The January 11, 2012 meeting of the Williamson Central School District Board of Education opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

Under Reports to the Board, Elizabeth DeFisher indicated that the high school has been quiet since the return from Christmas break. She stated that the France trip was fun, that high school students are busy getting ready for midterms and that Zumba and Kuk Sool Won have been a hit in gym classes.

Under Reports from District Administrators, John Fulmer highlighted Karen Hoody and Heidi Montondo who have been working very hard on the implementation of the Fast ForWord program. Students have shown a positive response to the program. He also commented that Kathryn Taylor has been working very hard in the Middle School and he thanked her for all she has done. Ellen Saxby reported that the Elementary School is wonderful and that everyone has been very positive and supportive. Wanda Miller highlighted a group home holiday party where she had the opportunity to speak with graduates. She reported it was exciting to see their independence. She also commented that her consortium group is looking for ways to bring back more students from BOCES into classes shared with consortium districts.

Doug Lauf shared the High School’s Wednesday Word packet with the Board. Each Wednesday a new academic vocabulary word is shared at the high school. He commented on Cookies and Careers where Bob Thompson made a presentation to the students about his car dealership. Andy Wahl reported that he is working on the midterm schedule which includes local and Regents exams. Efforts were made to spread the exams out to allow students sufficient time to prepare for each exam. He recognized the RTI team at the high school that includes Leigh Prescott, Jessica Craft, Cindi Ferraro, Christi Batz, Sue Merriett and Tracy O’Hara. The team does a great job of finding creative ways to meet students’ needs.

Superintendent Ehresman announced that the Governor’s budget will be released next Tuesday. She also commented that January 3rd was the first time that the administrative team members have held only one position in the District. She thanked everyone for their hard work. She recognized the individuals involved in the Connections Program where students are meeting with success.

Board Committee Reports included updates on the holiday concerts and the recent PTSA meeting. Wendy Havens presented an update on the reading program. Highlights included a new data-driven system for RTI identification, implementation of the Common Core State Standards, new programs for students who are struggling and reading strategy work being done in the District. This presentation was followed by the approval of several CSE Cases and the review of the Treasurer’s Report.

Under the Consent Agenda several substitutes were approved along with the appointment of the winter modified coaches, winter sports supervisors and substitutes, extra curricular appointments for the High School musical and the appointment of Chuck Monsees to teach an AP/Gemini Economics class for the second semester.

New business items included the approval of budget transfers for the 2011-2012 school year, an unpaid leave of absence for Carole Picha, Elementary School teacher and a round trip traveling stipend for Paula Dobesh.