Board of Education President Richard Jordan opened the February 8, 2006 meeting of the Williamson Central School District Board of Education with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. During Public Participation, Mr. Robert Horr commented on the good condition of the Middle School building. This was followed by the awarding of a high school diploma to Mr. Martan Dean under the State Education Department’s Operation Recognition program. This program allows the awarding of diplomas to Vietnam Veterans and veterans of World War II and the Korean Conflict. President Jordan and Mr. Horr awarded the diploma.

Under Reports to the Board Sean Doran, student representative, indicated that the high school pep rally would be held on Thursday. Miss Anne Ressler reported on the Reading Incentive Program kick-off at the elementary school and stated that at least thirty-five (35) faculty members participated. She commented on the enthusiasm and commitment of the elementary staff and recognized Liz Minier and Joan Pritchard for their coordination of the program. Mr. John Fulmer stated that all students at the middle school will participate in a practice New York State Math assessment. He also highlighted Mrs. Robin Mason’s work with her students and their creation of creatures who can adapt to particular environments. He also read a story about kindness written by one of Ms. Jeanne Luke’s students. Mr. Doug Lauf complimented Student Council for their work in organizing the pep rally, and he reported that all students who took the Math A Regents examination passed the exam with nearly two-thirds (2/3) of the students scoring eighty-five (85) percent and above. Mr. Lauf stated that Mr. Carl Comstock will be recognized at the Rochester Institute of Technology as he was selected by Williamson graduate Dean Ganskop, who currently attends RIT, selected him as an outstanding teacher. Superintendent Maria Ehresman recognized Jeanine Follette who is a finalist in a Rotary vocal competition and will be traveling to Pennsylvania for the final round of the competition.

Board Committee Reports included an update on new and revised policies that the Board will review and an overview of the Community Center Forum. Mr. Jordan and Mr. Michael Collins stated that over one hundred people participated in the forum and that there was a lot of enthusiasm. A committee will be assembled from a group of volunteers to lead the work on the proposed community center. Mrs. Wendy Havens reported that the ELA Subcommittee discussed the New York State English Language Arts testing, a proposed summer reading program and a read-in for students in the middle school after-school program. Miss Krista Lewis reported that at the REACH committee meeting there was discussion about whether REACH should establish as a non-profit organization and how the community can work together to identify assets to be shared with others. Mr. Lauf commented that the PTSA meeting was positive and was still going on at the start of the Board meeting.
The Board approved several CSE case summaries and Ellen Saxby, Krista Lewis and Wendy Havens presented an update on the district’s staff development program. The elementary building has focused on writing this year, and the middle and high schools have focused on active learning strategies. Superintendent Ehresman touched briefly on the quarterly report on the action plans, and board members commented on the good progress being made. Kelly Kolyer, high school junior, presented her oratorical speech for the board. She will be participating in the oratorical competition at the state level in March.

Todd LaBarr presented an update on the Capital Project. He indicated that the work at the high school and elementary school buildings is ahead of schedule and that Phase II re-bids on the track and bus garage will be opened on March 2.

Under Old Business, the Board completed second readings of several policies and discussed their newly established audit committee. An audit committee meeting will be held on March 15, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. Superintendent Ehresman did an initial presentation of the 2006-07 budget. She indicated that state aid is flat at this time, and she and Gary Barno reviewed several portions of the proposed budget. The Board also accepted a donation from the Class of 2005 for the purchase of digital video equipment.

Under New Business, the Board approved the first reading of three policies and two additional policies for elimination. They also approved the 2006-07 School Calendar and reviewed upcoming meetings.