The April 26, 2006 meeting of the Williamson Central School District Board of Education opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. President Richard Jordan announced that there were no petitions handed in for the two open board seats. He explained that individuals may choose to write in their preferred candidate at the time of the vote. The person receiving the most votes would serve the three (3) year term and the person receiving the next highest number of votes would serve the remaining two (2) year term vacated by Laurie Verbridge. Mrs. Craft spoke about the ability of the board to appoint someone at this meeting to the two (2) year term and highlighted a letter submitted by Mr. Tim Forget in support of Mr. William Herbert. If an appointment was made, it would expire at the time of the election May 16. No further action was taken. Mr. Jordan also announced that Superintendent Ehresman was absent due to the arrival of her new twin grandsons. Under the Consent Agenda, several substitutes and a volunteer were approved. A paid/unpaid maternity leave was approved for Christie Graves, Elementary School Teacher, and Della Ludwig was approved as the K-8 Yearbook Co-Advisor.

President Richard Jordan commented that Student Representative, Chad Burlee had sent an email indicating that he was unable to attend the Board Meeting due to a track meet. Miss Anne Ressler reported that Mrs. Mary Jo Ten Eyck had just been awarded a $500 grant to expand the collection in the library, and she highlighted the collaborative lessons planned by the third grade teachers. Mr. John Fulmer highlighted Medieval Day during which approximately seventy-five (75) percent of the students wore period costumes. He also stated that there would be a great deal of Science testing occurring in the month of May, and that the cafeteria would be closing after Memorial Day, but that box lunches will be available to students for the remainder of the year. Mr. Doug Lauf recognized Mrs. Sue Mintz, High School Psychologist, who will be awarded the Advocacy Center’s Educational Award in May; he also recognized Jessica Masisak and Amanda VanderByl for their receipt of the March Principal’s Choice Awards for their artwork. He also stated that the Prom is this weekend at Carey Lake, and the Breakfast of Champions will be held on May 26 at 8:00 p.m. in the High School Cafeteria. Assistant Superintendent Wendy Havens reported that there has been a problem with an odor at the High School due to a product used in the construction area. Members of the construction crew and High School staff have been working diligently to eliminate this problem, but some individuals have had to move to alternative locations to teach due to the smell.

Board Committee Reports included an update on the capital project. Mr. Fulmer stated that all aspects of the project were moving along in a timely fashion, and he recognized the members of the Watchdog organization for their attention to detail. The update from the District Technology Committee included the review of the most recently completed technology survey and the review of the district technology plan that will occur over the next several months. Several CSE case summaries were approved.
Miss Anne Ressler, along with first grade teachers Mrs. Christie Graves and Miss Cassidy Dailey, updated the Board on the Early Literacy Focus in the Elementary Building. The intense focus on early literacy development has resulted in the first grade students being further along in the development of reading and writing skills than in past years. Next year, first grade will have a new, standards-based report card that will give parents detailed descriptions of their child’s progress.

Under New Business, the Board approved the first readings of three policies, nominated three candidates to the W-FL BOCES Board and approved the W-FL BOCES Administrative budget. They also accepted the retirement resignation of Miss Sue Nellany with regret and best wishes for a happy, healthy retirement after thirty-four (34) years of service in the District, and rescinded the resignation of Ann (Liz) Minier, Elementary School Teacher Assistant. The Board discussed fund raising with members of the Civic Betterment Committee who agreed to participate in the establishment of a fund raising calendar in August. The Board also reviewed the schedule for the final week of school.