President Michael Collins opened the October 8, 2014 meeting of the Williamson Central School District Board of Education with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

Student Representative Cassie McCall reported on the Old English award ceremony and activities related to Spirit Week. She reported that the opponent for the homecoming soccer games will be Marion. Under Reports from District Administrators, Marygrace Ferrando reported that a Homework Committee has been established to develop guidelines and expectations for teachers, parents and students. Ellen Saxby reported on the success of the Williamson Fire Department field trips and she thanked the volunteer firefighters for all they do for the students and the community. John Fulmer highlighted foreign language teacher Manuela Mitchell. She is a creative and resourceful teacher for our English Language Learners who is invested in helping the students achieve in spite of the language challenges. He reported that he has made several informal visits in classrooms which have shown the diversity that takes place in the building every day. Some of the highlights include a health class selecting healthy recipes to prepare, a language class talking about Spanish culture and a social studies class discussing civil rights. Kathryn Taylor reported on her observation of Erica Hernandez’s band class and how she teaches with such enthusiasm and encouragement. Kathryn Avery highlighted the physical education department for their creative approach to teach students how to integrate healthy living skills into their daily life. She reported that Ruther B. Sheppard, Williamson Class of 1954, will be honored for his contribution to the district during the Homecoming Pep Rally. Mr. Sheppard is credited with developing and creating the Marauder name and logo. Wanda Miller highlighted Gabrielle Sears and her work as a teacher representative during out of district meetings for CSE students. Her work in this area has created connections with students that have resulted in student success. Gary Barno reported that the conversion to the new financial software platform is complete and has been successful. He commented that the smooth transition is a credit to the District Office staff. Superintendent Macaluso reported he has met with building principals to discuss reviving field trips at each grade level. He informed the board that he has had the opportunity to observe three classes and has seen a guided reading lesson, a 3rd grade art class and an elementary special education class. In each visit he saw teachers and students doing exciting work.

Board Committee Reports included updates on the Old English Awards, building level Open Houses, Building & Grounds Committee and Curriculum Council meetings and a review of the Treasurer’s Report. The board approved several CSE Case Summaries.

Ellen Saxby, Rhonda Tuchrello and Kelly Colling presented updates on Professional Development regarding questioning techniques to the Board. The activity was introduced to teachers’ during a faculty meeting to give teachers a better understanding of the technique and resources to take back to their classrooms. The goal of this Professional Development is to
identify methods that will further engage students in the subject matter for a better understanding.

With the approval of the Consent Agenda, several substitute teachers, volunteers, substitute bus driver and a classified substitute were approved along with the following appointments:

- An additional appointment for Alicia Sonneville, cafeteria monitor
- An additional duty appointment for Suzan Ray as a probationary part-time student aide
- Change in appointment for Nicholas Loiacono from part-time bus driver to substitute bus driver

The board also approved a maternity/child rearing leave of absence for Jessica Witulski.

Under New Business, the Board approved the creation of an Art Club at the Middle School and approved Meaghan Piccarreto as the Art Club advisor. In addition the board also approved the following action items:

- Agreement with the Town of Williamson for the Salting and Sanding Contract for the 2014-2015 School Year
- Agreement with the Town of Williamson for the Snow Plowing of the Sidewalk to the High School for the 2014-2015 School Year
- Snow plow contract awarded to All-County Construction for the 2014-2015 school year
- Appointment of Robert Peters and Emmalea Burnell as surrogate parents for the 2014-2015 school year
- Awarded a high school diploma to Nicholas Zona through the New York State External Diploma Program

Personnel items that were addressed under New Business included approving the five-year contract between the Williamson Central School District Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools and tenure was awarded to Ellen Saxby, Elementary School Principal.