The January 28, 2015 meeting of the Williamson Central School District opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

School Business Administrator Gary Barno presented an update on the budget process. He announced that traditionally following the Governor’s Budget presentation, school districts across the state are informed of the aid allotted for the upcoming school year. However, this year state aid has been tied to proposed changes by the Governor and at this time there is no information as to how much if any aid will be received from the State. The District will continue to prepare a budget to be presented to the voters on May 19 and is hopeful to have more financial information from the Governor’s Budget Office prior to the next budget presentation on February 25.

Under reports from District Administrators, Marygrace Ferrando highlighted the teachers who have participated in the grant funded Assessment Design Institute – Hilary Chaya, Bridget Byers, Diane Luke, Rachel Liberatore, Ginny Kuryla, Della Ludwig, Carole Picha, Carol Fox, Kate Taylor and Stephanie Gowan. The team is working to build assessments that are embedded in the learning process. Karen Hoody reported that the Elementary School is working on mid-year assessments. She highlighted reading teachers Christie Graves, Barb Tomeno and Nancy DeFranco for their work with Kindergarten students to keep them engaged and academically challenged. Karen Hoody also reported that the Response to Intervention team – Christie Graves, Barb Tomeno and Michelle Ryan are busy with student reviews and teacher support. She expressed her appreciation to Superintendent Macaluso and the Board of Education for reinstating Field Trips. The 3rd grade class will have the opportunity to visit the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra at the Eastman Theater. Hilary Chaya reported that mid-term exams are in process at the high school and highlighted the following – Diane Greco, Nancy Shay, Gabi Sears, Meaghan Piccarreto and the special education teachers – for their assistance to provide test modifications for students. She also reported that on February 7th All County auditions will take place at the Williamson High School. Kathryn Avery also provided a status update on mid-term exams and expressed her appreciation to the staff for their flexibility to accommodate all students’ needs. Wanda Miller highlighted Gary Lundahl and Lisa Hendrickson for their work with a student in the Elementary School who has made great improvements both at school and at home. John Fulmer reported on the mid-year assessments at the Middle School including some students who participated in advanced mid-term exams. He expressed his appreciation to the District’s teachers that work in more than one building for their flexibility. The teachers who are shared across multiple grade levels are: Ariane Baer-Harper, Meaghan Piccarreto, Mark Cottrell, Nina Caraveo, Kevin Delehanty, Aaron Ditty, Pat Perez, Patty Sheridan, Jeremy Stringer, Christi Byron, Shaye Tanner, Manuela Mitchell and Erica Hernandez. He also highlighted the successful production of The King & I. Gary Barno reported that a resolution to restructure two bonds will be presented at the next board meeting. It is projected that if the bonds are restructured the district could save approximately $100,000 over the next five years.

Superintendent Macaluso reported that two senators have proposed legislation to completely eliminate the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA). He reported that the Middle School performance of The King & I was outstanding. He complimented the direction of Erica Hernandez and the performance of the students. He also expressed his appreciation to the PTSA for their financial support of grade level field trips.

(OVER)
Board Committee Reports included an update on the WFA Negotiation Session, PTSA Meeting and Policy Committee meeting. The Board reviewed the Civic Betterment Association Financial Report.

The Board heard a report from Foreign Exchange Student Linda Zimmerman. Linda comes to Williamson from Germany and has enjoyed her experiences so far. During her time she has played volleyball in the fall, hopes to participate in track in the spring and has been involved in other activities as well. Ariane Baer-Harper reported on her trip to Senegal and participation at the Le Sommet de la Francophonie Conference. The conference is a gathering of representatives from the world’s 35 French speaking countries held in Senegal to discuss various issues. The theme of the conference this year was young people. She has incorporated her trip and experience with her classes and thanked the Board for granting her the time to attend. High School Principal Dr. Avery and Assistant High School Principal Miss Chaya reported to the Board about the professional development work being done at the High School. During faculty meetings, new questioning methods are being introduced to teachers that they can use in their classes to assess a student’s understanding of the material. To demonstrate an example of Questioning and Discussion, Art Teacher, Meaghan Piccarreto explained that student critiques begin in Studio I Art and over time they learn additional vocabulary in order to explain their work in detail. As an example of the process, AP art students, Becca Moran, Maddie Thomson, and Ari Palmer presented their work. They spoke about the elements they used and the reasons why as they described their art work. Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Marygrace Ferrando reported on the administrator’s professional development work which is a book study about Making Thinking Visible: How to Promote Engagement, Understanding, and Independence for All Learners by Ron Richart, Mark Churck and Karin Morrison.

Under the consent agenda the board approved several substitute teachers, classified substitutes, a bus driver substitute, volunteers and the following personnel items:

- Resignation of Amanda Ryan, Teaching Assistant, Elementary School
- Resignation of Tammy McIntosh, Monitor, High School
- Resignation of Kelly Buirch, Student Aide, Middle School
- Appointment of Jennifer Wahl, part-time Monitor
- Appointment of Hannah Hyman, Teaching Assistant, Elementary School
- Appointment of Jeremy Stringer, teacher mentor for Erin Bonner
- Appointment of Ellen Saxby, administrative mentor for Kathryn Avery
- Extra-curricular appointment of Joanna Alexander, Ski Club Advisor
- Long-term substitute appointment of DeAdria Eaton, Teaching Assistant, Elementary School, for the remainder of the 2014-2015 school year
- Long-term substitute appointment of Elizabeth Shadduck, Student Aide, Elementary School, for the remainder of the 2014-2015 school year
- Long-term substitute appointment of Michele Meyer, Teacher for Robin Mason, Middle School, for the remainder of the 2014-2015 school year
- Paid/unpaid Maternity and Child Rearing leave of absence for Kelly Colling, Special Education Teacher, Elementary School, April 2015 for the remainder of the 2014-2015 school year
- Unpaid leave of absence for Kim Plyter, three days, March 2015

During Old Business, the board discussed the time table for the school budget development. Patrick Wright updated the Board on the 259 School Ballot referendum regarding the Williamson Public Library. Under New Business the Board approved the First Reading of Policy 7210 – Age of Entrance and the remainder of the policies in the 5000 and 6000 series that had no significant changes. In addition to accepting donations from the PTSA for iPads at the Elementary School and the Williamson Baseball Boosters for new baseball uniforms, the board approved the following action items:

- Tenure for Katelyn Catlin, Teaching Assistant, Elementary School
- An extra duty stipend for Carl Comstock, High School
- Middle School Travel Club trip to Boston, MA, October 9-11, 2015
- Acceptance of an AFS Student for the 2015-2016 school year