

EDUCATION ANSWERS

Replies to written questions directed to panel members at the recent Halton Hills Ratepayers meeting probing "The High Cost of Learning."

This first part of the series deals with questions directed to Ernest Bodnar, Georgetown's representative on the Halton County Board of Education.

QUESTION

I understand that an open concept school is just a name for a school without walls, the design having many advantages and disadvantages. It seems to me that wonderful advantages can be realized only when children are working individually and have the freedom of mobility. The disadvantages are quite obvious, when you have seven teachers trying to command the attention of their own classes at the same time in the same room.

The open schools in Halton County (Pineview, in particular) seem to be suffering all the disadvantages of this architectural design, while gaining none of the advantages! The reason seems to be that Halton County lacks in teachers and administrators that believe in the philosophy of education that the open concept school demands.

Why are you spending taxpayers' money to build yet another open concept school — Park?

MR. BODNAR

The current trend in education is to provide for the individual treatment of each student as much as is economically possible. To do this a flexible program is a necessity and the flexibility can be best achieved by providing a building (open concept) which allows flexibility in class groupings, remedial sections, team teaching etc. The net result will better cater to the needs of each student.

The most important ingredient in any teaching situation is a first class teacher and this applies to any school configuration be it open concept or "four square." It is agreed that open concept teaching is more demanding on the teacher, but the board finds that many teachers are eagerly accepting this new challenge.

It is my understanding that any difficulties that may have existed at Pineview were not attributed to the open concept design. Improvement is now being realized.

After having observed a number of open concept schools in operation I am convinced that the students' needs are better met by this method of instruction.

QUESTION

Also — just before the County Board was formed the ratepayers were told that the Georgetown Board of Education had budgeted to fix up playgrounds at George Kennedy School — This has not been done. Will it be accomplished soon?

MR. BODNAR

I was not a member of the

Georgetown Public School Board and cannot confirm the provision of funds. The fact remains that the grounds are in a very poor state. The current operating budget before the Board contains funds to make a start on improvements at George Kennedy and Harrison. Subject to the approval of the Board work should commence this year to get these school grounds into better condition.

Improvements will also be made at Centennial, these funds being provided through the capital funds arranged for the school extensions now being completed.

QUESTION

Mr. Price brought up the topic of French — as a teacher in Georgetown I am interested to know are we to expect this as a subject next year in Grades seven and eight? Will this cause an increase in our taxes?

MR. BODNAR

The French Program Council recently submitted a report to the Board concerning oral French. The report provided several methods in which oral French could be introduced into all the elementary schools in the County. Each method carried a different price tag and the Board has not yet selected the program to be chosen, if at all.

It would appear that the subject should be offered next year to all grade six and seven in Georgetown initially and carried into grade eight the next year. This would fit in nicely with the proposed structure of the middle school pilot project at Centennial.

There would of course be an increase in cost. The program offered currently in other sections of the County costs approximately \$20 per student per year. Since many factors influence the tax rate for education it is difficult to state definitely that this program will cause an increase in the Georgetown taxes.

QUESTION

Mr. Bodnar — you gave me to understand that consideration would be given to arranging transportation for distant pupils to and from Centennial School during severe weather. You have done nothing — why?

MR. BODNAR

I explored this possibility but the policy established does not permit special arrangements during severe weather because of the difficulty establishing a workable system and the resultant high cost of such a special service.

It must be remembered that policies such as this would have to apply to the entire county and the cumulative effect would increase the already high cost of education.

QUESTION

Is it possible to give a definite answer yes or no regarding the running of a school bus to high school from next September — or will it mean waiting for a petition to be collected as was the case for the current year?

MR. BODNAR

The policy of the Board requires that students living within three miles of a high school will find their own way to school. This policy is tempered when warranted by special circumstances. Last year I was able to convince the Board that safe walking conditions did not exist and in my opinion this will remain the case until a sidewalk is constructed on the south side of Guelph Street to the easterly town limits.

A definite answer cannot be given until the transportation report for next year is presented to the Board, usually in August.

Georgetown Bus Firm Awarded Brampton Lines

Georgetown Transportation Co. has been given the contract to take over Brampton's three bus routes when Parkinson Coach Lines contract expires in March.

A general committee of council last week agreed to recommend to council that the tender of the Georgetown Transportation Co. Ltd., for bus service using trail equipment be accepted. School type buses are currently being used on the routes.

The Georgetown firm had entered a bid of 60 cents per mile using transit equipment, the same price tendered by Parkinson Coach Lines using school buses.

The service will cost the town about \$29,000 a year.

Need More Volunteers to Canvass for Red Cross

Twenty-one area captains have been recruited for the Georgetown & District Branch Red Cross Campaign for Funds for March, but organizers are still seeking volunteers. 16 years of age and over for their army of canvassers.

March 10 is Blitz Day in Georgetown, while district homes will be visited during the week of March 2 to 9.

Anyone willing to help by putting in a few hours in aid of this campaign should call one of the area captains.

G. Jones, Stan Hutchison, Mrs. Marg Rayner, Doug Tucker, Dave Denison, Lou Egerton, Mrs. Pat Marlineau, Mrs. Flo Street, Mrs. Shirley Bergsma, Andy Brands, Paul Farkas, Bob Alexander, John Kavanagh, Ed Teller, John Wickens, Mrs. Ann Fancy and Larry Ciglen for Georgetown.

Captain of the Glen Williams area is Mrs. K. W. McCauley, for Norval Mrs. Corrie Kranendonk, for

Stewarttown Mrs. Tom Schenk and for Limehouse Mrs. Marg Spitzer.

This year's Red Cross Campaign-for-Funds Blitz Day in Georgetown had to be postponed to Tuesday, March 10 as Monday, March 9 will be blood donor clinic day. This clinic will be open from 1:30 to 8:45 p.m. Campaign-for-Funds week in the districts of Glen Williams, Norval, Limehouse, Stewarttown, Ballinacree, Silvercreek, Speyside and Ashgrove, will be from Monday, March 2 to 9, 1970.

Michael J. Foot will be campaign chairman again. The "professional" canvass will be done by Mrs. Walter H. Pope, who has been an area captain for years. The industries will be canvassed by the chairman, while Mrs. B. C. Buckwald of Pauline's Flowers will call on merchants and offices on the Main Street and the side streets. Mrs. Laney Brands will canvass the Delrex Plaza (Georgetown Market).

STEWARTTOWN

Attend Funeral Service in Thorold for Mrs. Donald McDoll

Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Grant, and Mrs. W. R. Lawson, attended the funeral in Thorold on Saturday of Mrs. Donald P. McDoll who passed away Wed., Feb. 18 in St. Catharines General Hospital.

Mrs. McDoll was the former Frances Jenkinson, who lived in this village with her family where she attended Stewarttown public school and Georgetown High School. She was a member of St. John's Anglican Church, where she served as a Sunday School teacher, choir member and organist for a number of years. She graduated from Toronto Normal school and taught at Limehouse, Coyne School, Chappleau, Etobicoke and St. Catharines.

She is survived by her husband, Donald McDoll, two children Peter and Janet and one sister Mary. Mrs. Richard Standish of Thorold.

Mrs. Stuart Hall was hostess to members of Esqueving Wo-

men's Institute members and guests, at the regular February meeting last Thursday evening held in the community hall.

Mrs. George Atkinson, president presided and conducted the business portion of the meeting.

The roll call "Wear an Old or Different Hat." A euchre was planned, to be held Thursday evening, Feb. 26 Mrs. J. Staddon gave a reading "I found a Friend." Mrs. Atkinson introduced Mrs. Frank

Ruddell of Ashgrove who took the group along on a tour to the Yukon by showing slides and telling of the trip enjoyed by she and her husband last summer.

— Mrs. C. A. Grant

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