



Board of Education

Heather Sheehan, President
Emily Phillips, Vice President
Krissy Leerkes
Laura Bridge
Morgan Drinkwine

Willsboro Central School
Board of Education

Regular Meeting Minutes
August 19, 2025

Members Present: Heather Sheehan, President
Emily Phillips, Vice President
Krissy Leerkes
Laura Bridge
Morgan Drinkwine

Others Present: Justin Gardner, Superintendent of Schools
Brandy Pierce Nolette, District Clerk
Taylor Sullivan, District Treasurer

The board meeting was Called to Order at 6:00pm, by Heather Sheehan

Reports from District Treasurer

- School Tax bills are being printed and will be mailed out the week of August 25th, 2025.
- The state documents have all been filed on August 20th, 2025.
- The Business Office is all prepared for the audit that will take place on August 25th & 26th, 2025.
- All of the new employees are being entered into the system.

Reports from Principal (presented by Justin Gardner)

- Coordinating with Clinton County Child Advocacy to bring "the play it safe curriculum to WSC. This is age appropriate videos and classroom discussions that will take place with trained individuals from the CC Child Advocacy. This in part to satisfy Erin's Law which is a nationwide legislative effort, named

after childhood sexual abuse survivor Erin Merryn, that requires public schools to implement age-appropriate child sexual abuse and exploitation prevention education for students in K - 8th grade. We will be sending letters home to families.

- The numbers are still being gathered on the state data scores.
- The Makerspace in the Library is almost complete and will be a great place for our students to learn, explore and share. It uses high tech to no tech tools.
- We will continue with The Positivity Project this school year.
- Our building looks great and can't wait for everyone to come back!

Reports from the Superintendent

- The New York State Board of Regents is implementing a new framework called the "Portrait of a Graduate" to outline the essential skills and qualities students should possess for their diploma. "Portrait of a Graduate" framework will replace the exam requirement (no regents) by focusing on skills and qualities
- The BOCES and the 16 component school districts are developing a regionalization plan. This plan is a collaborative effort to improve educational opportunities and operational efficiency across the North Country region. Dr. Davey will review the strengths and needs of all the districts. We pick what we are interested in and Dr. Davey will submit it to State Ed in mid October at no cost.
- I have been working with the Advisory Group on health insurance. We had a carrier switch from BCBS Empire to BCBS Anthem. The prescription plan stayed the same with the current provider. There is a medicare structure plan called "Egg Whip" which bundles Medicare Parts A and B with Part D (prescription drug coverage), providing more comprehensive benefits than traditional Medicare alone. Any questions on the benefit card you can reach out to the office at BOCES.
- We will be implementing the NO Electronic policy on the first day of school. Only medical exemptions with a drs note will be allowed to have their electronic. We will be sending out messages on PAREntsquare prior to the start of school and will be meeting with all students within the first week of school. There will be a meeting with staff and faculty as well.
- Climate surveys to be done in the fall and spring.

Acceptance of Minutes

The minutes from the 7-10-25 reorganizational and regular meetings were accepted as presented.

Business & Finance

Motion by Krissy Leerkes, seconded by Laura Bridge, voted and carried (5-0) to approve the following financial reports:

TITLE	FROM	NOTES
Cash Disbursements - All Funds	Internal Claims Auditor	July #1 - Cash Disbursements (Manual & Computer Checks) July #2 - Cash Disbursements (Manual & Computer Checks) July #3 - Cash Disbursements (Computer Checks) July #4 - Cash Disbursements (Manual & Computer Checks)

Approved the 2025-26 school tax levy, with a collection window of September 1, 2025, through October 31, 2025:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Willsboro Central School District has been authorized by the voters at the Annual School Meeting to raise for the current budget of the 2025-26 school year a sum not to exceed \$6,292,107.00 (this amount includes omitted taxes of \$3,074.03 and STAR);

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education fixes the equalized tax rates by town and confirms the extension of the taxes as they appear on the following described tax rolls:

WILLSBORO CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT							
2025-2026 SCHOOL TAX RATE SHEET							
TOWN	ASSESSED VALUATION	EQUALIZATION RATE	TRUE VALUE	TOTAL TAX COLLECTED	OMITTED TAXES	TAX LEVY	TAX RATE PER \$1,000
CHESTERFIELD	\$ 323,001	100%	\$ 323,001	\$ 2,602.91		\$ 2,602.91	\$ 8.058520
ESSEX	\$ 217,944,664	100%	\$ 217,944,664	\$ 1,757,434.47	\$ 1,123.78	\$ 1,756,310.69	\$ 8.058517
LEWIS	\$ 732,150	100%	\$ 732,150	\$ 5,900.04		\$ 5,900.04	\$ 8.058513
WESTPORT	\$ 5,000,944	100%	\$ 5,000,944	\$ 40,300.19		\$ 40,300.19	\$ 8.058517
WILLSBORO	\$ 556,419,917	100%	\$ 556,419,917	\$ 4,485,869.39	\$ 1,950.25	\$ 4,483,919.14	\$ 8.058517
	<u>\$ 780,420,676</u>		<u>\$ 780,420,676</u>	<u>\$ 6,292,107.00</u>	<u>\$ 3,074.03</u>	<u>\$ 6,289,032.97</u>	

New Business

Motion by Emily Phillips, seconded by Morgan Drinkwine, voted and carried (5-0) to approve the following resolutions:

Approved the special education recommendations prepared by CSE Chairperson, Jennifer Leibeck.

Approved the agreement between the Willsboro Central School District and UVMHN Elizabethtown Community Hospital, for school physician services for the 2025-2026 school year at a rate of \$5,127.

Approved the intermunicipal agreement between the Willsboro Central School District and the Town of Willsboro, for use of school property for Youth Commission soccer for the 2025-2026 school year.

Established the rate charged to the Town of Willsboro for the 2025-2026 school year for any contracted busing for ski trips or other events at \$42/hour.

Approved the lease agreement between the Willsboro Central School District and Diddle, LLC, for the use of land for soccer fields on the Point Road, effective August 15, 2025, and authorized the Superintendent of Schools to execute the agreement on behalf of the District.

Personnel

Motion by Krissy Leerkes, seconded by Laura Bridge, voted and carried (4-0-1) to approve the following personnel items: (Morgan abstained)

Employee	Position	Program	Effective	Pay	Notes
Sherry Ashline	Building Substitute	Instruction	8-27-25	\$155/Daily	2025-2026 School Year
Marie Blatchley	Mentor	Instruction	8-27-25	Stipend Per Contract	Mentor for Michael Brockway
Dawn Bronson	Mentor	Instruction	8-27-25	Stipend Per Contract	Mentor for Adam Mero
Christine Charbonneau	Mentor	Instruction	8-27-25	Stipend Per Contract	Mentor for Jay Fuhrman
Heidi Davey	Mentor	Instruction	8-27-25	Stipend Per Contract	Mentor for Emery McQuade
Chris Ford	Volunteer Assistant Coach	Athletics	8-18-25	N/A	All Athletic Teams
Jenna Ford	Volunteer Assistant Coach	Athletics	8-18-25	N/A	Girls Varsity Soccer
Jenna Ford	Building Substitute	Instruction	8-27-25	\$155/Daily	2025-2026 School Year
Jay Fuhrman	ELA Teacher	Instruction	8-27-25	B+27 Step 6 \$56,740	1 Year Non-Probationary Appointment
Emery McQuade	Science Teacher	Instruction	8-27-25	B+27 Step 1 \$51,425	4 Year Probationary Appointment
Jade Phinney	Building Substitute	Instruction	8-27-25	\$155/ Daily	2025-2026 School Year

Adam Mero	Technology Teacher	Instruction	8-27-25	B+36 Step 1 \$52,385	1 Year Non-Probationary Appointment
Lisa Mitchell	Building Substitute	Instruction	8-27-25	\$155/Daily	2025-2026 School Year
Cheryl Vanderpool	Senior Cook	Support	8-5-25	N/A	Resignation

Board Discussion

- Public Comment: whether to be held at the beginning or ending of the meetings.
- Superintendent & Faculty evaluations (will discuss further in executive session.)
- Mr. Gardner will be posting the Willsboro Comprehensive Planning Groups survey on ParentSquare, the survey is to share ideas about issues facing Willsboro.
- The Booster Club will be partnering with "Who We Play For", to provide our youth the opportunity to get their heart checked with EKG. This will be held on September 24th.

Executive Session

Motion by Krissy Leerkes, seconded by Morgan Drinkwine, voted and carried (5-0) to enter into executive session at 6:44pm to discuss, the medical, financial, credit, or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal, or removal of a particular person or corporation. (no action will be taken.)

Motion by Morgan Drinkwine, seconded by Laura Bridge, voted and carried (5-0) to end executive session at 8:14pm.

Adjournment

Motion by Krissy Leerkes, seconded by Emily Phillips, voted and carried (5-0) to adjourn the meeting at 8:15pm.

Brandy V Pierce Nolette, District Clerk