Sections 7.8.1 and 7.8.2

MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING OF THE

WILLCOX UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD

OF MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 1ST, 2026

A public meeting of the Willcox Unified School District Governing Board was convened on Tuesday, September 1, 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. Mr. Allen 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. HS STUCO
      Academics & Administration: WHS received its Cognia Accreditation certificate, celebrating over 100 years of accreditation. Landon Hooper took 1st place overall in the International Space Settlement Design with a global

team. The recent Open House had over 100 families in attendance. WHS is adopting ClassDojo for family communication to supplement Facebook, PowerSchool, and Google Classroom.
Events & Clubs: The student council approved a chocolate fundraiser, selling 20 of 72 boxes in two weeks. A leadership training is scheduled for this month and a blood drive is scheduled in October. Yearbooks were approved for sale starting at $45. ASL2 students are planning a trip to Washington. The math department noted 17 freshmen in geometry, the addition of a new Algebra 1 teacher, and the Pi Radians math club gaining membership.
Athletics: Willcox Cowboys are currently ranked #1 in the state. The volleyball team took second place in our Saturday tournament and stands at #2 in the region. The soccer team won a Payson tournament and is undefeated. Cross country will host a home meet September 16th.

B. HS FFA
Camps & Conferences: Members attended the annual state camp in Pinetop to meet state officers. At the State Leadership Conference (June 4-6), Cristyn Bell was elected FFA State Vice-President and competed in prepared public speaking. Vance, Jocelyn, Kristen, and Taylor received state degrees, and Ms. Sanborn was recognized for her retirement. Members also attended a July 24 Livestock Camp in Safford, where a member tied for 2nd individual.
Activities: Chapter Officer Training occurred July 27-28, concluding with team bonding in Tucson. An August 20th Icebreaker welcomed freshmen with food, a block-breaking game won by the seniors, and slip-and-slide kickball. Members also traveled to Phoenix for State COLT training focused on leadership.

IV. Administrative reports/Summary of current events.

A. Construction and Bond Updates: A weatherization project is ongoing and expected to finish by the end of the month, with temporary water damage fixes concluding by Friday. The district hopes to be awarded an additional weatherization project at another campus. Wrestling room expansion and special services room construction will begin in October.
B. We are Willcox Community Event: The school will host the Willcox community festival on October 22nd from 5:00 to 7:00 PM.
Enrollment: Average Daily Membership (ADM) currently stands at 1,000 students, compared to 1,001 on the 100th day last year and 1,035 the year prior.

V. Consent Agenda

Mr. Marlatt moved to approve the consent agenda. Mrs. Kibler seconded.
Discussion: The Superintendent noted there were 4 total policy updates across two meetings (1 in August, 3 at this meeting).
In favor: [Mr. Ryan, Mrs. Kibler, Mr. Marlatt, Mr. Allan, Mr. Hansen]
Opposed: [None]

VI. New Business

A. Mr. Ryan moved to approve the Audit Services Contract to DRS CPA, PLLC for fiscal years 2025-2026, and authorize the superintendent to sign agreements and/or contracts as noted in the board backup material. Mrs. Kibler seconded.
Discussion: This represents the first option of a 3-year contract initiated by an RFP the previous year.
In favor: [Mr. Ryan, Mrs. Kibler, Mr. Marlatt, Mr. Allan, Mr. Hansen]
Opposed: [None]

B. Mr. Hansen moved to approve RFQ-10-2026-1 Construction Manager at Risk and approving Canyon Building & Design as the awardee and approving the construction proposals and projects for the Wrestling Room Expansion and Weatherization on the Special Services Building. Mr. Ryan seconded.
Discussion: Only two submittals were received for this project. We are happy to continue use with Canyon. In favor: [Mr. Ryan, Mrs. Kibler, Mr. Marlatt, Mr. Allan, Mr. Hansen] Opposed: [None]

C. Mr. Ryan moved to approve the following policy revisions as included in the board backup material. Mrs. Kibler seconded.
Discussion: This included a conflict-of-interest form that the Auditor General recently updated. In favor: [Mr. Ryan, Mrs. Kibler, Mr. Marlatt, Mr. Allan, Mr. Hansen] Opposed: [None]

D. Mr. Marlatt moved to consider the following resolution and where noted, Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) and/or contracts and authorizing the superintendent to sign agreements and/or contracts:
26/27-63 — Cochise Elementary School – Sports IGA
Mr. Allen seconded. Discussion:

A motion was introduced to authorize a sports Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Cochise Elementary School because the AIA does not regulate elementary sports.

The superintendent raised two primary concerns.

First, school choice: if students choose to attend a district without a sports program, they should face the consequence of that choice rather than participating at Willcox on a "cafeteria basis".

Second, finances: Willcox receives no ADM funding for these outside students, and the proposed $250 fee does not cover the costs of uniforms, travel, coaches, and facilities.

Goodwill Argument: Several board members argued that allowing participation serves as community goodwill. They suggested this could encourage these elementary students to eventually enroll at Willcox High School instead of competing districts like Thatcher or Valley Union.

Conversely, other board members emphasized that Willcox taxpayers should not subsidize outside students. Suggestions were made to raise the fee to match the $1,500 charged to ESA participants.

A situation was brought up regarding students who practiced all summer and were later told they couldn't play in the regular season. The superintendent clarified that all summer practices were voluntary and it was communicated from the beginning that regular season play required an approved IGA.

Mr. Marlatt amended the motion to not approve an IGA or contract with Cochise Elementary. Mr. Ryan seconded.

In favor: [Mr. Ryan, Mrs. Kibler, Mr. Marlatt]

Opposed: [Mr. Allan, Mr. Hansen]

Motion passed with simple majority vote.

Short announcements: A revised motion was explicitly made "to not approve an IGA or contract with Cochise Elementary school". The board voted against adopting the IGA, citing the financial burden, the desire to prevent an ongoing precedent, and the need to use the sports program as an exclusive attraction for Willcox enrollment.

E. Mr. Ryan moved to approve the Superintendent’s goals for FY 2026-2027 as noted in the board backup material. Mr. Allen seconded. Discussion:

The board discussed their intent to avoid micromanagement, emphasizing that their role is to set outcomes while letting the superintendent (Dr. Davis) direct his staff to create and execute the specific action plan.

Board members expressed that they preferred approving high-level goals and survey-derived guidelines (such as the bolded section headers in the board backup materials) rather than forcing rigid operational steps into the board policy.

The board agreed that Dr. Davis should develop the implementation plan independently alongside his staff. A deadline around September 30th was mentioned for incorporating the finalized goals into the superintendent's contract. The superintendent can present his plans to the board monthly as well as any progress being made.

Mr. Ryan withdrew the motion.

Mr. Ryan moved to approve the Superintendent's goals for FY 2026-2027 in two separate goals: #1 Increase the overall school district communication rating from 48% to 60%, and #2 Increase the overall satisfaction rating of addressing bullying from 52% to 60%. The board may give the superintendent their summary of the survey's comment sections. Mrs. Kibler seconded.
In favor: [Mr. Ryan, Mrs. Kibler, Mr. Marlatt, Mr. Allan, Mr. Hansen]
Opposed: [None]

F. Board Member Comments/Request for Agenda Items
There will be an item on the next regular meeting agenda to discuss the Superintendent's Evaluation.
The board may all be in attendance at the Willcox Community Festival on October 22nd, which is open for the public to attend.

G. Future Meeting Dates
The next regular meeting is scheduled for October 13th, 2026.

VII. Adjournment

Mr. Marlatt moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Allen seconded. Mr. Hansen adjourned the meeting.

Dated this 3 day of September 2026.

Willcox Unified School District Governing Board

By Destany Smith