The November 16, 2005 meeting of the Williamson Central School District Board of Education opened with a viewing of a video clip of Big Pumpkin Day that was aired on Channel 13’s Bright Spot. Under Announcements, Superintendent Ehresman presented a Sunday building use form for the Intergenerational Dance sponsored by REACH on January 22, 2006. With the approval of the Consent Agenda, several substitutes and volunteers were appointed. In addition, Darlene Kotvis was appointed as a full-time hourly bus driver and permanent appointments were approved for the following High School positions: John O’Mara as Monitor, Pamela Opett as Typist and Bethany Moore as Nurse.

Sean Doran, student representative, reported on Mix-it-Up Day, which was held recently at the High School. During this day, students were encouraged to have lunch with students that they do not know as well. He indicated that the day was a success. Under Reports from District Administrators, Mrs. Wanda Miller shared that a District sheltering team will be formed, a School Wellness Team will be established and a Board member will need to be approved. Miss Krista Lewis reported on recent High School activities including the performance of Cheaper By the Dozen, Superintendent’s Conference Day and the October Principal’s Choice Award that went to Eliza Pope-Collins for a black and white photograph. Mr. John Fulmer reported on the “Get Caught Reading” initiative at the Middle School and highlighted Pat Perez’s use of pictorial representations to assist students in learning Spanish vocabulary. Miss Anne Ressler reported on the development of the elementary teachers’ web pages that was worked on during Superintendent’s Conference Day and the revamping of the fourth grade research project.

Board Committee Reports included an update on Curriculum Council activities, Policy Committee, Williamson Faculty Association Celebration and the Fall Sports Awards where many students were recognized by their coaches. The District Safety Committee had a proposal for the Board regarding modifications in the lock-out procedures. Superintendent Ehresman presented an update on the capital project. All elementary work is being completed after school hours in order to keep the students safe, digging for the cafeteria addition at the Middle School has begun as the soil clean up was completed, and the front parking at the High School is finished. President Jordan reported on the joint meeting of the Town and School Boards that was held on November 15. The focus of the meeting was possible cooperative ventures. The Town agreed to assist the District in July and August with diesel fuel when the District’s tanks are removed and new ones are installed. The existing card system at the Town will allow billing to occur easily. Other opportunities discussed were a shared vehicle wash bay and a community center. There will be an initial meeting about a community center on January 30, 2006 at the Middle School Auditorium. The public is invited to attend. The Town also agreed to explore a temporary skateboard park on the recently installed blacktop at the Town Park.

Superintendent Ehresman updated the Board on the Action Plans based on the District’s Strategic Plan. Areas of focus include the improvement of student learning, fiscal responsibility and the successful completion of the capital project.
District Physical Education teachers presented an update of their program. Mr. Dan Schoonerman and Mr. Ben Minier reported that their program is activity-based with emphasis on children focusing on their own levels of development as well as learning to follow directions and play cooperative games. Mr. William Mitchell shared a video clip of students participating in Circuit training and talked about the emphasis on lifelong activities. Miss Jessica Alexander and Mr. Jeff VanHoover updated the Board about the High School level where the focus is on building healthy lifetime habits. Several CSE cases were approved and the Treasurer’s Report was reviewed.

Under Old Business, several policies were approved and the snowplowing contract was awarded to All County Construction. The Board accepted the resignation of Timothy Habecker, Middle School Health Teacher with regret. The Board also reviewed a proposal to modify the lock-out procedures currently in place. The modification includes doors being open in the morning while students are entering the buildings and two doors being open at the High School for athletic practices. The Board approved the modifications for a trial period through the end of the first semester. During Public Participation, Mr. Perry Howland commented that the new microphones worked well during the meeting, and Mr. Jeff VanHoover commented that the planning work on the track is going very well.