The October 13th Board of Education Meeting began with approval of the Superintendent’s Consent Agenda. One item, the resignation of Lois Richman effective October 22nd, was acted on separately. The Board then approved with regret and thanked her for her service.

Several recent committee meetings were reported on. First, Board trustee Frank Geraci reported on the Technology Committee meeting. PASS (Parental Access to School Master) is up and running. Parents who have not applied for their passwords should call the District Office to do so. This system will allow parents to access their child’s attendance history, 5 and 10 week grades and discipline history. It is available for parents with students in grades 5-12. He also reported on the most recent Safety Committee meeting. At that meeting the decision was made to have additional drills in each building to test procedures. Also, the addition of voice mail was discussed. The voice mail system should be up and running second semester. It will allow parents to leave voice mail messages for teachers and teachers to leave recorded homework assignments. This additional method of communication is hoped to strengthen the home-school ties.

Board President, Laurie Verbridge reported on the most recent Wayne County Education Coalition meeting. This coalition of school and business leaders is presently concerned with the threat of the County taking back the school’s share of the sales tax. They have developed an action plan to address their concern.

Trustee Linda Moll reported on the K-12 English Language Arts Strategic Plan Committee. This committee’s charge is to explore ways of increasing student achievement K-12. The first meeting consisted of brainstorming new ideas and sharing what has been done to date.

The Board congratulated all three buildings on the successful open houses that have been held and thanked all the parents who took the time to visit their children’s classrooms.

The High School planning team was next to present. They shared their two action plans for the year. The first deals with increased communication and collaboration with supplemental service providers. One of the main action items of this plan is to have all teachers share their topics and assignments on a weekly basis through the learning center. These are then distributed to all of the service providers who work with students. The second plan deals with ways to increase communication between home and school. This will be done through newsletters, Channel 6, the District web page and short “Did you Know?” segments.

Steve Parker was present to share the pre-school census information. The pre-school numbers remain fairly flat with an increase in one year olds noted. This group will be followed over the next four years until they enter Kindergarten to see if this is the beginning of an enrollment increase.

The perfect attendance list for 2003-04 was approved. The following staff was congratulated for their perfect attendance last year:

Lori Finkelstein            Rebecca Ameele            Ronda Bruce
Jeannie Cole               Kathleen Craig           David Eller
Joanne Greaney             Kenneth Lee             Janann Phillips
Donald Ray                 Marshall Smith           Kent Snyder
Several High School students were present to seek approval for a trip to Quebec at the beginning of May. The Board approved their request and asked the students for a short report when they return.

Under new business, the resignation of Ken Lee, District Treasurer, was approved with deep regret. Ken has been an exemplary treasurer for the last fifteen years. After his resignation, he will continue to act as a consultant to his replacement to assure a smooth transition.

The Board approved a resolution establishing a capital project vote date of November 30th. A public hearing date was also established. The hearing will take place on Wednesday, November 17th at 7:00 p.m. in the Middle School Auditorium. In the next issue of “What’s Happening” details on the project will be included to inform all district residents. Any community group that would like to have the Board present details on the project to their group is asked to contact the District Office.