

Goodyear says:

Board should tender busing

Trustee Tony Goodyear thinks Halton Board of Education should tender its student busing operation but Trustee Bill Lawson thinks the board has good bus service because it doesn't let tenders.

Goodyear told the board Thursday he was "disappointed" the board hadn't tendered this year's region wide busing program which will cost approximately \$1.5 million.

He said he realized there weren't that many firms in Halton which could tender the whole region but noted there were many busing companies outside Halton which would gladly tender to get the contract.

"When we just enter into agreements like this things tend to be monopolistic," he said.

Lawson argued that he had a lot of experience with tendered contracts and had seen many times when the low tender was accepted and "rotten service" was the result.

He said the board could put in as many safeguards as it could think of in its specifications and still end up "out-smarted".

"Tendering could prove very embarrassing and bad from a public relations point of view. Nothing raises the ire of parents faster than busing problems since that is the first aspect of the school system they see every day," Lawson declared.

Goodyear agreed there are abuses of the tendering system but maintained it was the only proper way to run things when public funds are involved. He said no matter what dangers there are in tendering it is still better than private agreements between the board and bus lines.

A report on busing costs showed they are up this year by about eight per cent but Superintendent of Business and Finance Bruce Lindley indicated increased provincial grants will offset the increased cost.



SCUBA DIVERS AT Acton's indoor pool can learn the underwater demolition team entry at the Halton Hills Recreation Department's equipment swim. Divers can also learn search patterns, how to clear face masks and snorkel and how to put equipment on underwater.



THIS SCUBA diver seems to be pondering where he's going to land.



SCUBA DIVERS must clutch masks when jumping from high diving boards.

Trustees reject cut

An administration suggestion that supply teachers who come into a school and teach only one day receive 10 per cent less pay, didn't even have enough support from trustees to be voted on.

Thursday, Superintendent of Instruction John Boich recommended to the Halton Board of Education that supply teachers who teach less than two consecutive days for the same teacher be paid at a daily rate of 10 per cent less than the regular rate.

Boich explained that when the board decided to reinstate the pay cut, trustees hit Halton supply teachers with last winter the board asked for a report this summer.

"This suggestion shouldn't be thought of as a criticism of supply teachers. It is the result of an intensive look at absenteeism of our teachers, supply teachers use and costs," Boich declared.

He told the trustees last year the board spent \$425,000 on supply teachers and when this year's budget was struck, that amount was cut back \$5,000. Boich explained with four months left in the school year there isn't much left in the supply teachers' budget so it appears the board will definitely go over budget.

"Principals are happy with supply teacher work but it isn't surprising they are more effective when lessons have been planned and that often isn't the case when they come in for just a day," Boich stated.

He said he thought his 10 per cent pay cut for just one day's work would save between \$20,000 and \$25,000.

"They are simply more effective the second day," he added.

When the recommendation was offered to the board there wasn't a mover or seconder and so was dropped.

Board breaking up families - Goodin

Continual boundary changes are breaking up families and communities. Trustee Rick Goodin says "We are breaking up communities and families when we should be doing the opposite. We should be doing everything we can to build up communities and the family unit." Goodin told Halton Board of Education Thursday.

The board was discussing a school boundary change in Burlington at the time Goodin objected.

He said the frequent changes of school boundaries aren't causing problems just in Burlington either "but right across the whole region".

Copies of this year's Agricultural Society prize list are now available. Stores have them and there are some at the Free Press office. They are free.

Goodin says

Hire young teachers not principal's wife

Trustee Rick Goodin says he is worried about lack of jobs for young people coming out of university so objects strongly to the hiring of a south Halton principal's wife.

Goodin told Halton Board of Education Thursday that there aren't enough jobs for young teachers as it is so the board shouldn't be hiring principals' wives. He wondered what the board policy was for the hiring of relatives of board employees.

Trustee Bill Lawson said there wasn't a policy and noted he was glad there isn't one.

"That would be discrimination. We do and should hire the best teachers available," Lawson declared.

Trustee Bill Priestner noted that while he wasn't against relatives working for the board it isn't uncommon to find industries have policies preventing husbands and wives, brothers and sisters, and fathers and sons from working for the same company.

Goodin wondered if the teachers' federations supported the hiring of husbands and wives by the board. He was told the federations don't object to this practice.

Superintendent of Instruction John Boich said there are only a "handful" of cases in Halton where a principal's wife is a teacher.

"Young people should be given the chances of the jobs not principals' wives," Goodin maintained.

Chairman Judy Alexander said the board's policy is to seek the best person for the jobs available.

Goodin brought up the subject while the board was discussing the appointment of a south Halton principal's wife as a kindergarten teacher at another school.

School tax is a worry

Halton Board of Education is concerned about proposed property tax reform in Ontario, and so will have representatives at public meetings being held this week in Brampton for Halton and Peel.

Georgetown Trustee Ernie Bodnar brought up the subject at Thursday's board meeting expressing concern about possible effects on board budgets of the tax reform which would see schools taxed.

Superintendent of Business and Finance Bruce Lindley admitted the board doesn't know very much about the proposed changes and so will send someone to the public hearings in Brampton to obtain more details.

He said a report would then be written and an analysis of the property tax reforms' impact on the board provided.

Trustee Bill Lawson said the board should make a submission to the commission looking into property tax reform quickly, since Queen's Park plans to pass legislation dealing with the subject next summer.

Lindley predicted Halton wouldn't be effected right away after legislation is passed since Niagara Region is going to be acting as "the guinea pig". Then reforms will be phased in across the rest of Ontario.

14.1% boost

Halton Board of Education approved a 14.1 per cent raise, Thursday for about 100 part-time workers.

The raise for members of Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 1011 (Part Time) means people who work at cleaning schools from 15 to 20 hours a week will now receive \$3.65 per hour.

Since the board only provided for a 12 per cent raise in this year's budget it will cost the board an extra \$8,000.

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