Superintendent Ehresman presented the proposed budget for the 2012-2013 school year at the May 2, 2012 meeting of the Williamson Board of Education. She commented on the inequity in state aid funding. The district has lost $3 million over the last three years. The budget will be flat again for the fifth year with additional cuts in positions this year. State aid is lower this year than it was in 2007. Superintendent Ehresman reviewed the revenues and expenditures and discussed the areas being cut again this year. The decisions were made with input from the community through a survey. The budget is within the tax cap limit with an estimated rate increase of 1.28% or $0.29 per $1,000 assessed. The school STAR Exemptions were reviewed.

The complete budget presentation can be reviewed at www.williamsoncentral.org under Budget.

Principals Ellen Saxby, John Fulmer and Doug Lauf presented highlights of their buildings. These included: cross-curricular activities, very strong graduation rate, Medieval Day, ninth grade courses at the Middle School, and a 50% student participation rate in tenth period for extra help or extracurricular activities.

Board candidate Patrick Wright introduced himself and commented on his role as board of education member. One area that is important to him is strong programs for students.

Student Representative Nicholas Vitalone reported that MAP testing is in process at the high school and Advanced Placement (AP) exams will be soon. He also reported that Nicole Kraus is coordinating a Mr. Marauder contest with proceeds to benefit Pines of Peace and commented on the recent Talent Show.

Under Reports from District Administrators, Andrew Wahl commented that MAP testing at the high school requires many individuals to assist including Kathy Henderson, Christi Batz, Miranda Foss and teachers Kevin Delehanty, Ellen Shaw, Caroline Donovan, Jodi Bodak and Manuela Noble who accompany the students and motivate them to do their best. Wanda Miller highlighted the district psychologists who have worked hard to address issues on the latest round of meetings, evaluations and new referrals. She also stated that the Talent Show was amazing and the tribute to Randi Ray is a reflection of the wonderful community in which we live. Ellen Saxby commented that the students and teachers did a wonderful job on the NYS assessments and commended Christie Graves and Lori Miller for their work in coordinating the assessments. She also thanked the PTSA for all they do for the Elementary School. Doug Lauf thanked Jessica Craft and Gabi Sears for their work on the Talent Show that raised close to $4,000 and announced that Mrs. Craft had a baby girl on Monday. He thanked Lorraine Mason and other community members who rented a limo bus for students to take to the prom. Wendy Havens highlighted Ginny Kuryla for a math lesson that had her students solving problems centered on the gulf oil spill and Laurie Bischoff who does a terrific job with data management for the
district. John Fulmer recognized the teachers who have been scoring the NYS assessments and particularly Deb Yackel and Nina Caraveo for coordinating the test scoring efforts. He also thanked Mark Plyter who came from the SPCA to collect the funds raised at the Middle School Talent Show. Superintendent Ehresman thanked the APPR committee which has been working on the plan for next year. In addition to Superintendent Ehresman, the team includes the three building principals, Wendy Havens, Kristen Smucz, Anthea Perry, Tom Hollembaek, Paul Donahue and Amy Vandergrift. The goal is to have the plan approved by the end of June. She also thanked Jim Hoffman for his support in planning for the future sharing of voting machines for the elections and commented on the Brainy Breakfast at the Elementary School.

The Board approved several CSE case summaries and under the Consent Agenda approved the appointment of several substitutes along with the change in appointments for the following:

- Glen Paylor, from Probationary full-time cleaner, High School to Permanent full-time cleaner, High School
- Carol Schlottman, from Probationary part-time bus driver to Permanent part-time bus driver
- Lee Ann Martin from Probationary teacher aide, Middle School to Permanent teacher aide, Middle School
- Sarah Smith, Probationary student aide, Elementary School to Permanent student aide, Elementary School

Under New Business the Board approved the First Reading for Elimination of Policy 8420 – Enrichment; Policy 8503 – Appropriate Special Education Programs for Students with Disabilities and Policy 8530 – Student Individualized Education Program (IEP). The board also approved the creation of the Randi Ray Memorial Award and a request from the Project Graduation Committee. The Board discussed attending the 2012 Rural Schools Association Conference in Cooperstown and will review the information provided.