Board adopts policy on school closings-eases anguish

Halton board of education has adopted a procedure to ease the anguish trustees feel when a small school must be closed.

In fact, the board considered two recommendations for closing schools, Thursday one. from director of education, Emerson Lavender, and the other from trustee Dr. Helen

Howard-Lock. The board passed Mr. Lavender's recommendations but not until full discussion on the issue, split votes and motions to table both

The procedure passed by the rants closing. board provides for a study group comprised of the area superintendent, the school principal, three parents from

the school, a trustee and a schools in danger of closing teacher to examine how the school could continue without demanding more than normal resources when the enrolment approaches a level which war-

The study group will be formed each fall as the enrolment projections identify

However, when the enrolment by January falls below an established minimum, the administration may make the recommendation that the school be closed, leaving the

actual decision to the trustees. Schools will be closed, if trustees so vote, if the maximum enrolment in grades one to three falls below 50 pupils, 50 in grade four, 65 in grade five, 75 in grade slx, 90 in grade seven, 100 in grade eight and 115 in grade nine. In his report to the board,

and should make its recom-

mendations by December of

that year. If there is no partic-

ipation in the group by parents

the other members of the

group may make the recom-

mendations.

Mr. Lavender said that schools with enrolment below 105 have 30 percent of the projected enrolment figure added to calculate the total instructional budget. If the enrolment is 105 to 174, 20 per cent is added and 10 per cent If it is 175 to 200.

Small schools have split grade classes in numbers disproportionate to their size, Mr. Lavender said. Some split grade classes make it difficult

for the teacher to present core Lock's proposal had a number programs effectively and to deal with individual children's needs. In addition, small schools have fewer services such as librarians and subject

learning resource centres or general purpose rooms in small schools often tend to be less than optimum and in some

Mr. Lavender said that when enrolment declines, a school should not receive more than it proportional share of the available resources. When the point is reached in declining enrolment that the restriction of resources is likely to affect provision for the educational needs of students, the study group will be formed.

parent volunteers, reduced standard of regular and special education or the closing of

of similarities with that of Mr. Lavender's but differed in that hers would include high schools, schools with enrolments larger than 210, inadequate facilities in larger but older schools and provide for a

temporary closing. Superintendent of business. Bruce Lindley, told the board that two schools, Palermo and Westbrook, would be closed under the criteria established. Seven other schools, which Mr. Lindley declined to name, would fall under the category of having study groups.

Part of the problem the board faced in coming to grips

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with the issue was that both recommendations, Dr. Howard-Lock's and Mr. Lavender's were on the agenda. In general, trustees favored aspects of both proposals. Trustee Howard-Lock's mot-

ion would have schools with 35 per cent or less enrolment of rated capacity closed temporarily but that schools with enrolments of 35 to 50 per cent be studied.

Board chairman Gary Morton asked for a motion that both proposals be referred to the executive committee for further study but the motion failed to pass on a tie vote.

Then Dr. Howard-Lock ag-

reed with her seconder to withdraw the motion which prompted four trustees to cry "point of order". According to the board's rules of procedure there must be unanimous consent for a motion to be withirawn. There was unanimous

consent Trustee H.H. (Bert) Hinton then moved that Mr. Lavend-

er's recommendations be tabl-

ed. His motion was seconded by trustee Ivan Armstrong but. according to board procedure. there can be no discussion on a motion to table and board chairman Morton allowed two trustees to speak to it, which caused Mr. Armstrong to withdraw his seconding. Trustee Don Long then seconded Mr. Hinton's motion, which nevertheless falled to get passed.

NOTICE

TOWN OF HALTON HILLS

Appointment to Local Boards and Committees The Council for the Town of Halton Hills requests a written reply from residents in the Town of Halton Hills who would be interested in being appointed to serve on one of the following.

local boards or committees of this municipality. THE HALTON HILLS COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT THE HALTON HILLS PARKING AUTHORITY

THE HALTON HILLS PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD THE HALTON HILLS RECREATION ADVISORY COM-MITTEE (WARDS 3 AND 4, GEORGETOWN AREA)

Applicants should indicate clearly what board or committee they wish to have their name considered for appointment. incumbent members, whose appointment terminates on December 31, 1977, are required to advise in writing if they wish to be considered for reappointment to the board or committee they are presently serving on or to some other local board or committee.

interested applicants should forward their written replies to the undersigned on or before December 2, 1977,

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No Milton objections, industrial park OK'd When Milton area residents Since very light manufactur-

failed to voice any opinion at the public meeting held in Halton Hills municipal buildings last week regarding a proposed industrial development site on Highway 25 and 5 Sideroad planning board recommended that the zoning amendment required to permit the development be forwarded to council for approval.

The 283 acre industrial park just north of Milton will be designed to accomodate only dry industry, town planner Mario Venditti, told the board,

ing and light warehousing opgreat quantities of water or employ large numbers of people, the complex could be put on septic tanks and wells with no need to worry about future links with municipal services, he sald.

Mr. Venditti assured the board that individual buildings would be controlled under section 35a of the Planning Act as they appeared before the board for approval.

A hydrologist has already town of Milton.

done a preliminary study of the area and was ready to offer erations would not require assurances that the wells required to service the complex would not damage wells of residents already in the area.

> ton fails to get approval. Mayor Hill reminded the

Some board members were concerned about the future of such a development if the planned industrial park in Mil-

board that Halton Hills' development should not be held back by what happens in the

specialists. When compensation is made with additional staff from the Education Area allotment, larger schools have fewer teachrs as a result and thus are denied the services of a teacher-librarian, he said. As well,

cases, non-existent.

Alternates to this possibility may include increased use of the schools.

Trustee Dr. Helen Howard-



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