



Williamson Central



**WILLIAMSON CENTRAL SCHOOL
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February 25, 2010

Board of Education President Michael Collins opened the February 24, 2010 meeting of the Williamson Central School District Board of Education with a Public Hearing on appropriating up to \$15,000 from the Repair Reserve Fund for the purpose of Window and Column Restoration at the Williamson Middle School. Superintendent Ehresman reported that \$30,000 was expended last spring and the columns were prefabricated and all pieces are ready. Now it is necessary to paint and do the reinstallation. Several bids have been received and the final costs will exceed the original \$30,000 due to asbestos abatement which drives the costs up. Therefore, the request is that \$15,000 be expended from the Repair Reserve Fund for the necessary repairs. The Board approved the expenditure under New Business.

Under Reports to the Board, Mark Montondo reported that the basketball team competed in the first round of sectionals and Ryan Thayer and Luke Moll (indoor track) won their events at sectionals. The instrumental All-County event takes place in mid-March with nine Williamson students participating, "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown" will be March 26 and 27, and Eric Hepler is going to states for the Oratorical competition. Also, he and Samantha McIntosh will be dancing on the morning show on Channel 13.

Under Reports from District Administrators, Gary Barno updated the Board on an electronic banking initiative in the district and additional check fraud prevention services that are being implemented. John Fulmer reported that the Board is invited to a Celebration of Arts Day on March 11 in the Middle School and the Learning Fair on March 13. He also highlighted Yvonne Forget and her cafeteria staff for their supportive work with the students and Terry Pulver, John Drake and Marge Tellier for their work in keeping the Middle School warm and clean. Ellen Saxby commented on Della Ludwig's accelerated English class that is blogging on their current assignment with the long-term goal of writing a position paper and doing a public service announcement. Doug Lauf reported that this week there will be a college awareness night for junior students and their parents and the next Cookies and Careers Day with Gavin Thomas, celebrity photographer. He highlighted Matt Coon for his informal chess club and he publicly thanked Mark Schichtel for the work he has done in the high school. Mark Schichtel reported that the honor roll luncheons were held and he thanked PTSA for providing the pizza. He also recognized the Response to Intervention team at the high school - Leigh Prescott, Jessica Craft, Lori Miller - for their hard work to help students who are struggling at the high school. They have put in endless hours outside of regular meetings to address student needs. He formally thanked the administrative team, board members, students, parents and community members for their support while he has been a part of the District. Anne Ressler highlighted Ben Minier and Dan Schoonerman for their work with the Jump Rope for Heart fundraiser. They are extremely organized and professional in all that they do. She also commented on the Junior Achievement program with community members teaching lessons about business to the students. She highlighted Kathy Emerson for her spirit and dedication to students and Manuela Noble who has done a tremendous job with teaching Spanish to elementary students. Wanda Miller reported that on February 11, a team from the middle and high school participated in a Special Olympics event in Newark and that she has been working to train coaches who will be working with students. Wendy Havens recognized the high school assistant principal interview team for donating their time to find a replacement for Mark Schichtel. Michele Fisler, Meaghan Picarretto, Amanda Ryan, Andy Wahl, Mary Jo Bailey, Karen Robinson (parent) and Evan McClure (student) all donated their time over

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break to interview candidates. She highlighted Jessica Warchocki for her work with her choir under challenging circumstances in the auditorium. Superintendent Ehresman reported that there are three finalists for the Assistant Principal position at the high school and that she met this week with the Boy Scouts Council members who will be working to bring the Explorers program to the area. She also commented on state advocacy events that she has been participating in including meeting with Senator Nozzolio and Representative Oaks to express concern regarding state aide budget cuts. A group of superintendents will be going to Albany to continue to express the concern regarding the inequity in cuts to state aide.

The Board approved several CSE case summaries and reviewed the progress on the 2009-10 school year action plans. With the review of the Grades 5-12 Academic Achievement Report, John Fulmer highlighted Nathan Niles for winning the Middle School Spelling Bee. He reported that honor roll numbers went down slightly in the second period but 62% of students overall were recognized as high achievers. He commented that about 9% of Grade 8 students were failing technology at the end of the second marking period due to not completing projects and plans are in place for having Mr. Mack in the building after school to assist students. He also indicated that there were some increases in the percentage of students failing one or more courses and commented on strategies that are being implemented to assist the students. Doug Lauf highlighted that 44% of the high school achieved honor roll status and five students in the senior mentor program have no failures. The failure rate for the entire senior class went down in the second marking period. A concern is that 28% of the student body is failing one or more classes in the second marking period. There are also some classes with high failure rates. Work is being done at the high school to address these concerns.

Under the Consent Agenda, several substitutes and the change in appointment for Jean McBride from classified substitute to probationary Cafeteria Food Service Worker, High School were approved.

Under Old Business, the Board approved the Second Readings of Policy 8151 – Acceptable Use Policy and Policy 8470 – Service Animals in the School District. Under New Business, the Board approved the Resolution to appropriate up to \$15,000 from the Repair Reserve Fund for the purpose of Window and Column Restoration at the Williamson Middle School and discussed the proposed Williamson Central School District Building Configuration. The Board decided to keep the present building configuration for the 2010-2011 school year. Because of dwindling resources and declining enrollment, they are interested in undertaking a building utilization study that will include community involvement, to look at possible future alternatives to the present configuration. The study will be completed in Fall 2010.

Superintendent Ehresman also provided an update on the 2010-2011 Budget that included a review of the cuts in state aid to the District. Williamson lost 8.16% of this year's budget with the state aide cuts. This results in the need to use some money from reserve funds, make cuts and look for opportunities to combine and share services. The Board will discuss the budget again during the second meeting in March.

Michael Collins reported on the Town of Williamson's Sustainable Green Community Task Force that is looking at energy consumption and energy efficiency. They reviewed the recently awarded Green Innovation Grant through NY Environmental Facilities Corporation which provides funding for energy saving updates and water efficiency updates to be made to the wastewater treatment plant and the PON0004 grant Williamson was recently awarded through NYSERDA. This is a grant providing funds for an energy audit of municipal buildings and town lighting. The Town is seeking additional participants.