The March 25, 2009 meeting of the Williamson Central School District Board of Education was opened by President Michael Collins with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

Under Reports from District Administrators, Mr. John Fulmer reported that tomorrow is Medieval Day for sixth grade students and recognized the teachers and individuals who help out with the event. He also highlighted Robin Mason for her interactive lesson on currents and her use of Voice Thread. Miss Ellen Saxby highlighted the kick-off to the Olweus anti-bullying program that was held today which was a wonderful inspirational program followed by a puzzle activity for all students. Mr. Mark Schichtel related that Doug Lauf and Jessica Craft took five students to a leadership conference in Geneseo. He commented on the students’ performance at the district-wide chorus conference and also highlighted Jessica Craft and Jeff VanHoover for the differentiated activities that they are doing with their students. Mrs. Wanda Miller reported that annual reviews are underway and that the Office of Workforce Development has received money to work with students beginning at age fourteen to help them find summer work opportunities. Miss Anne Ressler reported on the elementary Reading Incentive Program that was based on the theme, “Build a School of Readers”. She highlighted the enrichment department and storytellers who related their stories at Learning Fair and Carol Fox who is working with a teacher from Australia to promote the study of the country and allow communication between the students. Mrs. Wendy Havens recognized Cathie Abdunnasir, Andy Wahl and Rich Rozzi for their hard work in organizing the Learning Fair. Superintendent Maria Ehresman outlined the summer school plans. The UPK-5 program will be a diagnostic prescriptive program housed in Marion and the grades 6-8 program will be housed at the Williamson Middle School. Both programs will run July 6-August 8. There will also be a transition program for grade 9 students that will give them an opportunity to earn a half of high school credit. The 9-12 traditional summer program will be held at the Wayne High School. She also commented on the outstanding performance of the cheerleaders at their recent competition in Philadelphia and she will be working with the high school staff on Friday for Superintendent’s Conference Day.

Board Committee Reports included updates on the Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES Regional Budget Meeting, District Wide Chorus Concert, District Team, Finance Committee, Four County School Board Legislative Breakfast, Learning Fair and Budget Stakeholder Meeting.

The Board approved several CSE Case Summaries and reviewed the Treasurer’s Report and Winter Sports Report. Miss Anne Ressler reviewed the K-4 Academic Achievement Report including the high achievement levels of students at the elementary school.

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Under the Consent Agenda, minutes from previous meetings, several substitutes, and volunteers were approved. They also accepted the resignation of Mary Rogers, Teacher Aide, Middle School. Mary has touched many students’ lives through her time in the district.

Under Old Business, the Board reviewed information on the proposed budget. Superintendent Ehresman presented information on Providing a 21st Century Education for the students of Williamson. She commented on the dire state of the economy and the cuts in state aid to the district. She reviewed the components of the budget and the cuts that have been made to the budget for next year. She also indicated that the district does not yet know what the aid for this year will be. Under the proposed budget the tax rate would be very small or have no increase. Once the state budget is passed, the district will be in better shape to make a decision on the tax rate. She also reviewed the propositions for the upcoming budget vote and Gary Barno reviewed the STAR exemptions. The Board will have to adopt the proposed budget at the next meeting.

Under New Business, the Board approved the Budget Propositions for the 2009 Budget Vote and approved the recommendations of the Finance Committee that include keeping the scholarship money with the Rochester Area Community Foundation, accessing the principle amount as little as possible and award no scholarship under $100.00 for this year. The Board also approved the appointment of Jessica Craft, High School, to the grant-funded Response To Intervention Facilitator position.