

\$32 Million Budget Reaffirmed By County Board of Education

The 1969 \$32 million education budget was reaffirmed Thursday night by the Halton County Board of Education.

Trustees made the decision after about three hours of discussion on the budget's major expenditure areas.

Much of the debate centred around the instructional supplies expenditure and proposed cuts in purchases of library and text books and audio-visual materials.

The motion to reaffirm the budget as originally passed by the board was made by Tom Watson, of Acton, and seconded by Bill Lawson, of Esquesing.

The motion was carried 5-3 on a recorded vote. Two trustees were absent from the meeting, which was attended by about 10 members of the public.

Earlier, two motions to make cuts in instructional supplies were defeated. Bill Priestner, of Burlington, seconded by Hubert Clohecy, also of Burlington, had proposed that the 1969 budget allowance for library books for secondary schools be reduced from \$9 to \$5 per student.

Only Priestner, Clohecy and Jim Price, of Oakville, voted in favour of the motion. Price initiated review of the budget at a previous meeting by suggesting a cut of \$400,000 from the county's total tax levy, saying he believed a cut in instructional supplies could be made.

Price later seconded Doug Palmer, of Oakville, in a motion to reduce the secondary school budget by \$165,000 in the areas of maintenance and library textbook and audio-visual supplies.

Both trustees emphasized they did not like to see cuts in these areas any more than anyone else, but that they felt some reduction of the budget was possible and had to be made. Their motion was defeated 15-3 on a recorded vote.

Discussion on the motion to reaffirm the budget was started by Liberty Pease, of Oakville, who repeated his contention that the budget "had been prepared in a workmanlike manner."

"I've said it before and I must say it again — I find no cause for changes in the budget," he said.

Pease said the cuts proposed by Priestner and Price would not only mean reductions to ratepayers' taxes and would amount to "false economy."

"It isn't a question merely of money," Pease said, "it's a question of the responsibility of the board and teaching staff to provide educational services in the county."

Earlier, before the motion was made, Richard Goodin, of Oakville, said in a nine-minute prepared speech that he felt the board has the responsibility and the opportunity to lead the way in the province, and that "the opportunity is now."

Ernest Bodnar, of Georgetown, said he was satisfied with the budget but asked for a study of the "high cost of administration of a single school."

He told the board he was concerned with the number of vice principals, secretaries and business personnel in a school and requested a study so that "better use of personnel can be made. Perhaps some of these duties can be assigned to less highly-paid people," he added.

Trustees Bruce Edwards and John C. Ronson both of Burlington, also spoke out in favour of the budget.

During the meeting, Edwards twice condemned the motions which "hit at the budget in a piecemeal fashion. By taking this piecemeal approach to make cuts, we are defeating ourselves not only this year but in future years as well."

Ronson said the responsibility of trustees is to provide quality education at the lowest possible cost, and repeated his belief that the Halton board is doing just that.

Trustees who voted in favour of reaffirming the budget were: Priestner, Ronson, Edwards,

Clohecy, Ronson, Pelletterio, Earl Sovereign, Harold Thorpe, Fred Bidwell, William Johnston all of Burlington; Pease, of Oakville; John Noble, of Milton; Tom Watson, of Acton; Bill Lawson, of Esquesing; Ernest Bodnar, of Georgetown; and

chairman Fred Armitage, of Burlington.

Only Price, Palmer, and Goodin voted against the motion. Vice chairman Doug Wood and Trustee John Blakelock, both were absent.

The finance committee recommended that the delegates should not be sent because of the board's "unfavourable financial situation."

Hill, chairman of the education committee, objected to the finance committee's recommendation and accused the committee of "holding the purse strings and using them to strangle the board."

The program had been recommended by the education committee and approved by the board last month subject to the approval of the finance committee.

Hill objected to the finance committee's concern over "nickels and dimes" in cutting out small expenditures.

"We are looking for nickels and dimes at this stage," replied Michael Noonan, chairman of the finance committee.

"It's not just the cost" countered Hill. "What about the principle behind attending these conventions?"

"What's the use of attending these conventions if we can read about them later in published reports anyway?" was Noonan's reply.

To which Trustee Leno Braida added: "Can we buy copies of the convention's minutes."

Damage was slight and some small articles were taken when Stewarttown School was broken into and ransacked Monday night, May 19. The investigation is being conducted by the North Halton detachment of the O.P.P.

Classes were shifted the following day while police checked each room and took fingerprints.

Books and papers had been spilled onto the floor, some milk and paint splattered around and drawers in teachers' desks forced.

A hole smashed in an aquarium was near enough to the top that the fish managed to survive at the bottom until rescued next morning.

Those who broke into the school were likely looking for money, but none is ever kept in the school. Though the drawers in teachers' desks were forced open, they would have opened easily if the intruders had realized they needed only to open the centre drawer to release the others.

The damage was found by the caretaker when he opened the school after the holiday week end.

Trustees Clash on Convention Expenses

A short verbal battle between two trustees over convention expenses highlighted last week's Halton County Separate School Board meeting in Georgetown.

The battle erupted over an education committee recommendation that the board send trustees James Hourigan and Donald Hill to the Canadian Association of School Trustees' convention in Calgary this September.

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69 Years Young, Store Integral Part of Village

Time does strange things to buildings. Usually, after they have loyally served their occupants for many years, the latter betray them and leave them to the mercy of the wrecker.

Sometimes and this happens rarely, a building outlives its time, to become a monument, and a landmark of that community's past.

The Terra Cotta General Store is one of those rare buildings. Built around the turn of the century by two sisters, the store continues to go strong. Again, in its eventful history, the store has changed hands on May 1st, to Walter (Red) Asseltine of Georgetown.

No Long Tenure
Between 1900 and 1947, when the Smiths and the Icam's owned the store consecutively, the store was managed by different people, none of whom stayed longer than three years.

The explanation for this high percentage of turnover might surprise many a businessman; but not the people who know something about the character of the store.

You see, the General Store is a Lucky Store; put in plainer words, it's never short of customers. Day in, day out, year after year, customers have ascended those tired old steps countless times, to do their shopping at the store.

Many Changes
Since being built, the store has changed hands so many times that people have stopped counting. Between 1900 and 1969, it was operated by at least 10 different people.

It was built by Barbara and Janet Smith, and was sold to Kate Icam in 1921. Leslie Icam inherited it in 1947. From '52 to '54, the Puckerings operated it; from '54 to '56, the Camps, '56 to '58, Hearst Sr., occupied it, and from '58 to '60, Hearst Jr.

George Rayner bought the store in 1960, and sold it to Bob Footitt in 1966; who sold the Terra Cotta shop to Mr. Asseltine last month.

Managers, after trying to catch up with the business flow have given up and left.

The Terra Cotta General Store has been more than just a store. For many years it was the community centre, "the gossip centre" if you will, where everyone met to exchange news tid bits, and organize community projects. Some old timers remember there was a bench in the store for people who wanted to

rest their feet.

Now 69 years young, the store is strong structurally, and with a bit of luck, could well make the century mark.

Some of the reasons for the store's longevity are: its location, its character, its history, its people, its management, its service, its price, its location, its character, its history, its people, its management, its service, its price.

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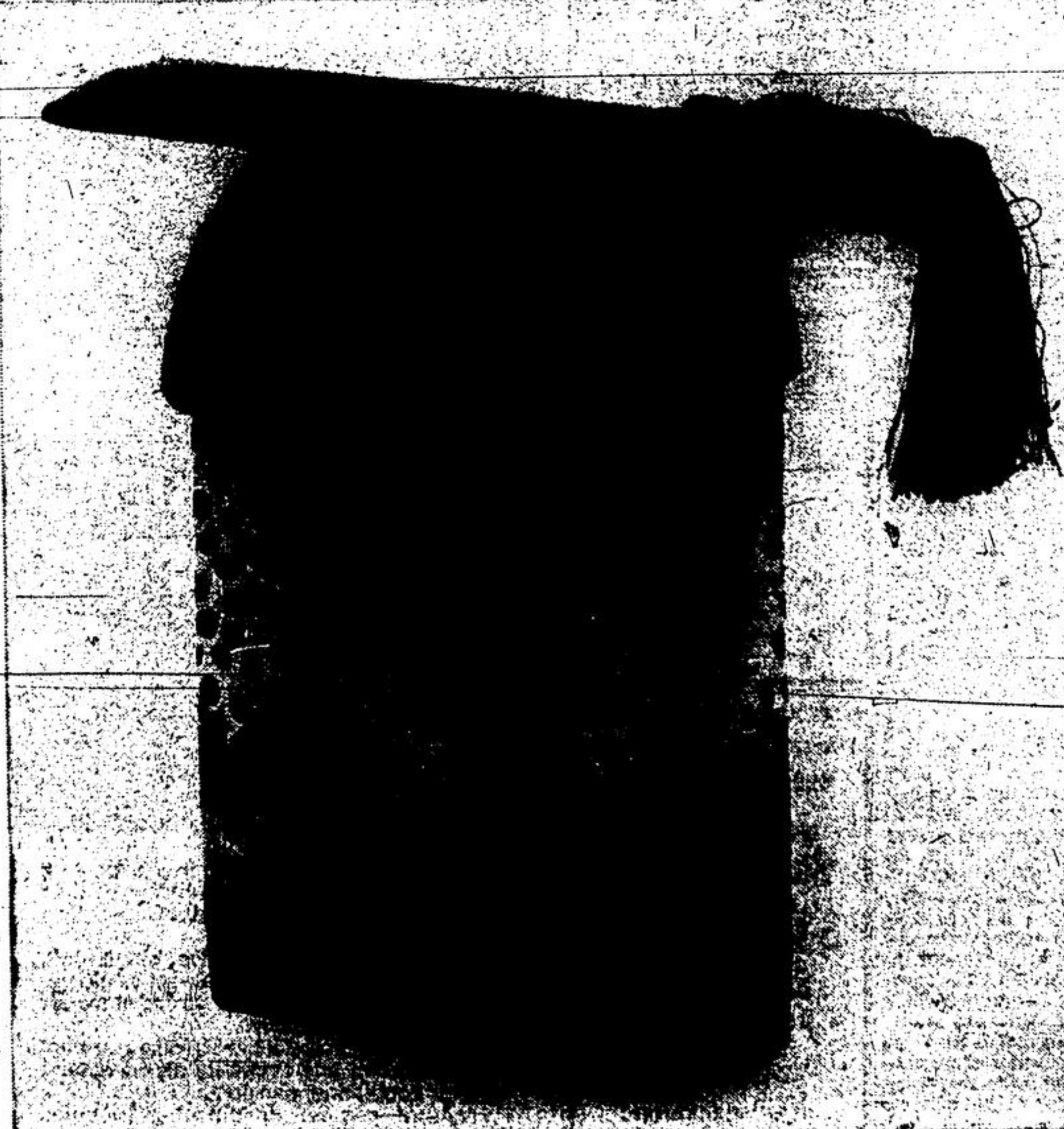
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