



Williamson Central



**WILLIAMSON CENTRAL SCHOOL
PO BOX 900
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MARCH 25, 2011

The March 23, 2011 meeting of the Williamson Central School District Board of Education was opened by President Michael Collins. Superintendent Ehresman presented an update on the budget which included a review of the cuts that have been made in state aid which totaled \$1,480,623 which is 16.24% less than last year's aid. This is a cut of \$1,926 per student. Health insurance and retirement costs continue to increase on the expense side and along with other expense increases, this brings the budget gap to \$2.2 million. The district will use money from the Federal Jobs Bill and reserves to partially fill the gap but still needs to make up some of the difference with cuts. A completed budget for the 2011-2012 school year was presented which included cuts to bring the budget into balance. Actions that may need to be taken include the elimination of one cleaner position and one salaried bus driver position, a salary freeze for the superintendent, Middle School Assistant Principal cut, adjustment to natural gas consumption, fewer slots for Occupational Education, elimination of summer school K-6 and limited for 7-12 and 11.1 instructional cuts. There are also two significant instructional needs to be addressed. They include the need for a teacher to address the needs of English Language Learners in the district and the need for additional electives at the high school. It was recognized that these may not be able to be addressed in the current budget climate. The areas of contractual costs, materials and supplies will also be cut 5%, making a cumulative total of 15% in cuts to these areas over the last three years. A proposition for the purchase of two buses was also presented. These purchases will be covered without any additional increase on taxes. The board was asked to address questions about the proposed cuts, use of reserves, the bus proposition and the tax rate/levy.

The Board approved several CSE Case Summaries. Doug Lauf presented a report on Advanced Placement and Gemini courses at the high school. The district offers a large number of these courses for a small district and students that take the classes benefit the by allowing them to earn college credit at a reduced rate. The classes also help to prepare students for the rigor of college classes. Last year there were 159 enrollments in Gemini classes with 80% of the students achieving grades of A or B. This year, there are 163 enrollments in Gemini classes. Anne Ressler reviewed the K-4 Academic Achievement Report including the high achievement levels of students at the elementary school.

Under the Consent Agenda, the Board accepted the retirement resignations of the following individuals:

- Charles Monsees, Social Studies Teacher, High School, 45 years of service
- Joseph Weinschreider, Science Teacher, High School, 37 years of service
- Sandra Kane, Reading Teacher, Elementary School, 30 years of service

They also approved several substitutes, a volunteer and the appointment of Heather Maloney, ELL Teacher.

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Under Old Business, the board approved Policy 5520, Petty Cash Funds and discussed the budget. Under New Business, the Board approved the following:

- First Reading of Policy 5210, Tax Exemption for the Elderly and Policy 6206, Incidental Teacher
- First Reading for Elimination of Policy 6207 Conditional Appointment & Emergency Conditional Appointment Student Safety Plan, Policy 6320 Employee Grievance, Policy 6400 Maintaining Discipline and Conduct, Policy 6450 Negotiations, Policy 6550 Military Duty
- Round trip traveling teacher stipend for Paula Dobesh
- Propositions for the 2011 Budget Hearing
- Acceptance of an AFS Student for the 2011-2012 school year

The Board also selected Board of Education representatives for Student Focus Groups on Wednesday, April 13, 2011 and dates for the Board of Education Summer Workshop.

After a discussion on the 2011-12 proposed budget, it was decided that an additional board work session will be held on April 6th at 6:30 in the Middle School Cafeteria.