The April 13, 2011 Board of Education meeting opened with a budget update. Superintendent Ehresman indicated that there has been a $3 million loss over the last two years in state aid. The district lost $1,666 per student in the state aid cut this year in the final budget. As a result, it is necessary to decrease spending and increase revenue. Overall, the budget is $300,000 less than last year and the budget was flat in the three prior years. It was necessary to cut a total of 8 instructional positions, a cleaner, and one in-district bus driver. In prior years, 14.5 professional and 5 classified positions were cut. This is a total of 22 professional and 7 classified positions over the last three years. In addition, the district will use some reserve funds and will increase taxes to help make up the difference. This is complicated by the reassessment conducted by the Town of Williamson. The true tax rate increase is 2.75% but the rate assessed is actually going down by -2.38% at $23.26 per thousand. The first proposition for the budget vote will be to approve the budget for $20,380,584. An additional proposition will be presented to purchase two buses from the bus reserve fund with no additional impact on taxes.

Under Reports to the Board, Alexandra Intini reported that the Talent Show raised nearly $3,000 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. She also reported that Kirsten Palmer won the Project Graduation T-shirt Contest, the high school musical was held previously and upcoming events include AP exams, the Student Council Teacher Recognition Luncheon and the Junior/Senior Prom. Wanda Miller reported that the talent show was wonderful and mentioned that a parent representative from CSE shared her feelings about how professional the CSE team is. John Fulmer reported on Medieval Day, the eighth grade students attending drug court and the maple sugaring days that were held. He highlighted Amy Vandergrift and Dave Bruinix for their recent unit on Western Expansion which required students to teach one another. Doug Lauf recognized the three class advisors, Joe Weinschreider, Rosanne Barone and Sue Merriett for their work with fundraisers that were done in collaboration with local businesses. Ellen Saxby also commented on the Talent Show and complimented Gabi Sears, Jessica Craft and the student council members for their hard work on the show. She also highlighted teacher rounds that were done with new teachers and thanked Ariane Baer-Harper for the great job that she did. Anne Ressler commented on the positive group of new teachers that have participated in New Teacher Orientation this year and highlighted Larissa Juliano for teaching the teacher rounds at the elementary building. She reported that Patty Sheridan has had all of her art students make Japanese bowls that will be sold at Festival of the Arts to raise funds for Japanese relief. The name of the project is Art to Art, Heart to Heart. She complimented Carol Fox for organizing the third grade students who are making origami cranes to send to a non-profit organization as a fund raiser for Japan. She also highlighted Ann Dewhirst and Rhonda Tuchrelo for their work with special needs students in the elementary building. Gary Barno recognized Terry Pulver’s maintenance and custodial staff who worked very hard to keep the cost down for cleanup of the water damage at the elementary building. Wendy Havens highlighted Larissa Juliano for the
wonderful activities that she conducts for students in the Elementary and Middle School. Maria Ehresman commented that focus groups were conducted with all high school juniors.

The Board reviewed the Winter Sports Report and Marisa Pennetta presented information about the high school Career Awareness initiatives. Activities have included field trips, job shadowing, Cookies and Careers presentations and workshops on interviewing and resume skills. Sam Sherwin, Alexandra Intini and Andrew Bailey commented briefly on their shadowing experiences and how they have helped them in the decision-making about their futures.

The Board approved the following items:

- CSE Case Summaries
- Budget Vote Election Inspectors
- GED Tutoring appointment of Matthew Elliott
- Appointment of Stephanie Gowan as a Long Term Substitute for Kathleen Case, Reading Teacher
- Resignation of Alison Maloney, Special Education Teacher, Middle School, effective June 30, 2011
- Budget amendments and second readings of several policies
- Class of 2012 Senior Trip to Orlando, Florida
- Spanish Textbooks: Realidades 1 & 2 & 3

The board also approved the 2011-2012 Williamson Central School District Budget which will be voted on by the community on May 17, 2011.