October 14, 2005

The October 12th meeting of the Board of Education began with the approval under the consent agenda for a number of substitutes and volunteers. Jim Newby was also appointed as the Athletic Director for the 2005-06 school year.

Under Reports from District Administrators, Superintendent Ehresman stated that she is going to be working with Jim Hoffman, Williamson Town Supervisor, on establishing a meeting between the Town Board and the Board of Education to discuss putting in place a committee to work on proposing a community center. Mrs. Ehresman expressed deep sympathy to the family of Eric Hodge who died tragically in a car accident on Monday night. Mrs. Ehresman reported that there is a collection being taken for a family in the District who lost everything in a fire and also recognized in a separate incident, that the recent fire at Orchard Estates displaced 32 individuals. In addition, she presented a Sunday building use form to St. Mary’s of the Lake Church and the Church of the Epiphany, which was approved by the Board members.

Each principal reported on recent events in their buildings. High School Principal, Doug Lauf reported that the Volunteer Club had established fundraising activities to support the Making Strides for Breast Cancer Walk. Early notification for parents of students having academic difficulty has received positive feedback. Mr. Lauf highlighted Mr. Van Deusen’s U.S. History Gemini class where students are actively involved doing classroom reports by taking the role of important figures in history. John Fulmer, Middle School Principal reported seventh graders are taking a trip to the Genesee Country Museum. He stated that Jill Sweeting and Erin Furnal are doing an excellent job in the DATE program, providing students with a wide range of very engaging learning activities. Elementary School Principal, Anne Ressler reported an excellent Columbus Day lesson that she observed in the second grade classroom of Chris Sharp and of the upcoming Open House that is scheduled for October 13th. Wendy Havens reported on the GED ceremony that will be held for students who recently earned their diplomas.

During Board Committee Reports, Board members reported on recent meetings of the Wayne County Educational Coalition, the English Language Arts subcommittee, the R.E.A.C.H. meeting and the District Safety Committee meeting. The Safety Committee discussed the scheduling of two drills this year. Information about the Ginna drill will be sent home to parents in the November newsletters.

The High School Building Planning Team members Mark Fieg, Linda Barber and Doug Lauf reported on their Action Plans for the year. The plan focuses on increasing student success through earlier identification and intervention for those struggling, more effective use of study halls and tenth period and academic challenges to motivate all students. The Board recognized the team for their focus on achievement for all students.

Under Old Business, the Board discussed the funding from Senator Nozzolio’s aid to the District, which came in the form of General Purpose aid. After lengthy discussion, the Board amended the 2005-06 budget to reflect the expenditures as outlined in the budget developed with input from the R.E.A.C.H. board. The Board asked that Superintendent Ehresman pursue the grant writing services in a way that maximizes BOCES aid. Two additional budget amendments were approved by the Board to reflect $8000 received from PTSA for elementary playground
equipment and $500 from the Williamson Mobil Express Mart that will support the Alternative High School Equivalency Program.

The Board discussed recommended energy conservation measures. These include limiting athletic events, field trips and conference attendance to Wayne and Monroe counties, transporting varsity and junior varsity teams on the same bus and setting back the heat in all of the buildings in the District. These, along with additional measures, will help to minimize budget shortfalls created by the increase in fuel costs.

Construction Manager, Todd LaBarr presented to the Board an update on the Capital Project. While many items are moving along smoothly, some difficulty occurred with the proposals for the track and bus garage. With many meetings and multiple redesigns, the proposals are still over budget due to the rapidly increasing costs of building materials and petroleum products. While in the process of digging at the Middle School for the cafeteria expansion, a discovery of soil contamination was found due to the removal of a fuel tank many years ago. Treatment or removal of the soil will cause unanticipated costs to the District. Due to these additional expenses, the work for the project at the track and bus garage will require modification. For the track, the required modifications will include the reduction from an eight lane to a six lane track, elimination of additional bleacher seating, relocation of the high jump, long jump, shot put, and pole vault pit areas will not take place. In addition to these changes the large all weather surface on the inside of the track has been changed to standard asphalt surfacing, the storm water retention basin has been reduced in size and relocated, and the work around the adjacent tennis courts will be bid as an alternate. At the bus garage, paving will be completed, additional work space will be added, a new fuel system and block heaters will be installed but the additional wash bay for future bus washing equipment will not be constructed. These changes are required to achieve the majority of the program objectives, address unforeseen conditions encountered, and remain within our budget. The Board will hold a public hearing on this at their next meeting.

The final topic under New Business was the appointment of Krista Lewis as the new High School Assistant Principal. She is scheduled to begin in Williamson on November 14, 2005.