



NEW BOARD OF EDUCATION Chairman Rev. Garry Morton joins the new vice-chairman Noel Cooper in admiring the gift the board presented to Judy Alexander who served as chairman for the last two years.

Rev. G. Morton beats Herd elected board chairman

Two former Halton Board of Education vice-chairmen squared off for the chairman's job and following the vote trustee Rev. Garry Morton emerged the winner. He was elected at Thursday's inaugural meeting.

Morton, who was the board's vice-chairman in 1975, defeated Bill Herd, last year's vice-chairman. Morton is a Burlington trustee and Herd is from Oakville.

After being elected, Morton predicted 1977 wouldn't be an easy year and said all trustees will have to work together.

He said he expected the board will face increased problems in the area of working relations with its employees.

Morton said he didn't have an acceptance speech prepared because he figured the race between himself and Herd would be close and it was. Results of the secret ballot was not disclosed.

"Bill Herd and I don't differ greatly in our views and I hope in the difficult year ahead we will be supporting each other," the new chairman said.

Morton was nominated by former chairman Fred Armitage who noted the candidate had an impressive record of service since he joined the board in 1973. Armitage said Morton would bring a "thoughtful, logical approach" to the chairman's job.

Trustee Bill Lawson seconded Morton's nomination and pointed out "his integrity is without question."

In his speech before the vote, Morton noted that with so many new trustees there is really a new board and said "to be effective we must all work together."

He viewed the chairman's job as one of not only the trustees' leader but also their servant and the chairman must be able to "listen to the trustees so he can reflect their views."

Morton said he would bring the qualities most needed by a chairman to the job suggesting the chairman "must sometimes be hard nosed and at other times conciliatory."

Herd was nominated by former chairman Bill Priestner who said the board needs someone who can be hard nosed in its "critical" battle with the high school teachers over control of schools. He said Herd would be able to speak on behalf of the board without having to come back to the board for its blessing every time.

Trustee Jim Clelland seconded Herd's nomination, observing the candidate had

handled the vice-chairman's job very competently.

Herd, in his pitch for support, said the board would be challenged in 1977 like it never has been before and "serious and responsible" leadership would be needed.

He predicted the board budget would have to go up to \$80 million this year and without continuance of the restraint program that figure would be even higher.

Herd said the board must

Alexander says

negotiate its second collective agreement with the teachers and predicted "it will be hard bargaining at best."

He said judging from the number of incumbent trustees who were defeated, the public wants the board to be more responsible. He also suggested the new chairman would have to be someone who could work with all types of people and make the board work as a team.

Halton Board of Education must weld together ideas of the 12 veteran trustees and eight new trustees during 1977 outgoing chairman Judy Alexander said Thursday.

Speaking to the board for the last time as chairman at the inaugural meeting, Mrs. Alexander said she enjoyed her two year tenure as chairman and always found the job challenging. She noted she was always proud to be chairman and of the work of both fellow trustees and administration.

The veteran Oakville trustee said the "inaugural meeting was a time for all trustees to declare their commitment to education and remind themselves of the values and goals which have led them to serve on the board."

Reviewing 1976, Mrs. Alexander pointed out the board faced a number of challenges and crises and an early one was financial.

She considered it an accomplishment for the board to be able to trim \$2.6 million from a budget for 1976, which had been trimmed to the bone with no new programs added.

Mrs. Alexander noted the mill rate increase amounted to a 25 per cent over 1975 but 15 per cent had to be blamed on reduced provincial grants.

Among the major budget cuts was the cancellation of the Primary Task Force and the decision not to replace any worn-out school equipment.

She noted they faced another crises in September when elementary enrolment fell below projections and the board found itself with too many teachers. The board

Cooper wins second bid for vice-chairmanship

After losing last year, Burlington Trustee Noel Cooper was elected vice-chairman of the Halton Board of Education Thursday.

A veteran of seven years on the board Cooper lost out to Trustee Bill Herd last year but came back to beat Trustee Jim Clelland of Oakville this year.

Cooper thanked the trustees for their confidence and called for the board to work as a cohesive unit. He said he hopes the bickering and dissatisfaction reflected by so many other public bodies wouldn't crop up at the board.

He predicted the board would face tough problems such as contract negotiations and bringing in a budget and suggested all trustees will have to keep public interests and concerns in mind this year.

Cooper was nominated by Trustee Bill Lawson who said he had great respect for the candidate's "efficient ways" and leadership abilities. His nomination was seconded by former chairman Trustee Fred Armitage.

In his speech to the board prior to the vote, Cooper noted he has served on most of the board's committees and knows some of the problems and solutions to problems the board will face. He said he believed he had the experience to do the vice-chairman's job.

Last year's vice-chairman, Bill Herd, who lost out in his bid to become the new chairman, nominated Clelland and his ward partner in Oakville, Len Crozier, seconded the nomination.

Herd described Clelland as

the children and taxpayers of Halton.

In his pitch for support Clelland said he was looking forward to working with the new trustees in what he expected would be a busy and hectic year.

New Acton and Esquesing Trustee Bert Hinton nominated Herd for the vice-chairman's job and Ivan Armstrong seconded Herd's nomination but he declined to stand for the position he held last year.



NOEL COOPER wins

Board-teacher dispute going to arbitration

The dispute between Halton Board of Education and Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, District 9 Halton, over the OSSTF's pink letter embargo will go to arbitration.

On December 16 the OSSTF announced an embargo against the board prohibiting all its members from applying for chairmanship positions with the board.

The OSSTF is against the board's plans to do away with the old department head system at nine Halton high schools, including Georgetown and Milton high schools next September, and replace them with chairmen, Acton High School reorganized under the new system a few years ago.

Director of Education Em Lavender announced Thursday the board has filed a grievance with the local OSSTF.

Under Bill 100, provincial legislation covering collective agreements between boards and teachers, the two parties must now sit down and try to agree on an arbitrator of the dispute. If the two sides don't agree on one

arbitrator they then both nominate one and then try and agree on a third person who will be the chairman. If they can't agree on the third person, the Education Relations Commission will appoint the chairman.

Lavender told the board at

Hartley Sherk vice-chairman

Halton Hills trustee Hartley Sherk has lost out in his bid to retain the chairman's post on Halton Separate School Board.

Mr. Sherk, who was chairman for part of last year, lost out to veteran Burlington trustee Bob O'Brien at the board's inaugural meeting last week. Sherk was acclaimed to the post of vice-chairman.

He became the board chairman last winter after former chairman Leno Braida was transferred out of Halton by his employer.

Board elections impress

Proceedings to elect a new chairman and vice-chairman were impressive, Halton Region chairman Allan Masson told the inaugural meeting of Halton Board of Education, Thursday.

"If we were really truthful with ourselves as regional council we would look to you and draw on your experience. I was most impressed with your elections here tonight," Masson said.

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Superintendent of Program, John Boich, reports the board advertised internally for 114 chairmanship positions and received applications for ten of them from two Halton teachers.

New and veteran trustees must meld together

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created a pool of extra teachers who would be drawn to fill vacancies when others resigned and also serve as supply teachers. The pool worked well with almost all of the surplus teachers being placed in regular teaching jobs by the end of September.

Mrs. Alexander said the board has never been simply reactive either, since during 1976 it was able to carry out integration of retarded children into regular schools and also continue the implementation of core curriculum.

Other highlights of 1976 included board and teachers successfully settling the first collective agreement and expansion of board headquarters.

Mrs. Alexander said the board which served the last three years had many strong qualities which made it work well.

She thought the trustees had the "courage to make reasonable decisions," and felt there were many examples of this.

The board improved its "availability" to the public by holding more public meetings, hearing many delegations and starting the question period at board

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