The October 22, 2008 meeting of the Williamson Central School District Board of Education opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. October is Board Appreciation Month and board members were recognized with cake and a small gift from the administration.

During announcements, Superintendent Maria Ehresman read a thank you card from Kathy Salitan for the gift certificates recognizing perfect attendance. She announced the Monday, November 10 meeting of the Real Property Taxes in Wayne County Forum and the Wednesday, October 29 meeting of the Four County School Boards. She also recognized the Board members for all of their volunteer hours and their dedication to the students of the Williamson School District. Michael Collins indicated that he attended a community master planning meeting and he encouraged residents to return their surveys. Katelyn Gregg, student representative, commented that the girls’ soccer team won their first sectional game and will play their second game on Friday.

Under Reports from District Administrators, Mrs. Wendy Havens reported on the October 14th Superintendent’s Conference Day during which Sandra Page worked with the faculty on Differentiated Instruction. She also highlighted Miss Kathy Johnson who has been very active in the implementation of differentiated techniques in her classroom. Mr. John Fulmer reported that MAP testing is occurring at the Middle School and that Ellen Saxby, with the support of the teachers, has done a wonderful job coordinating the testing. He also recognized faculty and staff members for covering for each other in times of need and supporting one another. He highlighted Miss Julie Hillegeer’s class for their lesson on rocks that he recently observed where the students were very engaged and great learning was occurring. Miss Anne Ressler recognized the Differentiation Team at the Elementary School which consists of Amy Youngs, Stacey Newmyer, Christi Graves and Mary Lyons. She also highlighted the newest staff members including Amy Burdett, Manuela Noble, Kate Orbaker, Rhonda Tuchrelo, Heidi Montondo and Lori Happ. She stated that they are all doing a great job. Miss Ressler also commented that students participated in the Young Americans program held at Newark with the culminating performance last night. The students had a great experience. Mr. Mark Schichtel reported that high school students are completing MAP testing, homecoming week was fantastic, the chemistry and biology students will be going to Seneca Lake tomorrow to do experiments and the boys’ soccer team is currently playing a sectional game.

Under Board Committee Reports, updates were provided on the Policy and Safety Committee Meetings. Mr. Michael Collins also announced November 3, 2008 will be the next meeting of the Wayne County Educational Coalition and all board members are invited to attend.

Several CSE cases were approved and the Middle School Planning Team presented their 2008-2009 Action Plans to the Board. The members of the Middle School Building Planning Team --Nina Caraveo, Della Ludwig, Michael Mack, Deanne Kuter, Ian Thomas, Adele Storms, Lisa Hendrickson, Amy Mayo, Mary Anagnostopoulos, John Fulmer and Ellen Saxby -- presented the following academic achievement goals:

(OVER)
For the 2008-2009 academic year, 100% of Middle School teachers will incorporate literacy skills into instruction. MS students will increase competency and mastery scores as measured by the New York State standardized tests.

For the 2008-2009 academic year each grade level cohort group will demonstrate an increased number of students passing all subjects at each grade level, by a 2% increase at each quarter.

For the 2008-2009 academic year the number of special education students in grades 5-8 there will be a 10% increase in the number of students meeting proficiency levels as measured by New York State assessments.

Many of the action steps are already in place and the team is pleased with the progress of the students. Steps include a building wide focus on literacy with all teachers working on vocabulary development, integrating literacy strategies into the content areas and sharing strategies with each other. There is a continued emphasis on parent communication regarding students who are struggling, as well as, meetings and after school time for the students. Specific strategies will be implemented to address the needs of special education students. The Olweus anti-bullying program will also be implemented at the Middle School this year.

Mrs. Wanda Miller, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, presented the District Plan for Special Education for the 2008-09 school year. The plan included an overview of the types of services that are available to the students, a budget summary and a representation of students who participate in the special programs. She reported that the District met two of three targets for the State Performance Plan.

Under the Consent Agenda, the Board approved the claims for payment, minutes from the previous meeting, appointments of several substitutes and volunteers as well as the following winter coaching appointments:

- Jeff White: Girls Varsity Basketball
- Paul DiSanto: Girls JV Basketball
- Dan Schoonerman: Girls Junior High Basketball
- Scott Kingsbury: Girls Junior High Basketball
- Doug Garrod: Boys JV Basketball
- William Mitchell: Boys Varsity Basketball
- Ben Minier: Boys Junior High Basketball
- Dan Schoonerman: Boys Junior High Basketball
- Jim Newby: Varsity Wrestling
- Alden Hommer: JV Wrestling
- Dan Williams: Junior High Wrestling
- Elizabeth Cavallaro: Varsity Cheerleading
- Cindy Lewis: JV Cheerleading
- Carl Comstock: Indoor Track

They also approved the appointment of Kate Orbaker for technology support after hours.

Under New Business, the Board approved the following:

- 7th Grade Trip to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania and Hershey, Pennsylvania from June 5 through June 6, 2009
- First Reading of Policy No. 1210 – Board of Education Members: Nomination and Election
- Extra Curricular Appointment of Christy Hout, Assistant Director, High School Musical
- Extra Curricular Appointment of Kanina Palmer, Set Design and Construction, High School Musical