



SHORTER HAIR is all the rage these days. Jimmy Kelner, sitting, gets a Kojak haircut from Larry Phelan in Pete's Barber Shop on Friday afternoon. The two men decided to shave themselves bald with spectators' donations going to crippled children's fund. Both men are from Guelph.

French immersion program in North area depends on applications by November 21

Introduction of a French immersion program in North Halton schools in September, 1978, has been approved in principle by the Halton Board of Education, but depends entirely upon how many parents commit their children to the program by making application to the board by November 21.

Helen Mitchell, coordinator of communication arts for the board, told a public meeting of parents at Stewarttown School, last Wednesday night, her department will report application response to the board in January.

In a board survey last June, 53 North Halton parents, 22 from the Georgetown area, 18 from Milton and 13 from Acton, indicated interest in the primary program which starts in Grade 1. A total of 35, 20 from Georgetown, 2 from Milton and 13 from Acton, indicated interest in the late immersion program which begins in Grade 7.

Mrs. Mitchell said the board will probably insist on a starting class of 30-35 for each program before giving final approval.

Plans call for the primary program to be offered at Georgetown's Joseph Gibbons School and the late program to begin at Stewarttown School, also in the Georgetown area. Mrs. Mitchell explained that Stewarttown was selected because so many students are already being bused there. Gibbons School was chosen for the primary program, she said, because of the space available there.

Although the board is offering the program, it is not accepting responsibility for students' transportation. That's left up to the parents. Interested students from the Milton and Acton areas would have to find their own way to Georgetown.

Mrs. Mitchell said, however, that in her experience in dealing with such programs, parents have been able to work together and arrange co-operative transportation, sometimes reimbursing one parent who would drive regularly, other times taking turns driving or hiring a taxi. The program would be 50-50, with students studying half the day in English and the other half in French. The

other subjects to be followed in French are yet to be selected. Mrs. Mitchell said her department demands that teachers use standard French, not slang. But she also expressed a personal opinion that dialects and accents should not enter the picture.

"If somebody's going to teach a child to say 'uit' instead of 'uet' for the world huit (the number 8 in English), that's fine with me," said Mrs. Mitchell.

Children entering the primary program would continue in Grades 4, 5 and 6 on a 40-60 basis or remain 50-50, if the number of students and the department's judgment permit.

The late immersion program, which begins in Grade 7, is designed for students who have not previously been immersed in French. If approved, it will begin next September with students who have been taking the normal 20 minutes per day of French in grade 6. Late immersions will include French language arts and one other subject in French, if there is a high enough enrolment.

Mrs. Mitchell said she hopes that by the time students from the immersion programs reach Grade 9, the high schools will be offering a special French program, since the students will have surpassed the normal Grade 9 level in French.

She explained that Halton has decided to start the primary program in Grade 1, rather than kindergarten as in Wellington County,

Abortion book banned

A controversial abortion pamphlet put out by the federal government has been banned from use in Halton schools.

The booklet, entitled "Birth Control and Abortion" has not been distributed to any Halton students but was used as reference material by an Acton High School health teacher.

Thursday, Halton Board of Education passed a motion put forth by Halton Hills-Milton separate school supporters Trustee John Bradley stating the pamphlet "be withdrawn from any use in the Halton school system."

Bradley noted the publication contained "factual errors", outdated statistics and errors and was "characterized by a pervasive pro-abortion bias."

Bradley said he wasn't trying to bring the abortion issue into things but thought any

material containing errors shouldn't be used.

"If a math book said two times two was equal to 20 we wouldn't use it," he said.

Citing a number of examples of errors, outdated statistics and pro-abortion bias brought to the board's attention in a letter from Alliance For Life, Bradley said the federal pamphlet was even ignorant of federal laws with regards to abortion. He said there are 1975 statistics available and the booklet only uses 1972 statistics. Bradley noted all resource material suggested in the booklet for further reference are pro-abortion. He added there is plenty of pro-life material available and none of it is mentioned.

"Any one of the three reasons should be enough to keep this out of Halton schools," Bradley declared. Trustee Elaine Rhlem

objected that all criticism of the booklet given by Bradley was based on Alliance for Life's letter which is pro-life-biased. She urged the board seek a medical opinion of the contents of the booklet.

Bradley said other boards have objected to the booklet. He suggested Ottawa realizes its mistake since the pamphlet is now being rewritten.

Trustee Elsie Hinson said as long as there was any question as to the factuality of the booklet it must be withdrawn.

By passing the motion the board was underestimating the common sense of most teachers, Trustee Judy Alexander said. Trustee Bert Hinton said the board shouldn't get into propagandizing either side of the abortion issue, suggesting families and physicians are more qualified than the school systems to deal with the questions. "Stay out of

this. It's none of our business."

This controversy was just another example of the problems with values education, one of his biggest concerns, Trustee Don Long said.

Trustees fail to speed up public schools upgrading

Bids by Georgetown Trustee Don Long and Acton-Esqueping board member Bert Hinton to have expansion work done at Howard Wrigglesworth and Glen Williams school done before 1979, failed Thursday.

Halton Board of Education approved an administration plan to build new general purpose rooms which are similar to gym or assembly rooms at both Georgetown area schools in 1979 at a cost of about \$247,000 each. Both projects will be financed through the sale of surplus school sites and closed schools.

At the beginning of the debate which has been raging for several years now, Hinton proposed a motion which would have made Glen Williams and Wrigglesworth the board's number two and three upgrading projects and moved them up a year, to 1978.

The motion failed to get off the ground when no one would second it.

Later trustees got behind Edna Robinson and approved adding Fairview school to the seven school list of projects. Hinton then asked the board to add Stewarttown school for a new gym in 1981. Chairman Gary Morton

noted the list of projects was only for 1978, 79, and 80.

"I'll cut that back to 1980 then. You pushed me into it," Hinton announced but again his idea died for lack of a seconder.

Next Long went to bat for Wrigglesworth, whose present library, nothing more than books on shelves in halls, would be moved into the existing general purpose and a new gym built.

He told the board he had visited all nine schools on the list and Wrigglesworth was the one needing the expansion soonest.

Long said he thought all the schools slated for improvement had about the same kinds of general purpose rooms. They were all inadequate but none were strikingly worse than others.

In the case of libraries, Wrigglesworth's was far and away the worse, Long said. He noted only three schools in Halton don't have libraries—Wrigglesworth, W.I. Dick, where a library is being built now, and Campbellville.

"Our first priority has to be a resource centre at Wrigglesworth," he announced.

He noted the staff room is also deficient and of all the schools where upgrading is

planned enrolment increases are expected in the future only at Wrigglesworth.

Long suggested trustees not familiar with Georgetown might not realize there is much vacant land near the school where homes will be built, ensuring a growing student body.

Superintendent of Business and Finance Bruce Lindley noted both of the upgrading projects ahead of Wrigglesworth and Glen Williams have been at the sketch plan stage since 1975. Lindley added if properties are sold faster than expected, work at the two Georgetown and area schools will go ahead faster than planned.

Trustee Judy Alexander objected to Long's comments stating it was "distasteful" to force the board into parochialism. She said the administration knows the schools better than anyone and suggested trustees put their faith in the administration's priority list.

Long said Wrigglesworth has been waiting for years for improvements. He said the administration wanted to build a library years ago but the idea was rejected. He added he was only stating his observations of the school's needs.

Public on committees

Members of the public are going to be invited to sit as non-voting members of Halton Board of Education committees such as finance.

Thursday, trustees approved a suggestion by Chairman Garry Morton and

Halton Home and School that members of the public be appointed to committees.

Morton noted in the past the board has benefitted greatly from public participation. The chairman will decide, each year which committees

the public will join.

The board also approved a Home and School recommendation that the board conduct a yearly, random sampling of parents on various educational topics.

Change DHC status - committee

The regional community and social services committee has passed a motion recommending the District Health Council (DHC) report to the province through

regional council. The committee met Oct. 25.

Milton Councillor Jim Kerr opposed the motion, saying it would "just get people's backs up." Mr. Kerr said

councillors needed more information before making such a recommendation.

In September councillors asked staff to report on the feasibility of the Health Council reporting to regional council. The staff's report last week recommended council ask the Ministry of Health for permission to review the reporting relationship of the Health Council.

Seals

Christmas seals are now out. "Fight the lung cripplers," says the literature.

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