Prior to the regular meeting of the Williamson Central School Board of Education a Cyberbullying Forum was held. The purpose of the forum was to inform the Board, Administration, and the community about the dangers of cyberbullying and what the district can and can’t do to monitor and prevent it from happening. The district Technology Director Tim Tyler presented very useful and relevant information on the topic.

The September 16, 2015 meeting of the Williamson Central School District Board of Education was opened by Michael Collins with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. Under reports from District Administrators Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Marygrace Mazzullo stated that the 2015-16 school year was off to a great start. Teachers participated in quality professional learning and worked together to develop focused instructional goals for each department. Curriculum Coordinators and teacher leaders were very important to the preparation and successful outcomes of these professional development days. The instructional coaches also played a key role in preparing professional learning sessions for their colleagues. Thanks to Karen Hoody, Kate Taylor and Hilary Chaya for their efforts and strong work. Kate Avery, High School Principal, reported that the year is off to a great start with Homecoming events taking place this week. There will be a pep rally and several sporting events occurring on Friday alongside the annual Chicken Barbeque. Kate highlighted High School Custodian Bruce White who has been a “wonderful” addition to the High School stating that he is responsive to the needs of staff, takes pride in what he is doing, and makes sure school is ready for students to do their best.

Kate also highlighted our new librarian Julie Melton who has “hit the ground running” making positive changes that are increasing student engagement in the library. High School Assistant Principal Hilary Chaya highlighted the new 8:1:1 class which is currently comprised of seniors and sophomores. They have transitioned nicely and Hilary feels fortunate to work with them. Teachers and support staff Amy Baker, Leigh Prescott, Sheila Sperr, and Wanda Miller are all doing a wonderful job of kicking off this new program. Students and staff creatively call the new program RISE (standing for Respect, Integrity, Support and Education). Hilary also highlighted the counseling team: Tracy O’Hara, Kelly Zimmerman, Sally Schillaci and Christi Batz for making sure scheduling was completed prior to the start of the school year and helping students with transitions and the refinement of schedules when needed. Elementary Principal Ellen Saxby commented on the great support from law enforcement during last week’s events surrounding the “Omaha Threat” stating that parents, community members, the administrative team, and students were awesome. Ellen also commented on the many wonderful new teachers and staff members she has in the Elementary School. She is very pleased with how they have assimilated themselves, referring to them as a “great breath of fresh air.” Ellen reported that the Elementary musical auditions were held and over 60 students auditioned. Ellen also thanked the PTSA for supporting iPad carts for student use and Tim Tyler for helping teachers to also utilize them. Karen Hoody, Elementary Assistant Principal, highlighted professional development focused on assessment and writer’s workshop. Teachers worked very hard to incorporate eDoctrina (assessment software) into all grades and subjects. Stephanie Gowan and Carol Fox helped to lead the workshops at the elementary building and made it applicable to all grade levels. Writing expert, Amy Ludwig VanDerwater, reinvigorated writing instruction in another professional learning session with Elementary teachers. This work complemented the building planning goals around writing instruction. John Fulmer commented on a great start to the school year. Middle school students have attended kick-off assemblies to start setting expectations for the year and to cheer everyone on to having a great year. John
also thanked Erica Hernandez for stepping in to 7th and 8th Grade Band and covering lessons for those students while we wait for our new band teacher, Patrick Tyler to come on board. Middle School Assistant Principal Kate Taylor commented on how smoothly the school year began. She could not say enough about the incoming 5th graders. They are a delight and have added a positive spirit to the Middle School. Kate also recognized Alan Baker, the new Technology teacher, for doing a great job of helping with the time capsule for our 85th year celebration, leading tech club, and engaging quickly in all aspects of the school community. Other new staff members, Sherri Maine and Lori Ann Heller are also doing great things for Math and French classes. Kate also highlighted the guidance department, Ann Dewhirst and Kelly Dixon, for their hard work and dedication around creating the schedule and making needed changes. Wanda Miller also commented on the new 8:1:1 class that is off to a great start at the High School. She thanked the team, Hilary, Kate and Gabi Sears for all of their help and support of this group. Gary Barno, Business Official mentioned that the audit committee has wrapped up and reported a much more positive 5 year projection than we were looking at a year ago. Superintendent Macaluso reported on a great opening, adding that this doesn’t just happen. A lot of hard work from our administrative team, faculty, staff, transportation, buildings and grounds, technology department and food service team make it happen. They do the work behind the scenes and are here to greet students, making them smile and feel comfortable. We have great adults who are positive role models and kids pick up on that, so in turn we have great kids. Local authorities and the administrative team handled the “Omaha Threat” extremely well. Local law enforcement agencies were very accommodating. He publicly thanked Sheriff Virts, Lieutenant Barry Chase, Senior Investigator Frank D’Aurizio, and Robert Frost Investigator from the Counter Terrorism Intelligence Unit. Ellen did a great job leading her staff through this event. She was calm and succinct and kept to business as usual. The Board of Regents and Commissioner Elia announced today that the 4-8 ELA/Math state tests will be shorter for 2016. There will be more details to follow. Michael Collins also thanked the entire staff for how well the threat incident was handled, stating it was a classic textbook response. The district was out in front of it and it was handled very well.

A number of CSE cases were approved. Della Ludwig and Cathie Abdunnasir presented on a proposed Middle School Radio Club.

Under the Consent Agenda the Board approved a substitute teacher, volunteers, RTI coordinators, and supervisors for fall sports teams.

The Board approved the following appointments:

- Kari Christman, Cleaner
- Jessica Bolt, Elementary Permanent Building Substitute
- Cynthia Monahan, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent/District Board Clerk

Under New Business the Board approved traveling teacher stipends according to the terms of the WFA contract.