The November 12, 2008 meeting of the Williamson Central School District Board of Education opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

Under reports from District Administrators, Mr. Gary Barno reported on the recently announced cuts proposed by Governor Patterson. This amount proposed is $393,000 or 4% reduction in Williamson’s aid for the current school year. All spending will have to be carefully examined to determine possibilities for cuts. The emphasis for the district will be on maintaining quality programming for students. Information on additional state aide decreases for the 2009-2010 school year will be announced in December to allow time to plan for necessary cuts for next year. He also stated that the District received its annual $500 grant from Exxon Mobil which will be used for the Math and Science programs at the high school. The District will have a 4% reduction in the health care rate starting in January for the remainder of the year. This amounts to approximately $41,000 in savings. Mr. John Fulmer reported that Grade 5 students are currently completing the New York State Elementary Social Studies Assessment, that 110 students auditioned for the upcoming production of Cinderella and that the November 10
Superintendent’s Conference Day focused on lesson design and differentiation. Miss Anne Ressler distributed PTSA applications and presented a PowerPoint presentation showing a differentiated art lesson conducted by Mrs. Patty Sheridan. Mr. Doug Lauf reported on the election activities that were conducted at the high school including a review of pertinent issues and a mock election. He also commented on the recently published student newspaper and the Girls Varsity Soccer Team who won the Sportsmanship Award for the league as voted on by the officials in Wayne County. Twenty-four students were inducted into National Honor Society and Jessie Evarts was recognized as sophomore of the year on November 6. He also reported that the drama will be held this weekend. Mr. Mark Schichtel reported that several Community Service activities are scheduled for the holiday season. Mrs. Wanda Miller reported on the half day devoted to wellness on November 10 that was well received by the staff and recognized the members of the Wellness Committee for their work in planning and managing the afternoon. Mrs. Wendy Havens reported recent training in Response for Intervention training that was held for District reading teachers and Middle School special education teachers and the November 10 Superintendent’s Conference Day. She also highlighted Mr. Kevin Cavanagh for a recent math review lesson where students were given several different options to practice their math skills for an upcoming test. Mrs. Maria Ehresman reported on the Care Group planning that she participated in on Monday. These groups will address the needs of students who are in emotional crisis or who have become involved with drugs or alcohol.

Under Board Committee Reports, Board members commented on Big Pumpkin Day, Fall Sports Awards, National Honor Society Induction, Buildings and Grounds meeting, District Team meeting and the Real Property Taxes in Wayne County Forum that was held on November 10. At this meeting, officials from schools, towns and the county met to discuss options for sharing services and cutting costs. The Board approved several Committee on Special Education Case Summaries and Anne Ressler, John Fulmer and Michelle Seniuk presented information on the anti-bullying program that will be initiated in grades K-8 this spring. The goals of the program are to reduce existing bullying problems, prevent the development of new problems and improve peer relations and school climate. Staff and students will be taught how to intervene when bullying situations occur.

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The Board reviewed the Treasurer’s Report and Mr. Todd LaBarr provided an update on the District’s capital project. The update included an overview of the work done at each building, the project budget and the remaining items to be completed. All items should be completed by the end of the week. The soccer field drainage project was very smooth and sprinkler issues are currently being addressed. The Board recognized Mr. LaBarr for his efficient management of the project.

With the approval of the Consent Agenda, several substitutes and volunteers were approved along with the resignations of Amy Prater, Student Aide Middle School and Jason Eller, Cleaner. The Board approved the first and second readings of several policies, the Transportation Cooperative Agreement, the 2008-2009 Williamson Central School Budget Calendar, the agreements with the Town of Williamson for the Salting and Sanding and Snow Plowing of the Sidewalk to the High School for the 2008-2009 School Year and the Project Lead the Way cooperative bid package. The Board also discussed pursuing a grant to support a study of possibilities to increase efficiency and economy between the Williamson and Marion School Districts. At this time, they chose not to pursue a grant that focuses on consolidation.