

Sections 7.8.1 and 7.8.2
MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING OF THE
WILLCOX UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD
OF MEETING HELD April 7, 2026

A public meeting of the Willcox Unified School District Governing Board was convened on Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at 6:00 P.M. in the District Education Center Board room, located at 480 N. Bisbee Avenue, Willcox, AZ 85643

Present at the meeting were the following members of the Governing Board:

Homer Hansen

James Allan

Steve Marlatt

Terri Kibler

Bill Ryan

Absent were: [no members absent].

The following matters were discussed, considered, and decided at the meeting:

- I. Opening of the Meeting
 - A. Call to Order and Roll Call. Mr. Hansen called the meeting to order and took roll of members.
 - B. Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Hansen led the Pledge of Allegiance.
 - C. Invocation for the Governing Board. Mrs. Kibler prayed for the Board.
 - D. Adoption of the Agenda. Mr. Ryan moved to adopt the agenda. Mrs. Kibler seconded. No Discussion. In favor: [Mr. Ryan, Mrs. Kibler, Mr. Marlatt, Mr. Allan, Mr. Hansen] Opposed: [None]

- II. Call to the Public—No public response.

- III. Presentations
 - A. High School Student Council

Juniors are currently completing state testing, including the ACT and the AZSci assessment. Freshmen have completed the ACT Aspire. The upcoming Spring Fling Field Day will include food and water activities for students. Student Council has completed the chocolate bar fundraiser, and elections

are scheduled for the 26th and 27th. The Student of the Year scholarship will be awarded soon. Publications reported that the yearbook will be finalized by Friday.

Youth Court held a trial last week, and Ms. Jaquez will be attending a national conference. FCCLA/ASL reported decreased student interest this year; however, the club is planning to offer the Boston trip again. Physics and Chemistry classes are studying organic chemistry and rocket-related concepts. Knowledge Bowl will hold its final meet on April 27th, and Willcox students have performed well throughout the season.

Science classes are working on ocean-floor models, relative dating, and sediment composition. English classes are completing argumentative writing units, including work connected to *When Breath Becomes Air*. A total of 106 students enrolled in English 101 and 102 are on track to finish. Math Lab continues to be offered on Thursdays after lunch. Basketball athletes have earned a record number of scholarships this year.

B. High School FFA

Members attended an Ag West event at the Indy Race Track and participated in the 5th Grade Westward Expansion Day, where they presented information on various animals. The Douglas District Competition is hosting Parliamentary Procedure, Conduct of Meetings teams, and additional contests. The final chapter meeting of the year was held last night, during which new officers were announced. The annual FFA Banquet is scheduled for May 7th.

C. Special Services Department, Farbod Safavi, Director/Grants management

The department reported that 179 students currently receive special education services, representing approximately 17% of the student population. Staffing includes eight special education teachers, twenty-three paraprofessionals, and four related service providers. The district uses a full-inclusion model, with access to sensory rooms and scheduled breaks to support students and maintain classroom environments. The preschool program is fully inclusive, which is less common among comparable districts.

At the high school level, the Transition from School to Work program was highlighted. This program provides instruction in workplace and community skills and offers hands-on experiences such as mail delivery, food bank support, construction activities, and opportunities with the City of Willcox.

Students also receive guidance in soft skills, including résumé preparation and application processes.

The English Language Learners program serves 189 students (18% of the population) using a targeted pull-out model. The program maintains strong family engagement to support learning at home. The Migrant Education program serves 103 students whose families work in agricultural occupations and have relocated within the past three years. Program supports include an advocate/liaison, tutoring, language classes, supplies, and quarterly parent meetings focused on navigating school systems.

The McKinney-Vento program supports students lacking stable housing, including those living in shelters, hotels, vehicles, or shared housing. Assistance may include supplies and other supports as needed.

District safety practices include ALICE training with in-district trainers and the use of Nav360 as an emergency communication platform connected to local law enforcement.

The district reported approximately \$1.5 million in state and federal grants. Facilities updates include \$4.8 million allocated for roofing projects and \$3.4 million for the high school weatherization project, with middle school and elementary school projects pending. An additional \$1.2 million is budgeted for HVAC, intercom systems, fire alarms, and related needs. Grading and drainage improvements will be an upcoming focus at all three sites.

IV. Consent Agenda

Mr. Marlatt moved to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Ryan seconded. No discussion. In favor: [Mr. Ryan, Mrs. Kibler, Mr. Marlatt, Mr. Allan, Mr. Hansen] Opposed: [None]

V. New Business

A. Employee Insurance Benefits for FY 2026-2027- Mr. Ryan moved to approve the district's employee benefits plans for FY 2026-2027 as included in the board backup material. Mrs. Kibler seconded. Discussion: There was a 7% increase, and no further updates. In favor: [Mr. Ryan, Mrs. Kibler, Mr. Marlatt, Mr. Allan, Mr. Hansen] Opposed: [None]

B. Salary Schedules – Mr. Hansen moved to approve the FY2026-2027 Classified and Professional Salary Schedules as noted in the board backup material. Seconded by Mr. Allan. Discussion: This will be available online

after approval. In favor: [Mr. Ryan, Mrs. Kibler, Mr. Marlatt, Mr. Allan, Mr. Hansen] Opposed: [None]

C. Classified Rehire List – Mrs. Kibler moved to approve the FY2026-2027 Classified Rehire List and salary increases as noted in the board backup material. Mr. Allan seconded. No discussion. In favor: [Mr. Ryan, Mrs. Kibler, Mr. Marlatt, Mr. Allan, Mr. Hansen] Opposed: [None]

D. Board Member Comments/Request for Agenda Items
Discussion: Board needs to go over survey results and set goals accordingly in May/June.

E. Future Meeting Dates
The next regular meeting is scheduled for May 5, 2026 at 6 P.M.

VI. Adjournment

Mr. Ryan moved to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Kibler seconded. Mr. Hansen adjourned the meeting.

Dated this 9th day of April 2026.

Willcox Unified School District Governing Board

By Destany Smith