Hall of Fame Award. (Mr. Munguia and Mrs. Knight) Mrs. Knight thanked the members of the selection committee. She announced that CSEA's 2011 recipient is Rose Mary "Boots" Wampler. Mr. Munguia announced that WUTA's 2011 recipient is Carla Disbrow. The ceremony will take place at the Glenn County Fair on May 21<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Parisio moved, seconded by Mr. Munguia, to approve the committee's nominations for the 2011 Educators' Hall of Fame recipients. The motion passed unanimously with 5 yes votes.
2. **(Action)** Second Reading of the following additions/deletions/changes to Board Policies per CSBA's Policy Guidesheet Recommendations:

BP 4020	Drug and Alcohol Free Workplace
BP 4127/4227/4327	Temporary Athletic Team Coaches
BP 4156.2/4256.2/4356.2	Awards and Recognition
BP 6158	Independent Study
BB/E 9270	Conflict of Interest

**(COMPLETE POLICIES ARE AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE)**

Mr. Munguia moved, seconded by Mr. Ward, to approve the above additions/deletions/changes to Board Policies per CSBA's Recommendations. The motion passed unanimously with 5 yes votes.

3. **(Information)** First Reading of the following additions/deletions/changes to Board Policies per CSBA's Policy Guidesheet Recommendations:

BP 5141.21	Administering Medication & Monitoring
	Health Conditions
BP 5145.8	Refusal to Harm or Destroy Animals
BP 6162.5	Student Assessment

**(COMPLETE POLICIES ARE AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE)**

This is an information only item at this time – no action was taken.

4. **(Information)** Quarterly Report on Williams Uniform Complaints (There were no complaints)  
This is an information only item – no action was taken.
5. **(Information/Discussion)** Solar Project Discussion. Dr. Geivett gave an update of what happened at the Town Hall Meeting on March 23, 2011. The Schreder brothers basically gave the same information to the public in attendance as they had at the prior Board meeting. Previously the Board had directed the Superintendent to talk to the Schreders concerning the “next steps” involved in the process. Dr. Geivett reiterated to the Board that no “out of pocket” expenses would be incurred by the District for this project until the project is in place and proper funding has come in. At this time the Board again directed Dr. Geivett to proceed with the project by meeting with the Schreders and talking costs.

**B. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**

1. **(Information)** Walden Academy Charter Petition Presentation (Handouts) – Kelly Lawler, Lead Petitioner. Ms. Lawler addressed the Board with her presentation. The Board and public were given handouts of the petition. Ms. Lawler thanked the Board on behalf of the Walden Academy Leadership Team for hearing their petition. She stated that the establishment of the Walden Academy provides a public school alternative. She stated that some differences between charter and traditional public schools are that charter schools have:

- more flexibility;
- gives parents a choice;
- smaller class sizes;
- multi-grade classrooms;
- increased volunteering opportunities;
- direct accountability participation for parents;
- the school is governed mostly by direct stakeholders

Traditional school boards consist of both direct and non-direct stakeholders and elected by the entire community, not just those with children in school. She also stated that a public charter school is needed because over the last few years the dissatisfaction with the public school model has been growing. Their leadership team believes they have met all the components outlined in the District’s board policies concerning charter schools and urge the support of the Board in the establishment of the Walden Academy.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** In accordance with Education Code Section 47605(b): Hold a public hearing on the provisions of the Walden Academy Charter School Petition. President Geiger opened the Public Hearing at 7:34 p.m.

Parents supporting the charter school gave the following reasons why they want Walden Academy’s Charter Petition to be approved:

- choice
- parent involvement
- smaller class sizes
- competition is good for the schools

Parents opposing or who had concerns regarding the charter gave the following reasons why they think the WUSD Board needs to proceed cautiously before approving the petition for the Walden Academy Charter:

- concerned that Wm Finch has been reported as an illegal charter and parents have known since September; also concerned this formation of the Walden Academy is happening too quickly
- think the Board should look into the funding and try to get it back for the District since Wm. Finch was an illegal charter
- Willows is a small community and ADA dollars left the District to an illegal charter and hurts all schools in the District, including the high school
- concerned that they say they aren’t Wm. Finch – they are the same group of people
- there are plenty of opportunities for parents to volunteer at WUSD schools
- what does the charter really want from WUSD and how would WUSD benefit by sponsoring Walden Academy
- the charter doesn’t have to provide transportation, cafeteria for students that can’t afford to eat, no ELL students, no physically or developmentally challenged students

- a concern was shared about the legality of holding a Wm. Finch parent meeting in a public building and excluding public citizens

Mr. Jerry Simmons, attorney representing the Walden petitioners, addressed the Board. He stated that Walden Academy is not Wm. Finch Charter School. The parents of the proposed charter hired him with private funds to help them form a new charter because it didn't look like they could resolve the Wm. Finch issues. Mr. Simmons said the timeline is reasonable because they have the facility and teaching staff available. He shared with the Board the Charter Schools Act and Education Code 47605(b) related to their responsibility in reviewing the petition. He went over the reasons for denial the District could make. He stated that the proposed Walden Academy has satisfied all five areas. He said admission to the charter is open to anyone in the community regardless of English Learner or Special Education status, race, or gender. He thinks it would benefit our District by keeping federally funded dollars in our community, as well as receiving the oversight fee of 1% for services rendered by the District. At 8:10 p.m. President Geiger closed the Public Hearing.

2. **(Information)** Mr. Alex Xanthus – Beginning Teacher Support & Assessment (BTSA) Portfolio/Inquiry Project Presentation. Mr. Xanthus explained that BTSA is a program for first and second year teachers and they are asked to do a student-based inquiry at the end of their second year. He brought a summary of an inquiry he did in his welding class. He was encouraged to see the collaboration among his students using content language from his lectures, discussing problems among themselves to get solutions, and focusing on helping each other. The end result leaves the teacher more time to help the more needy students. BTSA helps teachers apply what they have learned and try out new things. Mr. Xanthus thanked the Board for their time and for the opportunity to give his presentation.

#### **C. HUMAN RESOURCES**

#### **D. BUSINESS SERVICES**

1. **(Action)** Approve Implementation of Cal Card Purchase Card Services. Ms. Skala addressed the Board and explained that Cal Card is a VISA purchase card program through an agreement with the State of California and US Bank. It would allow WUSD the ability to put limitations on the individual card holders as to what purchases could be made (e.g. gas only). There are no administrative fees; rebates are available; it consolidates payments by minimizing vendors; and has a 45-day payment window. There was discussion of who would receive cards following Ms. Skala's comments. Mr. Geiger moved, seconded by Mrs. Knight, to approve the implementation of Cal Card Purchase Card Services. The motion passed unanimously with 5 yes votes.
2. **(Action)** Approve Implementation of GASB 54 (Fund Balance Reporting & Governmental Fund Type Definitions) Ms. Skala addressed the Board regarding this matter. The objective of GASB 54 is to enhance the usefulness of fund balance information by providing clearer fund balance classifications that can be more consistently applied by clarifying the existing governmental fund type definitions. It is trying to make all of government use the same language no matter where you are in the public sector. It is mainly changing terminology. The resolution attached in the packet is needed so that we won't have audit findings. What this is actually doing is closing Funds 17 & 20 and rolling them into the general fund, which will make it look like we have more money than we do because we will still have to keep that money set aside for those specific fund purposes. The Board gave direction to keep the resolution as drafted. This resolution will come before the Board next month. Mr. Geiger moved, seconded by Mrs. Knight, to approve the closure of Fund 17 (Special Reserve) & Fund 20 (Post Retirement) and roll them into the general fund. Mr. Geiger wanted Ms. Skala to note clearly why the general fund will show a spike so the general public understands that when they look at the budget. Ms. Skala would like to re-designate them in the general fund for their original purpose. The motion passed unanimously with 5 yes votes.

There was a brief recess granted at 8:40 p.m.  
The meeting reconvened to Open Session at 8:42 p.m.

3. **(Discussion/Possible Action)** Cut List. Dr. Geivett said this is an on-going agenda item. With recommendations from the Board, Ms. Skala has updated the Cut List. From last month, Item #13-MES 3.9 Library Media Specialist, #15-Instructional Aide I positions, #18-Counselors, and #20-Instructional Aide II positions were restored and that is indicated under the Board Status column. Item #7-MAA, the amount has been reduced. WPD Chief Spears addressed the Board concerning the cut of the School Resource Officer for next year (Item 25). He wanted to make sure the Board was

aware of the ramifications of this cut. He said that the SRO also serves as a truant officer and has certain powers that a regular officer doesn't have. He said the City doesn't charge overtime for football games. He stated the City and District have always maintained a great relationship and the City will continue to support WUSD. Chief Spears shared that the District is getting much more than the \$25,000 contractual amount we pay for. He just wants the Board to look at this cut very carefully. Mr. Geiger mentioned before this evening that this list is also a "Restore List" and at this time, unfortunately, the District doesn't have the luxury to continue with the SRO. Chief Spears said it is his responsibility to help WUSD make the best decision concerning the SRO and that the Board understands the ramifications. Gina Taylor, parent, addressed the Board concerning Item #5-elimination of PE position at Murdock. She stated this item jumps out to her because she thinks this position is a luxury and not a necessity. With all the cuts we are making, to her this one looks like a simple one to eliminate. Mrs. Brott addressed the Board. She thanked the District and WUTA for meeting without attorneys trying to work out things together and at the same time saving the District money. She is also concerned about the elimination of WCHS. She feels as a District, we put all our effort into the younger children, but feels all children learn differently. She doesn't feel it is that costly, and feels every student needs to earn a diploma so they all have a chance to become productive citizens and taxpayers, and not live off of the system. She encouraged the Board to look at this matter very carefully. Also, she wanted to make sure that if the District has to rent out classrooms that the best classrooms are given to WUSD students. Mr. Jerry Smith, WHS Principal, addressed the Board concerning the Secretary I position at the high school. He stated it is a huge position and this position deals with a very large amount of money with all of the different activities at that site. He feels it is very different from the other two sites. The high school Secretary I position needs to be full time. He agrees with Mrs. Brott that the Board should look very carefully at the WCHS elimination. He said the whole culture of the high school will change if WCHS becomes part of the high school, but WHS will make it work if WCHS is moved to the high school campus. Shelley Amaro addressed the Board. She stated that she felt positive about WUTA negotiations with the District. She appreciates working with both Dr. Geivett and Mr. Geiger on negotiations. She looks forward to building a stronger relationship with the District with trust, communication, and professionalism. She looks forward to working closely with each other for years to come. The teachers care very much about the kids in WUSD and thinks choice is good and that Willows Unified is the right choice for students.

**9. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- 9.1 WIS Open House will be held on April 14, 2011, at 6:30 p.m. – Mr. Sailsbery stated the time has been changed to 6:00 p.m.
- 9.2 WCHS Open House will be held on April 19, 2011, at 6:00 p.m.
- 9.3 April 22, 2011, is a district-wide furlough day. Mr. Geiger thanked all members of the District for their cooperation.
- 9.4 April 25-29, 2011, is the district-wide spring break.
- 9.5 The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 5, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. at the Willows Civic Center.

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m. with a recess before going into Closed Session. President Geiger will report out in Open Session upon the conclusion of Closed Session.

**10. CLOSED SESSION**

Closed Session began at 9:29 p.m.

- 10.1 Pursuant to Government Code §54957.6: Conference with Labor Negotiator – Agency negotiator: Mort Geivett. Employee Organization: WUTA/CSEA, Non-represented: Management and Confidential.
- 10.2 Pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(a): Conference with Legal Counsel: Existing Litigation (2 cases) Tim Crews v. Willows USD, et.al, Case No. 09CV00697 and Case No. 10CV00860
- 10.3 Pursuant to Government Code §54956.9: Conference with Legal Counsel: Anticipated Litigation – (2 cases)

At 10:20 p.m. the meeting reconvened to Open Session. President Geiger reported out:

- Item 10.1: Direction given to Superintendent.
- Item 10.2: Update given to Board.
- Item 10.3: Update given to Board (2 cases).

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:21 p.m.