The May 6, 2009 meeting of the Williamson Board of Education was opened by President Michael Collins with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. Superintendent Ehresman presented the proposed budget for the 2009-2010 school year. She commented on the cuts in state aid and input from the community regarding programs and possible cuts. She reviewed each portion of the budget including General Support, Instruction, Transportation, Community Service, Undistributed and Interfund Transfers and cuts that were made to each of these. The total proposed budget for next year is $20,617,865 which is a cut of approximately $73,000 and no increase to the tax rate. The cost per thousand of assessed value will be $23.25.

Principals Anne Ressler, John Fulmer and Doug Lauf presented highlights from the school year including:

- Strong academic record
- Enrichment classes
- Project Try
- Cross-curricular activities

- Project Lead the Way
- Olweus Anti-Bullying Program
- Extra-curricular activities
- Community service opportunities.

Mr. Gary Barno reviewed the STAR Exemptions. In addition to the proposed budget, the following propositions were discussed:

- The proposed budget for the 2009-2010 school year in the amount of $20,617,865
- Dissolve the Bus Purchase Reserve Fund of 2004 and establish a reserve fund to be known as the Bus Purchase Reserve Fund of 2009
- Purchase two (2) new buses and two (2) new vans at an estimated maximum cost of $258,000

Board candidate Patrick Wright spoke briefly about his commitment to the Williamson School District and how he looks forward to the opportunity to continue to serve on the Board of Education. The budget vote will be held on Tuesday, May 19 from 1:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. in the Middle School Cafeteria. The complete budget presentation can be reviewed at http://www.williamsoncentral.org under 2009-2010 School Budget Vote.

Dameine Denner, Student Representative, reported on the prom that was held at Carey Lake and AP tests which are under way. She also stated that at the New Visions program, she and Shelby Maroselli were accepted in the Technical Honor Society. She also stated that graduation is approaching and there will be many activities for seniors including a trip to Darien Lake and dinner at Belhurst Castle.

(OVER)
Under Reports from District Administrators, Anne Ressler commented that Barb Hunn’s last concert was May 5 as her job share with Christy Byron is coming to an end. She thanked Mrs. Hunn for her five years of service. She also commented on the St. Baldrick’s activities that raise money for childhood cancer research. Steve Parker and Joshua Scribner had their heads shaved to support the cause. She highlighted Kate Bates for her work to revitalize the Jordan Fund and the 1:1 aides who work with students at the elementary building. Wanda Miller stated that goal training was provided for special education teachers last week, and commented on a new program called Cross Systems Solutions that will provide services to students with mental health concerns. John Fulmer highlighted Bridget Coon who has worked hard to achieve high standards with her students and Kelly Slater, Sheila Stevens and Paula Shultes who work very hard to meet the needs of students and their parents. Mark Schichtel thanked all of the teachers at the high school for all that they do while facing the daily struggles at this time of the year. Doug Lauf commented on the field trip that tenth grade students went on last week. They toured colleges and businesses and it was a good day for all the students. The Talent Show was wonderful and approximately $1200 was raised for Operation Breathe Easy. The Mastermind teams placed third at a competition at Cornell where they qualified for the National Competition and are headed to the state semi-finals on May 20th at 4:30 at St. John Fisher College. He also recognized Dameine Denner for a scholarship that she won through Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES. Gary Barno commented on the audit process. Wendy Havens highlighted Manuela Noble for her enthusiasm and how she engages students in her classroom and talked about the culminating event for WilliamsonConnects! where teachers share their technology integration lessons. Superintendent Ehresman commented on the Regional High School grant that was awarded to schools in Wayne County and the recent concerns regarding Swine Flu.

The Board also commented on the High School Talent Show, Mastermind Playoffs, Universal Pre-Kindergarten Parent Information Night and the Fourth Grade Vocal/Instrumental Concert. Karen Fitzgerald Williams and Patrick Wright stated that they participated in the senior focus groups this week. The students were very open in expressing themselves and sharing their ideas.

The Board approved several Committee on Special Education case summaries and Anne Ressler introduced the report on the Action Research project at the elementary school that includes vigorous exercise to increase attention span along with computer-based training for attention. She recognized Michelle Seniuk for doing much of the research and addressing the details of the daily implementation of the Kick Start Program. Michelle Seniuk presented an overview of the brain research that indicates a strong relationship between physical activity and attention, learning and mental health. Twenty-one volunteers at the elementary building have staffed the program throughout the year. Parents and students have observed positive changes after the students have been participating in the program. Superintendent Ehresman and the Board recognized Michelle Seniuk and all of the volunteers for making this a successful program for the students.

Terry Pulver shared facility information with the Board. Under the Consent Agenda, several substitutes were approved. The Board established dates for their summer workshop and approved the Internal Control Risk Assessment Report Corrective Action Plan.