President Michael Collins opened the October 8, 2008 meeting of the Williamson Central School District Board of Education with the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence.

Under announcements, Maria Ehresman announced that Wendy Havens was out due to family illness and Anne Ressler was out due to illness. She announced that Donna Cairns would be the Deputy District Clerk for the board meeting in Mrs. Haven’s absence. Mrs. Ehresman announced that there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony for the soccer field, Friday, October 10 at 5:45 pm, prior to the varsity soccer games.

Under reports from administrators, Doug Lauf announced that this is Spirit Week, with a pep rally at 1:45 Friday in the high school gym and concluding with the soccer games. He announced that Susan Merriett and Tracy O’Hara were instrumental in coordinating local college visits to the high school on Tuesday, October 7. Mr. Lauf highlighted Michele Fisler’s class and the way she is using SmartBoard technology with her Regents English 11th grade class. Mark Schichtel announced a large number of students took advantage of the great community service opportunity, including the girls’ soccer teams, to participate in the Breast Cancer Walk held at Frontier Field on Sunday, October 5. Tracy O’Hara did a wonderful job coordinating the Williamson group. He announced the new gym locker rooms look great and how the baffled ceilings keep the sound in check. John Fulmer announced that the Middle School’s final construction items are nearly complete including installation of new lockers and painting of the exterior cornice. Extracurricular clubs are in full session with many students participating. The Newspaper Club has included an advice column in their paper this year that has had a great response. Mr. Fulmer took an opportunity to highlight two teachers. Sue Collins, 5th grade has implemented lessons that draw the excitement out of her students. Deanne Kuter, along with assistance from the Physical Education teachers, has developed structured physical activities -- either through outside activity or by utilizing the Middle School exercise room -- that have been incorporated in the Fifth and Sixth grade lunch period. Ellen Saxby announced that the 6:1:1 classrooms have made many gains this year. The students are excited about learning and it is great to see how far they have come. Miss Saxby also announced that Christy Hout is a great asset in the 6th grade with creative lessons plans. Wanda Miller announced the four students who have transferred into Williamson are adjusting very well. The students have requested information about class rings, 3 out of 4 are running for student council and are fully immersed into the district. She also announced the District Wellness Committee is planning a Health and Wellness Day for staff on November 10. A survey was sent to staff members and the committee has seen lots of enthusiasm on the surveys that have been returned. Gary Barno announced there was an unexpected Safety Inspection done by the New York State Department of Labor over two days last week and the district appears to be in good shape with a formal report to follow. He also announced that in a follow up to the Audit Committee, he met with the advisors of the

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Extra Curricular Clubs at the Middle School and High School and those meetings went very well. Pam Opett, High School Representative and Sheila Stevens, Middle School Representative are very knowledgeable on the rules and regulations regarding the financial management of the clubs. Maria Ehresman announced during her attendance at the Superintendent’s Conference in Albany Oct. 6 and 7, superintendents were advised the state government may make cuts to the state aid mid-year. She announced there is a hiring freeze for all non-essential positions until further notice. She announced the contractors are working hard to complete the final items on the project list. The landscaping at the middle school is complete and will be completed next week at the District Office.

Board Committee Reports included an update on the Middle School Open House, Old English Awards, District Technology Committee, Elementary School Open House and the PTSA Meeting. Board President Michael Collins reported on the Wayne County Education Coalition. The Board reviewed the Treasurer’s Report and approved several CSE case summaries.

Members of the High School Building Planning Team: Mark Fiegl, Chuck Monsees, Tracy O’Hara, Caroline Jackson, Mark Schichtel, Doug Lauf presented to the School Board its goals for the 2008-09 school year. The goals established are:

1. For 2008-09, the number of students 9-12 failing 2 or more classes at the end of the school year will decrease by 4% (or 16 students.)
2. At the end of the 2008-09 school year the percentage of the student body achieving mastery by earning a yearly final average of 85% or higher will increase by 5% as compared to the 2007-08 school year.

The committee reviewed the goals and discussed the procedures to be implemented to achieve the goals.

Under the Consent Agenda, the Board approved, minutes from the previous meetings, appointments of several substitute teachers, classified substitutes, volunteers and the payment of a stipend to Ian Thomas for helping after hours with technology needs. A stipend was also approved for Donna Cairns when substituting for the District Clerk at Board Meetings.

Under New Business, Perfect Attendance Certificates were awarded to the following employees:

Barbara Bush
Matthew Elliott
Joanne Greaney
Diane Luke
Kevin O’Dell
Don Ray
Kathy Salitan
Gabrielle Veit
Joseph Weinschreider

The board also approved an R/C (Remote Control) Club as a Middle School Extracurricular Activity, approved the Management Letter and Financial Statement as prepared by Raymond F. Wager, CPA P.C., the audit correction plan and the appointment of Jessica Warchocki as Assistant Director for the Middle School musical. A request for an unpaid leave of absence was denied by the board for a middle school employee.