Michael Collins opened the April 10, 2013 meeting of the Board of Education. Superintendent Ehresman presented a budget update by reporting that the budget picture is a little brighter based on the state budget that was passed. In the new state budget, the gap elimination adjustment was increased to 23.9% from the initial proposal of 9.6%. While the distribution is still not equitable, the district is doing better. A review of the state aid received over the years, shows that the aid we received this year is at the same level as the 2005-06 school year. While some districts have returned to the aid levels of 2008-09, Williamson has not returned to that point yet. As a result of the increase in the gap elimination adjustment this year, there will be no further cuts. The additional funds will be used to reduce the amount of reserves needed and to lower the tax levy. The estimated tax rate increase is 2.79% or $0.65/$1,000 assessed. It is still a very tight budget, but the district was able to maintain programs for students that will prepare them for the future.

Student Representative Courtney Hill reported that the Sound of Music was a huge success and the spring sports games have started. Ellen Saxby reported that she has been doing informal classroom visits. She highlighted Andrew Donovan and how he empowers his students to push themselves to solve problems on their own. She recognized the playground monitors for their teamwork and flexibility to cover other areas as needed when asked. Amy Busby highlighted Patty Sheridan for taking the time to display the students’ artwork that hangs in the Elementary School. The students’ are producing beautiful pieces. She also recognized the PTSA for making the roller skating parties run and dismiss so efficiently. John Fulmer reported that along with the elementary school, the middle school is busy getting ready for state tests next week. This is Kelly Dixon’s first year as the guidance secretary and she is doing a very good job preparing for test modifications. Mr. Fulmer highlighted a day in the middle school. He spoke about how the building plays host to the 4th grade band students, GED students and high school students that receive tutoring plus consortium students that attend from other districts. He expressed his appreciation to Rich Rozzi for his assistance with the flash mob performance. Doug Lauf announced there will be a student talent show this Friday to benefit the Jordan Fund. In the upcoming week, the high school will have the annual Prism concert where art pieces are created while the music students perform. The art pieces will then be auctioned off. Wanda Miller recognized Paula Dobesh and Amy Vandergrift for training all staff members on test accommodations. She also thanked the district psychologists – Christine Wing, Michelle Seniuk and Leigh Prescott – for the hard work they do on a daily basis in addition to attending student meetings. Wendy Havens highlighted Patrick Verbridge and his GED students. It is anticipated that a number of students will graduate in June from the program. Superintendent Ehresman announced that Wayne-Finger Lakes District Superintendent Scott Bischoping recently spent time in the district visiting each of the buildings and spoke with her about how BOCES can help meet the districts needs.
Board Committee Reports included updates on the High School Musical, “Sound of Music”, the District Wide Vocal Concert, the PTSA meeting and the District Team Meeting. Marissa Pennetta, presented information on the Career Awareness program which offers students the opportunity to shadow individuals in a chosen career path. Students Jonah Sharp, Taylor Flanders, Paula Aguilera and Abe VanHoover spoke about the experiences they have had and how it has influenced their future educational plans. In addition to shadowing, Ms. Pennetta brings in individuals to talk to students about personal finance, career opportunities and hosts a career fair in the high school.

The board also heard from Joanna Alexander who presented information from her trip to Ecuador. She accompanied her college professor and a group of college students on a special project trip to Ecuador to work with students. She spoke about the culture, food, schools and how she taught some classes with an interpreter. Even with the language barrier she was able to connect with the students. She expressed her appreciation to the board for providing her with the opportunity and feels that it has enriched her teaching experience in Williamson.

The board reviewed the Treasurer’s Report and approved several CSE case summaries. Under the consent agenda the board approved the resignation of Shelly Brothers, part-time bus monitor; inspectors for the Annual Budget Vote and the following appointments:

- Extra-curricular appointment of Kanina Palmer, Assistant Director, High School Musical
- Probationary appointment of Kelly Buirch, full-time 1:1 student aide
- Amended appointment of Aaron Ditty
- Change of appointment for Doreen Picotte, student aide from part-time to full-time

Under Old Business the board discussed the budget and approved the second reading of Policy 6240 – Evaluation of Personnel.

Under New Business the board adopted the Williamson Central School District Budget in the amount of $21,051,455. The board also approved the following actions:

- Class of 2014 Senior Trip to Orlando, Florida from November 21-26, 2013
- Excess of computer and technology equipment
- Budget Transfers for the 2012-2013 school year
- Resolution for Abolishment of Position and Reduction in Work Force for one (1) 1:1 aide position effective March 21
- Resolution to Participate in Cooperative Self-Insured Plan for Workers Compensation

The board also approved the first reading of the following policies:

- Policy 3431 – Smoking/Tobacco Use
- Policy 5400 – Principles of Purchasing
- Policy 6120 – Alcohol, Drugs and Other Substances (School Personnel)
- Policy 7420 – Alcohol, Drugs and Other Substances (Students)
- Policy 7430 – Smoking
- Policy 7471 – Athletic Code of Conduct
- Policy 7501 – Extracurricular Activity Code of Conduct