Michael Collins opened the April 25, 2015 meeting of the Board of Education with the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence. School Business Administrator Gary Barno presented the final budget update to the community and the Board. The Public Hearing on the Budget is scheduled for May 6 at 6:30 p.m. in the Williamson Middle School Cafeteria. Mr. Barno reviewed the revenue and expenditures for the 2015-2016 school year. The total proposed budget is $22,046,540, an increase of 3.11%. The tax levy increase is 1.8% which is below the state tax levy limit. He reported that with the restoration of 63% of the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA), the district was able to reduce reliance on reserves to balance the budget and maintain or enhance programs while keeping the tax rate stable. The Annual Budget vote is scheduled for May 19, 1:00 – 9:00 p.m. in the Williamson Middle School Cafeteria.

President Collins reported that Trustee Robert Wendler was absent due to a work commitment. Marygrace Ferrando, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, reported on the 2nd grade Immigration Day activities and highlighted it as an example of how to embed an activity into learning that associates with the Common Core. The students demonstrated a deep historical knowledge and were enthusiastic in their approach. Ellen Saxby, Elementary School Principal, expressed her appreciation to Joanne Greaney and Paula Shultes. Their organizational skills are appreciated during special projects as well as their daily support to the principal, staff and students. She highlighted 3rd grade teacher Jane Brown and her Frog Fair. The students were asked to create a frog project and the class presented it in a science fair format. She updated the Board on the Response to Intervention (RTI) data review sessions. The data has been applied to provide support to students in both math and reading. John Fulmer, Middle School Principal, expressed his appreciation to Kelly Slater and Kelly Dixon. He thanked Kelly Slater for taking on a bigger support role while Kelly Dixon is busy assisting with the state exams. He also informed the Board that the Middle School has received a generous donation that will assist the school to replace the kiln. He expressed his appreciation to those involved that have made the purchase of a new kiln possible. Kathryn Taylor, Middle School Assistant Principal, reported that the Learning Fair is scheduled for April 25 and she thanked Cathie Abdunnsair for her work to coordinate the event. She also reported that the Junior Masterminds team was in a playoff competition. Hilary Chaya, Assistant Principal High School, reported that she recently observed Mark Cottrell’s social studies class where students had prepared presentations on a wide variety of topics. The presenters were well prepared and the class was engaged in meaningful conversations on a variety of topics. She highlighted English teacher Michele Fisler who ran the Boston marathon. She shared that Michele had returned to school and that she enjoyed her experience. Ms. Chaya also reported that the high school will take part in the District summer reading program and details will be released soon. Kathryn Avery, High School Principal, reported on her observation of David Cocquyt and his Principles of Engineering class. She remarked that Mr. Cocquyt’s class engaged all students and that they were able to grasp the concepts quickly. She also reported on a demonstration hosted by the Williamson Fire Department, Williamson Ambulance Department and the State Troopers that
showed the students the impact of a t-bone accident and the response required by first responders in the event of an accident. She expressed her appreciation to the various agencies and Wilbert's for providing the vehicles. This was the first time that the demonstration has been done and she hopes to make it an annual event prior to the prom and graduation season. She reported that Spring sports are well underway and our student athletes and teams are off to a strong start. She expressed her appreciation to Pam Opett, Lori VanAcker, Mary Jo Bailey and Christi Batz for their dedication to the high school to ensure that each day runs smoothly. Wanda Miller, Director Pupil Personnel Services, expressed her appreciation to Annette Whitmore and Abby Gowan for their support. She remarked that based on her time in the office, Abby will be returning to LeMoyne College to pursue a degree in Occupational Therapy. She commented that based on Annette’s longevity in the office not only is she a wonderful administrative support in the office, but that she is also a source of support for the families of students served by the CSE office. She also highlighted the Occupational Therapy staff – Andrea Habecker, OT, and Joselyn Steurrys, COTA, for their work with students and teachers. Both therapists provide support to the students both in and out of the classroom. Superintendent Macaluso provided an update on the search for a new Food Service Director, the WFA Negotiations and the District’s Strategic Plan. He reported on his recent Legislative Committee meeting and discussions the committee has had about the reforms included in the new State Budget. The committee will review how to make the reforms more palatable for teachers and districts. He expressed his appreciation for the administrative assistants in the District Office and across the District. He reported that he had the opportunity to participate in a mock interview with Diane Luke’s senior English class that was fun and informative. He also reported on his visitation to a first grade class to observe a module that was executed very well.

Dr. Kathryn Avery and Hilary Chaya reported on the Data Driven Instruction that is taking place at the High School. In addition to using data from quarterly grades, Regents reports and graduation rates, they are looking at other areas where data is collected to deploy support for students and drive conversations with staff. The data gathered is used to inform instruction as well as to provide a focus for professional development at faculty meetings.

Angela DeFisher reported that nominations were made for the Secretary and Treasurer positions at the PTSA meeting but that the President and Vice-President positions are still open. The PTSA is hosting a chicken bar-b-que on April 30 at the Elementary School.

The board approved several CSE Case Summaries and reviewed the Treasurer's Report. Under the Consent Agenda the board approved the resignation of Abby Gowan, Senior Clerk Typist, effective May 29, 2015. They also approved the appointment of election inspectors, several teacher substitutes, long-term substitutes, and volunteers. A change of appointment was approved for Donald Geldof from probationary full-time salaried bus driver to permanent full-time salaried bus driver and an unpaid child rearing leave of absence was approved for Kristen Collins, Guidance Counselor, High School for the 2015-2016 school year.

Under Old Business, the Board discussed that efforts are still needed to restore the full GEA and to establish a fair and equitable distribution of state aid for future years. Superintendent Macaluso informed the Board that the District has formally accepted the petition from the library and will assist with the vote scheduled for Tuesday, June 9.

Under New Business, the Board adopted the Williamson Central School District Budget for the 2015-2016 school year in the amount of $22,046,540. They voted on the Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES Administrative Budget and officers for the 2015-2016 school year. They also approved the excess of a 1998 Chevrolet dump truck.