

WILLOWS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting – January 16, 2014

Regular Session 7:00 p.m.

Willows City Council Chambers

201 N. Lassen Street, Willows, CA 95988

MINUTES

1. OPEN SESSION – CALL TO ORDER

- 1.1 Roll Call – President Ward called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Board members present were:
Mr. Geiger, Mrs. Knight, Mr. Ward, Mr. Parisio & Mr. Munguia
- 1.2 Welcome to Visitors
- 1.3 Flag Salute was led by Mr. Sailsbery.

2. AGENDA/MINUTES

- 2.1 Approve the Minutes for the Regular Meeting December 5, 2013. Mr. Munguia moved, seconded by Mr. Geiger, to approve the Minutes for December 5, 2013.
AYES: Geiger, Knight, Ward, Parisio & Munguia
NOES: None
MOTION PASSED 5-0
- 2.2 Approve the Agenda for January 16, 2014. Mr. Geiger moved, seconded by Mr. Munguia, to approve the Agenda for January 16, 2014.
AYES: Geiger, Knight, Ward, Parisio & Munguia
NOES: None
MOTION PASSED 5-0

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

4. REPORTS

4.1 Employee Associations (WUTA & CSEA)

(WUTA) Ms. Jessie Proctor, WUTA President, reported:

- She stated that WUTA is excited about the budget prospects and about the “bring back list”.
- (CSEA) No report**

4.2 Principals

(MES) Mrs. Brown reported:

- December was an exciting month with many performances from the students and a good showing of parents for them.
- The Wild Things Inc. Assembly was very exciting for the students. The kangaroo and alligator were highlights for everyone. Mrs. Brown thanked Mrs. Roessel for her organization of the assembly and the PTO for sponsoring it.
- On February 6th the PTO is hosting a Spaghetti Feed Fundraiser from 4:30–7:00 p.m. in the MES cafeteria. She invited everyone to attend.
- Students and staff on her site were excited to see the solar panels up after the break and seeing the solar project progressing.
- They are moving forward on getting a new computer lab on campus for the students.

(WIS) Mr. Sailsbery reported:

- The bands performed admirably for their December concert.
- There will be a 8th Grade Class fundraiser - Pulled Pork Dinner on January 23rd from 5:00–8:00 p.m. at the Elks Lodge.
- WIS is off to a good start for the second semester and looking forward to a good Spring.

(WHS) Ms. McLaughlin reported:

- She enjoyed the “Wine & Dine” fundraiser sponsored by the WHS Boosters.

- She has been at WHS for one month and is enjoying her new position. She is working on the master and bell schedules keeping in mind the mission statement. She is getting feedback from the staff.
- At the WHS Open House she intends to have a “Meet the New Principal” gathering to hear concerns, feedback, etc.
- The Winter Ball and sporting events are keeping the students very busy.

(WCHS) Dr. Geivett reported:

- Enrollment is now at 24; with Independent Study it is 28.
- He said three students were added to the Wall of Fame which meant no F’s; great attendance; and a high percentage of credits earned. He commended Mr. Prinz, Mrs. Steele and Mrs. Beck for driving the students towards success.

4.3 Director of Business Services – Mrs. Beymer reported:

- The budget was released last night and she will attend a workshop tomorrow – the outlook looks much better and the governor is putting K-14 education at the top of his priority list.
- This is the first time in eight consecutive years that there will not be any deferrals which will definitely help school districts with cash flow.
- The State is now proposing an increase to the LCFF Base Grants. Building State reserves is also one of the governor’s top priorities.
- With the LCFF something new comes out every other week that takes more and more control away from school districts, especially those dollars tied to our under privileged students and English learners. She is not worried about being in compliance because we follow the guidelines for Title I accountability which are strictest guidelines in the U.S.
- The P1 Attendance Report showed we were down 11 ADA from last year at this time.
- Mrs. Beymer stated that the outlook does look good but history repeats itself, we will still have to be conservative – the economy runs in cycles and it always has its down-turns following upturns.

4.4 Director of Categorical Programs – No report

4.5 Superintendent – Dr. Geivett reported:

- He hoped everyone had a good break and is looking forward to a good 2014.
- The solar project is ahead of schedule by 2-3 weeks due to the lack of rain. The final walk through will take place at the end of this month. The project will pay for itself through the energy savings. He has heard positive comments from the public.
- He attended the Boosters “Wine & Dine” and thanked Mr. Geiger and the Boosters for hosting the fantastic evening and thought it was a very nice community event.
- He thanked the Board and the community as we go into 2014 and thinks we have some very positive things to look forward to. He looks forward to the upturn in California and the district’s financial situation.
- He appreciates being part of this community. He says we have great kids, staff and community members, and is very thankful that things look better for the future.

4.6 Governing Board Members:

Mr. Munguia – No report

Mr. Parisio:

- Basketball and homework are keeping the kids busy and the fair is coming up soon. They have started preparing the Ag barn for the kids to house their fair animals in.
- The Booster dinner had a great turnout and it was a lot of fun.

Mr. Geiger:

- He thanked the community members who showed their support by turning out for the Boosters’ “Wine & Dine”. He said the best part of the evening for him was watching the students participate. He couldn’t say enough about the nice group of kids they were fortunate to have help out.
- He attended the FFA Ag Advisory Meeting and there will be a lot of animals this year at the fair.
- He said he appreciated Mrs. Beymer’s and Dr. Geivett’s efforts they have put into building the budget, but he stays cautiously optimistic in light of California’s handling of financial matters.
- He welcomed Mr. Ward to his post as Board President.

Mrs. Knight – No report

Mr. Ward:

- He believes the solar project is enhancing our schools.

- He has major concerns about no rain since with that it compounds into no jobs and people leaving the community.

5. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

A. GENERAL

1. Accept donation from the Willows Rotary Club in the amount of \$500.00 for the Murdock Mallard Garden.
2. Accept donation from David McDonald in the amount of \$70.00 for the Murdock Music Program.

B. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

1. Approve Interdistrict requests for Students #13-14-28 through #13-14-29 to attend school in the WUSD for the 2013/14 school year.
2. Approve Interdistrict requests for Students #13-14-55 through #13-14-62 to attend school in another district for the 2013/14 school year.
3. Approve the Spring 2014 Butte College concurrent enrollment for WHS students.

C. HUMAN RESOURCES

1. Approve the following WHS Winter Sports Volunteer Coaches for the 2013/14 school year:
Varsity Boys Basketball – Volunteer Coach Richard Welsh
JV Girls Basketball – Volunteer Coach Andrew Lederer
2. Approve the following WHS Spring Sports Coaches for the 2013/14 school year:
Varsity Baseball – Head Coach Manuel Rakestraw
Varsity Baseball – Volunteer Coaches Scott Thur, Kent Thayer, Brian Wunsch, Travis Hayes, Julio Garcia, A. J. Miranda
Kellen Farrell
J.V. Baseball – Head Coach Brian Farrell, David Vieira
J.V. Baseball – Volunteer Coaches Paul Bailey
Varsity Softball – Head Coach Paul Gadbois
Varsity Softball – Volunteer Coach Janet Guill
J.V. Softball – Head Coach Jose Cano
J. V. Softball – Volunteer Coach Andy Martin
Varsity Boys Tennis – Head Coach Mike Biggs
Varsity Boys Track – Head Coach Evone LaCombe
Varsity Girls Track – Head Coach
Varsity Golf – Head Coach – Non-paid Jake Hutson

D. BUSINESS SERVICES

1. Approve budget revisions.
2. Approve warrants from 12/11/13 through 1/8/14.

Mrs. Knight asked to have Item 5C-2 pulled. Mr. Parisio moved, seconded by Mr. Geiger, to approve the Consent Calendar with the exception of Item 5C-2.

(CONSENT VOTE)

AYES: Geiger, Knight, Ward, Parisio & Munguia

NOES: None

MOTION PASSED 5-0

Mr. Geiger moved, seconded by Mr. Munguia, to approve Item 5C-2 of the Consent Calendar.

AYES: Geiger, Ward, Parisio & Munguia

NOES: None

ABSTENTIONS: Knight

MOTION PASSED 4-0-1

6. **DISCUSSION/ACTION CALENDAR**

A. GENERAL

1. **(Discussion/Possible Action)** Bond Measure Campaign Presentation by Isom Advisors. Dr. Geivett introduced Mr. Jason List of Isom Advisors to the Board. He gave the Board an Updated District Financial Analysis their company compiled for WUSD. Some ideas he had on to handle the bond

campaign differently if the Board chooses to pursue a bond measure in the future were:

- Push for more volunteers to promote the bond
- Start earlier in the campaign in educating the community about the cost to the taxpayer
- State exactly what projects would be included in the bond measure and what could not be paid with bond funds (salaries, benefits)
- Strong Board participation and visibility was fully encouraged
- Stay conservative
- Go for the bond only when the District is ready

He went through his report which showed the 2012 measure election successes his firm handled and said that his firm was more successful than any other firm in the state in handling campaigns. He also stated that he had worked on campaigns that were successful in conservative districts such as ours. Points he discussed were the District Bond & Assessed Value History; GO Bond Proceeds; School Facility Improvement District (although he didn't encourage this); General Fund Relief; Voter Demographics; Voter Turnout; and Next Steps (Timeline for 2014 Election). He concluded with saying that although we are a conservative district with challenging demographics he thinks we can be successful in passing a bond measure. Discussion ensued regarding his firm's fees and he stated that they do not get paid until the bonds are sold. Sherry Brott addressed the Board and said that with the last campaign she didn't think we had enough adult volunteers – the students were wonderful but we needed more adults. She also encouraged the Board to get really involved and be visible. More discussion ensued about whether to try and put the measure on the June or November ballot.

Mr. Parisio moved, seconded by Mr. Geiger, to give direction for Dr. Geivett to proceed with putting the bond measure on the June 2014 ballot.

AYES: Geiger, Knight, Ward, Parisio & Munguia

NOES: None

MOTION PASSED 5-0

2. **(Information)** Williams Uniform Complaints Quarterly Report. (There were no complaints.) This was an information item only – no action was taken.

B. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

1. **(Information/Possible Action)** Willows Unified School District's participation as a member and/or possible fiscal agent in the process of creating a Butte/Glenn Adult Education Consortium related to the AB 86 Adult Education Regional Consortia Program. Dr. Geivett explained that this has to do with the LCFF being tied to Adult Education. There is a grant available to secure money for planning purposes of what adult education will look like in the future for our communities. One of the components of the law is that you have to have either a community college district or school district be the fiscal agent. Dr. Geivett attended a meeting with school districts within Butte and Glenn counties as well as Butte College. Butte College agreed to be the fiscal agent for the grant writing process. Willows Unified will be contributing members of the grant writing process and will be representatives at the table. No action was taken.

C. HUMAN RESOURCES

1. **(Action)** Approve the appointment of the Murdock Elementary School Principal for the 2013/14 school year. Dr. Geivett explained there was a well-represented hiring committee that selected Carrie Brown as the candidate they wanted to be the next Murdock Elementary School Principal. Mr. Parisio moved, seconded by Mr. Geiger, to approve the appointment of Carrie Brown as the Murdock Elementary School Principal for 2013/14.

AYES: Geiger, Knight, Ward, Parisio & Munguia

NOES: None

MOTION PASSED 5-0

Mrs. Brown addressed the Board and thanked them for their support. She said she was excited and overwhelmed at being the MES Principal. She stated that the support from the MES staff has been incredible and she hopes to honor them by doing a good job and giving the students a quality education. She also thanked the management team for their support during the transition period.

2. **(Action)** Approve the appointment of the Elementary School Assistant Principal for the 2013/14 school year. Dr. Geivett explained to the Board that with Mrs. Brown leaving her position as Dean of Students that her vacated position also needed to be filled. The interviewing committee saw a great

deal of passion for educating students in Mrs. Brown, but also in another candidate who interviewed that day, Tim Drury. They said he did a good job and had a desire to become a member of a team, especially in WUSD. Mr. Geiger moved, seconded by Mr. Munguia, to approve Tim Drury as the Elementary School Assistant Principal (K-8) for the 2013/14 school year. Discussion ensued as to why the open position was for an Assistant Principal and not a Dean of Students. Dr. Geivett explained the reasoning of changing the position due to the candidate's experience and change in duties.

AYES: Geiger, Knight, Ward, Parisio & Munguia

NOES: None

MOTION PASSED 5-0

Mr. Drury addressed the Board and said he appreciated the opportunity to be part of the WUSD and looks forward to being a team member. He talked to the Board about his background in education (18 years) and said he is very excited to begin working with Willows Unified. He said that Dr. Geivett is working on a transition plan with his current superintendent to get him on board as soon as possible.

D. BUSINESS SERVICES

1. **(Action)** Approve the 2013/14 First Interim Budget Report (available at the District Office for preview). Mrs. Knight moved, seconded by Mr. Munguia, to approve the 2013/14 First Interim Budget Report. Mrs. Beymer addressed the Board. She explained to the Board that based on the calculation tool used with the new LCFF our deficit was reduced by \$93,000.00 from the original budget. With the increased revenue from the LCFF plus a couple of one-time items that are receiving money, Prop. 39 Funding and Common Core, it helped us reduce the projected deficit spending.

AYES: Geiger, Knight, Ward, Parisio & Munguia

NOES: None

MOTION PASSED 5-0

2. **(Information)** Review of Independent Auditors Financial Report for WUSD Fiscal Year 2012/13. Mrs. Beymer addressed the Board and said she was happy to report that the audit findings from the prior year were corrected and did not carry forward into the current year. She stated we had one audit finding relative to a calculation error on a spreadsheet. It held no monetary value to it because it was the Annual Report – the corrected report has been provided to the State. She also said that for years findings have been found with our Student Body accounting processes. She stated that there were no findings at any of the sites with ASB. The auditors told her that Willows High School is the first high school they have ever audited that didn't have an audit finding related to Student Body accounts. Both Dr. Geivett and Mrs. Beymer commended Amy Baker at WHS for her work. She also said that the district was in compliance with our instructional minutes.
3. **(Action)** Approve an Increase in Reserves for Economic Uncertainties. Mrs. Beymer said our current board policy states that we should maintain a 17% reserve (which she felt might be unrealistic) but no less than the required 3%. Our district currently holds 5.8% in reserves and she would like to increase that by transferring \$52,437 and increase the reserve up to 6.25%. Recent recommendations are to increase reserves to cover the minimum requirement plus at least one year of GAP funding, which for our district would be 7.17%. Mrs. Beymer stated it is very important to keep our reserves built up. Dollars can be moved if there is a fiscal emergency but keeping at least 3% is required. Discussion ensued about increasing the amount. Mrs. Knight moved to increase the reserve to 8.55% (\$1,025,135). Mr. Parisio commented that he thinks we need to build back up the reserves that we had to draw on in the past because the Board needs to be fiscally responsible. He said he would like to see it even higher than 8.55%. More discussion ensued about the amount of what the increase should be. Mrs. Knight amended her motion to increase the reserves to 7.17% (\$859,173) which is the 3% required amount plus the 2013/14 Estimated GAP (\$499,486). Mr. Parisio seconded the motion.

AYES: Knight, Parisio & Munguia

NOES: Geiger & Ward

MOTION PASSED 3-2

4. **(Action)** Approve a transfer between Funds in the amount of \$118,650.00 for repayment of a temporary loan for the Solar Project startup funds. Mrs. Beymer said this is an effort in staying totally transparent to the public. The District will recoup these dollars and they will trickle in to replenish Fund 25. Mrs. Knight moved, seconded by Mr. Geiger, to approve the transfer between Funds in the amount of \$118,650.

AYES: Geiger, Knight, Ward, Parisio & Munguia

NOES: None

MOTION PASSED 5-0

5. **(Action)** Approve the Medi-Cal Administrative Activities (MAA) Claiming Agreement between WUSD and GCOE. Mrs. Knight moved, seconded by Mr. Munguia, to approve the MAA Agreement.
AYES: Geiger, Knight, Ward, Parisio & Munguia
NOES: None
MOTION PASSED 5-0
6. **(Action)** Approve Agreement for Professional Services between WUSD and Matt Juhl-Darlington & Associates through January 31, 2015. Mr. Geiger moved, seconded by Mr. Parisio, to approve the Agreement between WUSD and Matt Juhl-Darlington & Associates.
AYES: Geiger, Knight, Ward, Parisio & Munguia
NOES: None
MOTION PASSED 5-0
7. **(Discussion/Possible Action)** Fiscal and Program Sustainability Plan. Dr. Geivett stated that the District is starting to see some fiscal recovery and the Board will have to make a priority list on what items to “bring back”. The Fiscal and Program Sustainability Plan gives a history of what cuts were made in the past. Mrs. Knight asked for recommendations from the audience. Mrs. Brott stated that bringing a teacher back after school begins is difficult and more difficult to do at the high school level because of scheduling. Mr. Geiger had following recommendations/concerns - not prioritized: Transportation (aging van fleet); Safety Concerns; Aging Facilities; Lowering Class Sizes; Technology, Rewarding Staff for Past Sacrifices; Swimming Pool – fill it or fix it. He commented that with all of the above concerns, that is why he had to vote no on increasing the reserves to a higher amount. He is apprehensive when it comes to the State sticking to their word about funding our schools. Mrs. Brott stated that since we are in a better place than last year she hopes we can plan for next year to have more sections of the core classes and keep the class sizes down. Dr. Geivett read our Mission/Vision/Goals to help remind everyone of them. Mr. Ward stated that with all of the above needs mentioned is why he didn’t vote to increase the reserves more at this time. Gina Taylor addressed the Board and stated she is also on the District’s Budget Committee. Some ideas she has to bring back include: Full-time Librarians; Technology; Teacher Stipends for before and after school instruction; Reinstatement of the AP Programs at WHS; and continue the PIQE Program at WHS. Dr. Geivett stated that it is almost a more difficult task to bring things back off the cut list because someone will always end up unhappy, but it is the Board’s job to look at the entire picture. Mr. Parisio voiced some of his recommendations: the need for vans that are safe; he would like to see the pool fixed because all students have the opportunity to use the pool during their high school years; staff should be rewarded; the golf program has funded itself because in the past it only had five students and now is up to 20+ kids. Mrs. Proctor said priorities need to be made and thinks education for kids should be at the top. Ms. McLaughlin stated she agrees that adding sections to the high school master schedule after school begins is very difficult because it causes major scheduling problems but also thinks K-1 class sizes need to be lowered. Mr. Geiger stated that he thinks we need to plan for the upcoming year now by increasing staffing levels next year to lower class sizes. Mr. Geiger moved, seconded by Mr. Munguia, to reinstate funding for the golf program but not at the full cost of \$8,000 – he suggested the amount should not exceed \$4,000 (to include the coach’s stipend) which is half of the cost originally cut. Ms. McLaughlin had some costs of the program from Mr. Bazan, WHS Athletic Director, but unfortunately could not decipher all of them. Sherry Brott addressed the Board and said she was surprised that the first action from the Board would be to bring back the golf program. Mr. Geiger said it wasn’t his first priority. Mrs. Brott interjected that if the Board votes to reinstate the golf program this evening then that money comes out of the budget when it might possibly be used to go toward a higher prioritized item. Mr. Geiger removed his motion on the table to reinstate the funding for the golf program. There was a lot of discussion about what would be the best way to move forward to bring back items on the Fiscal & Program Sustainability Plan. It was decided that each one of the board members submit a priority list to Dr. Geivett by next Tuesday in order to give Mrs. Beymer and him time to research the costs of the items to be brought back with today’s actual costs, not the cost they were when they were cut. Gina Taylor said she thought we should be very mindful of what we bring back and what the community’s perception might be in light of asking the community to support a bond measure. Mr. Sailsbery stated that he thought the school vans should be a priority for public safety. More discussion ensued regarding the safety of the vans and Dr. Geivett stated for the record that vehicles never leave our bus yard that are deemed unsafe. Mr. Geiger suggested possibly replacing two vans this year and two vans next year and that they could be used vans. In order to give the public notice that the Fiscal & Program Sustainability Plan would be acted on, the Board decided to

have a Special Meeting prior to the Regular Meeting on February 6, 2014, beginning at 5:00 p.m., with a break prior to the Regular Meeting which begins at 7:00 p.m. No action was taken on this item.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 7.1 Monday, January 20, 2014, is a district-wide holiday – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
- 7.2 The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on February 6, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. at the Willows Civic Center.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING CLOSED SESSION ITEM

At 10:13 p.m., the Board took a short recess after the Regular Meeting before going into Closed Session. Mr. Ward stated he will report out in Open Session upon the conclusion of Closed Session.

9. CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session began at 10:23 p.m.

- 9.1 Pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(a): Conference with Legal Counsel: Existing Litigation (1 case) Tim Crews v. Willows USD, et.al, Case No. 09CV00697
- 9.2 Pursuant to Government Code §54957.6: Conference with Labor Negotiator – Agency negotiator: Mort Geivett. Employee Organization: WUTA/CSEA, Non-represented: Management and Confidential

10. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

10.1 Announcement of Action Taken in Closed Session

At 10:49 p.m., the meeting reconvened to Open Session. Mr. Ward reported out:

- Item 9.1: Update given by the Superintendent
- Item 9.2: Update given by the Superintendent

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 p.m.