The August 9, 2006 meeting of the Williamson Board of Education opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence. This was followed by a presentation by Ray Wager, external auditor for the District. Mr. Wager reviewed the annual audit process and the most recent guidelines for the New York State Education Department. During Public Participation, community members asked questions about class size at the Elementary School. Superintendent Ehresman responded to the questions with a plan to remedy the larger classes with a transfer of a teacher from another grade level where enrollment has significantly decreased since the end of the school year. She also discussed that in the future teacher names may not appear on the children’s report cards at the end of the year so that adjustments can be made in teacher assignments if the enrollment dictates a change. This proposal will be addressed at a later date. Parents were encouraged to follow the District process in communicating their concerns about their children or school program. The process, or chain of command, will be published for the public to assist them. Also under Public Participation, a concern was expressed that coaching appointments are done very close to the beginning of the sports seasons making it challenging for the coaches to plan. Superintendent Ehresman stated that a change in this process will be considered.

Under Announcements, Mrs. Linda Moll reported that Patrick Wright’s absence from the meeting was due to a family vacation. Mr. Bill Herbert stated that he attended the Town Board meeting and that the town will be holding a public hearing on commercial wind projects. Under the Consent Agenda, the Board of Education approved Fall Coaching appointments, several substitute teachers and the resignations of Carol Verbridge as Community Service Coordinator and Barbara Noonan as Food Service Helper. This was followed by Board Committee Reports, which included comments from Mr. Herbert on the new Elementary playground and High School track and board discussion about their recent workshop, which they found to be extremely productive and well done.

Miss Anne Ressler, Mrs. Barb Tomeno and Mrs. Sandy Kane updated the Board on the Elementary Literacy Initiative. The number of students in Kindergarten and First Grade who are reading at or above the proficient level has increased dramatically from the 2003-04 school year to the 2004-05 and 2005-06 school years. In addition, fewer students at these grade levels are being identified as needing Academic Intervention Services. The initiative has included the addition of a half hour daily for each Kindergarten class to receive direct instruction from the reading specialist, small groups for guided reading, and work on the Breakthrough to Literacy program which is computer-assisted instruction. The Board recognized the Elementary Teachers for their hard work on this initiative. This report was followed by Mr. Bill Herbert’s report on data related to the Horatio Alger Scholarship. This award is given to the student with the highest percentage increase in average during their high school years. The review of the data from the last several years indicated a general increase in the number of students achieving increases in their academic averages.

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Mrs. Nancy Orbaker presented highlights from the Adult Education Program. She indicated that the addition of the five (5) hour pre-licensing course was well received by the community and that four (4) more sections of this class are planned for the future. She also reported that some upcoming classes will be held at local businesses, and she commented that it is a joy to work with enthusiastic students and enthusiastic instructors. Mrs. Orbaker was recognized for the hard work that she does in organizing all elements of the adult education program.

Under Old Business, the Board discussed attendance at the New York State School Board’s Association conference in the fall, and approved a change in the 2006-07 School Calendar. The change is that if no emergency days are used this year, students will have an additional day off on May 25, 2007. The Board also approved a new textbook for AP European History, the appointment of Matt Elliott as a teaching assistant, the tax levy in the amount of $7,814,139 and several budget transfers. The Board also discussed having a representative on the committee that will review weighted grading for select courses, and Policy 8180, Supplemental and Incidental Resources. The policy was tabled and will be reviewed at the next meeting. Dave Frolich, Economic Development Coordinator for the town of Williamson, presented information to the Board on a Tax Exemption Incentive that he recommends the District consider. Under this exemption, the District would provide partial tax relief for businesses doing improvements. This incentive is currently offered by Wayne County, all towns in the county and all school districts but Williamson. This would make Williamson competitive with other taxing authorities in the area. The Board will discuss the proposal at their next meeting and will hold a public hearing in September. The last items approved by the Board under the Consent Agenda were a process to apply a $40.00 charge for lost paychecks, and the resignations of Suzanne Welker as Teaching Assistant and Kristin Phillips as Special Education Teacher.