

Grant Regulations Delay Has Halton Trustees Angry

Halton board of education members last week criticized the provincial government for its delay in the release of the grant regulations for 1969.

The board is upset because it cannot complete its budget without knowing the amount of the revenue section until the money it will be receiving in provincial grants.



ROTATING SCHOOL BOARD — Some time ago when the new Halton County Board of Education decided to have its headquarters in the south of the county, it was agreed that at certain times of the year the Board should attempt to meet in various areas of the county. In pursuing that policy one meeting has already been held in North Halton, that in Acton two weeks ago, with other meetings planned for the Milton Council Chamber Thursday, March 27th, and Georgetown District High School Thursday, April 24th. Above, at the February 27 meeting, Georgetown's representative Ernie Bodnar discusses a point with fellow members Clohocy and Edwards.

"I don't feel the Department of Education is helping us by delaying the release of this information."

The board agreed it would not approve the expenditure portion of the budget without knowing what the grants will be. It decided to hold another meeting next Thursday to discuss the budget hoping the grant structure will be released by that time.

Finance and business superintendent, Bruce Lindley said the grant regulations may be brought down in the Legislature this week.

County director of education J.W. Singleton said the delay might harm the board's relationships with the public and municipal councils who want and expect the county's education budget.

Issues Warning
Singleton said the budget has been carefully made out and the administration is prepared to defend it but if the grant regulations prove to be a disaster to the counties then the budget might have to be cut back.

He told reporters afterwards the grant regulations in other years were usually released in February and sometimes in January.

The board is expecting the province to pay the full cost of the December election which amounted to \$22,000.

Lindley led the board through a step-by-step analysis of the expenditure section of the budget which was tabled at a meeting last week. Total education spending this year of \$32 million is recommended.

The \$32 million is an increase of 13 per cent over the combined 1968 budgets of the 10 local boards that the county board replaced. Increased enrolment accounts for seven per cent of the increase with the remainder taken up by increasing costs per pupil.

Lindley pointed out that the 1968 budget of the 10 boards was up 23 per cent over the budget of the same boards in 1967. Increased enrolment accounted for only 4.71 per cent of this increase with over 17 per cent

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taken up by increased per pupil costs.

Lindley said of every dollar to be spent on education in Halton in 1969, 72.5 cents goes towards instruction and educational services. The remaining 27.5 cents is divided this way: debt charges, 12 cents; plant operation and maintenance, 9.5 cents and other, 6 cents.

Singleton said any estimates of mill rates at this time would be purely speculative. He said no one has the foggiest idea at this time of what the mill rate at the local level will be because the grant regulations are not known.

Hospital Occupancy 85.6 This Year Statistics Show

February was a busy month in the medical, surgical and children's sections of Georgetown & District Memorial Hospital. According to a report on the hospital's operation in February just released, the average overall occupancy for the year to date is 85.6 per cent, however in the medical and surgical wards it is 94.3, and in the children's section 91.3. The overall percentage of occupancy

is pulled down by the maternity ward percentage, 52.

The February figures show 188 adults and children were admitted during the month and 21 births were recorded.

The percentage of occupancy for February alone was 82.5 in adults and children's sections, and 38.8 in the nursery.

The daily average patient load in February was 55.3 adults and children, and 5.9 newborn.

Other statistics included in the report:

Emergency visits 298
Major operations 15
Minor operations 65
Deaths 4

Average length of stay (days)
Adults, children 9
Newborn 7

Ashgrove Boutique Is New Name for Ashgrove 4-H Club

The third meeting of Ashgrove 4-H girls was held in Pineview School when fourteen girls told "How I am going to alter my pattern" in answering roll call. The club name and cover design submitted by Liz Anderson was chosen. The girls will be known as the Ashgrove Boutique.

Notes on 'Using the Pattern' were discussed and during the work period some girls sewed while others cut out their materials. Margaret Robinson and Ivy Stull served lunch and a social hour followed.

At the previous meeting roll call was a point to consider when buying 'cotton fabric.' Shrinking fabric and preparing

it for cutting was discussed. Grace Bird and Lesley Cooper served lunch.

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