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The Acton Free Press

ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1969 Ninety-Fifth Year. - No. 22

Federation calls press conference

Teachers critical of Halton Board of Education

Too many children in each after three years of class, a large gap in pay scale administration. between teachers and administration and many other problems were conveyed to newsmen at an Oakville press conference set up by the executive of the Halton Division of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation Wednesday.

Bill Jelferies, a teacher at Oakville-Trafalgar High School, suggested education administrators and consultants should return to the classroom

"Education is team play," and the high salary for administration and the gap between that and teachers' salaries ruined team play, he

All of the teachers refuted any idea that they as a group were spathetic or indifferent and insisted they wanted and deserved a role in the decision-making.

Division president Paul Martindale of Acton said education must be a community-run show with press, parents, teachers and board members contributing to the success of the program.

In his summary Mr. Martindale explained the board had been citicized for their efforts. "But you have to remember Halton Board is a baby and if you remember some of the mistakes babies make before they're a year old, you'll understand. Part of the problem is bigness and we to our advantage."

. Teachers pointed out the need for teacher assistants and more secretarial help. Hugh Childs from M. M. Robinson High School, Burlington said there must be incentive enough to keep the good teacher in the

underway in various Halton schools. Program councils are set up by the Federation with as . many as five sub-committees to publicize the workings of the work together and investigate Federation and to make known better methods of teaching.

At Nelson High School some students study on their own and by doing this they can complete two years of a certain subject in

Students from Acton sometimes go to Guelph University where better facilities are available. These ideas along with the increasing number of field days are cited as improvements.

Roy McCallion, guidance instructor at Blakelock High

have to learn to use this bigness. School, said the past five years the president or any member. have marked a revolution in education. He complained that teachers are "puppets" parents who don't know what is manipulated by the Halton going on because of changes turn Board. Part of the working paper the press to "turn them back on Board the chief objective is to

Several of the teachers and elevate the status of the Teachers explained projects complained of the lack of communication from board to teachers.

> The conference was called to their wants and needs. But it was overshadowed by a story appearing that day in a Hamilton paper. The story reported on a working paper drafted by Oakville-Trafalgar High School teachers levelling charges at the

board of education. The Federation said later the paper did not represent the views of the Federation or the Halton teachers but just one group and it was released without prior consultation with

The working paper suggested the kids off and he said there reads: "It would appear that in was a growing responsibility for the Halton County Education

reduce the status of the teacher

administrator."

The report also complains about the high wages administrators are peld. "We strongly feel the consultants are not needed. Rather a teacher should be appointed to such a position for a limited period and after that time should return to the classroom."

The teachers supported the Star Manifesto. The principles of the manifesto are as follows: (1) make high schools more student oriented. (2) raise the salary of status and salary of teachers. (3) "Turn on" parents and school trustees. (4) Bring life problems into the classrooms.

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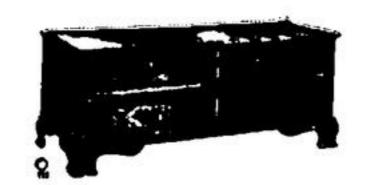


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Approve middle schools

A middle school program for

Halton-termed a gradual transition from elementary schools to secondary schools-will be in effect by September of 1970. The county board of education gave its final program of continuous progress blessing to establishment of the middle school project, following debate that ranged over the previous three meetings.

A set of 12 guidelines approved indicates schools will be established in Burlington, Georgetown and Oakville as pilot projects, with grades 6, 7 and 8 students to be included. The pupil-teacher ratio will remain the same as it is now and industrial arts and home economics, science rooms, library-resource centres, general purpose room, change room and showers and music rooms will be included in all three buildings.

Montclair school in Oakville is the only one needing transportation of pupils, although some transportation

Cleaners

may be needed in outlying areas of Georgetown. Typing and instrumental music will not be offered until more study can be given these subjects. Oral French will be on the curriculum, and a

will be sdopted. Reporting for the study committee, assistant director of education D. S. Lawless told the board there are presently 57 per cent male teachers in the senior elementary grades, 43 per cent female, and 31 per cent of the present staff hold university degrees. It was agreed the same ratios would be maintained in the new program, although some trustees felt more of the staff should have university educations, and some felt a higher teacher-student ratio should be adopted for the middle school program.

In a discussion on transportation, Mr. Lawless suggested in the near future middle schools would be able to be planned in urban areas where no transportation is necessary. For now, some will be needed.

Trustee John Noble of Milton urged the board to make sure al parents of middle school students are aware of the program before it is begun. Mr. would be held to inform the

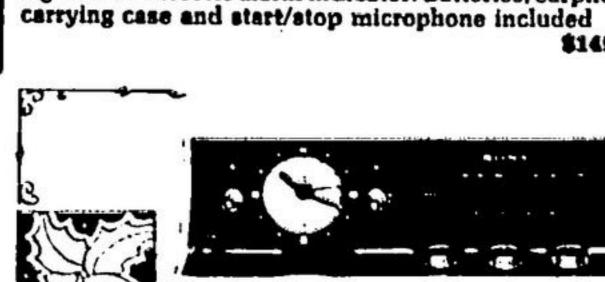
Earlier attempts to have the Martin St. School in Milton designated as a middle school were turned down, due to the small enrolment. There are approximately 350 grades 6, 7 and 8 students at this school but Mr. Lawless reported it would not be worthwhile launching such a program for less than 500 or 600 students.

May build drive-in theatre in Esquesing

David -Axler of Premier Operating appeared at Monday night's regular meeting of Esquesing Council to find out the township's reaction to the advisability of the construction of a drive-in theatre. Mr. Axler's company presently operates 42 theatres and five drive in theatres including one on the Ninth Line of Oakville.

Mr. Axler made it clear that he had not yet made any contact to purchasing property in the township, but was interested in getting the township's reaction to such a move first.

Mr. Axler pointed out his company always purchases more land than is needed to build a theatre itself, so that there is a buffer zone around the theatre, to eliminate the problem of unnecessary noise. He also told council his group was prepared to conform to the laws of the Department of Theatres and the Department of Highways.



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