

Sections 7.8.1 and 7.8.2
MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING OF THE
WILLCOX UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD
OF MEETING HELD AUGUST 17, 2026

A public meeting of the Willcox Unified School District Governing Board was convened on Tuesday, August 17, 2026 at 3:00 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:

Bill Ryan

Terri Kibler

Steve Marlatt

Homer Hansen

James Allen

No absent members.

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

I. Opening of the Meeting

Mr. Hansen called the meeting to order.

II. New Business

Board Work Session Summary – Goals & Key Issues

The board discussed developing superintendent goals to be approved at the September meeting. Members were reminded that while the board does not micro-manage the superintendent, they still represent the community and must respond to concerns reflected in survey results. Teachers and staff expressed stronger concerns than parents, particularly around communication. A community meet-and-greet is planned, and the board emphasized creating a multi-year plan that demonstrates proactive action. Communication and bullying emerged as the two highest-priority issues across all survey comments.

Communication:

The district has expanded communication efforts through the website, social media, ClassDojo, newsletters, conferences, Bright Arrow, and large community events. Updated contact information was collected during registration, and increased free-lunch applications will improve funding. Teacher committees require a minimum of five family contacts per month. Remaining communication gaps likely stem from language barriers or limited technology access. ClassDojo provides a multilingual, unified platform, though parents may opt out. A more reliable community calendar is being developed. Current survey reflection shows communication at 43%, with a goal of 60%+.

Bullying & Discipline:

Staff expressed concern about disciplinary processes and bullying perceptions. Each campus runs anti-bullying campaigns, and administrators handle most discipline, which must remain confidential by law—leading to misunderstandings about whether issues are addressed. Parents need clearer guidance on what qualifies as bullying (repetition, power imbalance, consistency). Annual legal trainings highlight the complexity of these cases. Survey reflection for bullying is 48%, with a goal of 60%+.

Additional Survey Topics:

Admin performance will be measured through board-approved principal evaluations in the spring. Concerns about volunteer access were addressed; the district has an extensive volunteer list and a simple application process, with fingerprint clearance required except for classroom-specific parent activities. Curriculum is standardized across schools, and retention remains a last-resort but enforced measure. The board wants increased recognition and appreciation for teachers and support staff. Renovations have been successful, and the district hopes for a second weatherization award. Free lunches remain a significant accomplishment compared to other districts.

III. Adjournment

Mrs. Kibler moved to adjourn. Mr. Allen seconded. In favor: Mr. Ryan, Mrs. Kibler, Mr. Hansen, Mr. Marlatt, Mr. Allen. None Opposed. Mr. Hansen adjourned the meeting at 4:51pm.

Dated this 18 day of August 2026.

Willcox Unified School District Governing Board

By Destany Smith