President Linda Moll opened the August 23, 2006 meeting of the Williamson Central School District Board of Education with the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence. Under Announcements, Superintendent Ehresman presented a Sunday building use form for “Old Guys Basketball” and discussed a new contract for the High School yearbook. Mr. Patrick Wright commented that he is happy to be back after surgery and family vacation and looks forward to improved attendance at Board meetings.

Under Reports from District Administrators, Superintendent Ehresman commented that New Teacher Orientation is occurring this week and that it is wonderful to see the young, eager, enthusiastic new teachers. She also indicated that there are several additional positions open that need to be filled prior to school opening. Mr. Gary Barno stated that the auditors have completed their field work in the District and that the books for last year have been closed with the fund balance at the projected level. Mrs. Wendy Havens shared that seven (7) of twenty-one (21) English Language Learners in the District performed at the proficient level on the New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test. Mr. Doug Lauf stated that the August Regents Examinations were done in cooperation with Wayne Central High School and that four (4) seniors, who had not finished the needed course work to graduate in June, met their requirements this summer and have received their diplomas. Mr. John Fulmer announced that the building project continues to progress well, that building planning teams have developed their action plans for the upcoming year, and that the teachers and teaching assistants for the new 6:1:1 program at the Middle School have been working very hard to prepare for the opening of school. Miss Anne Ressler reported that excellent discussion occurred this week with the Elementary Building Planning Team, and that the cafeteria is in excellent shape after improvements accomplished during the Capital Project. President Linda Moll reported that she and Mrs. Ehresman had attended an Officer’s Academy for school board members and that it was very helpful.

Board Committee Reports included updates on the building project which is expected to be completed for the opening of school, new teacher orientation and the Town Board meeting. Four CSE case summaries were approved.

Dr. Andrew Doniger, with the assistance of Mr. Michael Collins and Mr. Elliott Warren provided an update on the progress of the Community Center Committee. The members of the committee have worked to investigate how other local communities have gathered support and managed funding for their recently built centers. The cost for a small community center without a pool is likely to range from $1.5-$2.5 million while a larger center with a pool is projected to range from $4-$6 million. The next steps will be to inform the public about the information they have gathered, identify exactly what the members of the community want, what the focus should be for the center and explore the best possible funding sources. The Board recognized Dr. Doniger, Mr. Collins and Mr. Warren for their excellent report.

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With the approval of the Consent Agenda, one substitute was appointed along with Heather Ferrante and Deborah Catalano as 1:1 Student Aides, and Penny Eller as Part-time Food Service Helper. In addition, changes in appointments were approved for Doreen D’Eufemia to 1:1 Student Aide, Janice Sheffield and Laura Kerr to Part-time Food Service Helpers. The Board also accepted the resignations of Tiffany DeMent, school bus monitor and Merrill Parker, Bus Driver and approved the excess of District equipment.

Under Old Business, the Board discussed the Tax Exempt Resolution, which had been discussed at the previous meeting. Superintendent Ehresman confirmed that Williamson is the only school district in the county that does not offer this tax exemption to new or improving businesses. The Board agreed to hold a public hearing regarding the resolution at the second meeting in September.

Under New Business, the Board approved the first reading of a Policy regarding Guidelines for Citizen Input at meetings, and maintained the current policy on supplemental teaching resources. They also discussed a handout that will be available to the public that will help citizens understand the process at board meetings and when public participation is invited. The Board also agreed to add a new item on their agenda called, “Points of Praise” that will be a time for parents and community members to publicly recognize the accomplishments of young people in Williamson. A motion was approved to pursue funding from the repair reserve to do extensive work on the back wall of the Middle School, including the library and guidance office areas to address a moisture problem that is causing the plaster to deteriorate. The Board also approved the CSE and CPSE Subcommittee members for the 2006-2007 School Year, the reduction of a music position to part time and the appointments of David Reetz and Bethany Homan as Permanent Building Substitutes. The final agenda item was a discussion of the enrollment at the kindergarten level that has increased significantly since the end of June. The Board approved the addition of a teacher at that level in order to maintain smaller class sizes.