

Changes recommended in special education program

Halton board of education has presented with a list of 43 recommendations for changes in the special education programs being offered in Halton secondary schools.

The recommendations are contained in a 70-page report tabled Thursday by a needs assessment committee which studied the subject for about two years.

The board will examine the report before implementation of any recommendations. "There's an awful lot of costing to go on," education director Emerson Lavender said of the board's deliberations.

He expects the board to take action on the report by June. The recommendations include:

- that secondary schools offer where feasible advanced level courses that are enriched, particularly in mandatory subjects, and that each regular secondary school form an on-going enrichment committee to counsel and encourage gifted students;
- that regular high schools develop programs where feasible at level three, basic, in the mandatory courses for students with a general learning disability;
- that the unit for older trainable mentally handicapped students in the west area be integrated into the regular secondary school setting for September, 1980;
- that alternative education programs be established in each education area (there are three in the region) for socially-maladjusted and emotional-

SPECIAL TEACHERS

- that one or more special education resource teachers be provided in each secondary school to work with 40 to 50 less severely handicapped learning disabled students;
- that specific learning disability classes be set up on a ratio of one teacher to every 15 more severely disabled students to a maximum of 10 classes;
- that an evaluation scheme be designed for special learning disability classes be sought in 1982;

- that where the need exists, a teacher of English as a second language be provided;

- that the needs of autistic and aphasic students be examined by specialized personnel;

- that each secondary school establish resource rooms that are staffed with teachers qualified in remedial language and remedial mathematics skills;

- that the board make some physical changes to Lord Elgin and Queen Elizabeth Park secondary schools for students with cerebral palsy and muscular dystrophy allowing them to function as independently as possible;

- that the board hire staff as necessary for each of the schools to assist the physically handicapped;

CONTINUE WORK

- that teachers involved in special education programs, after initial certification be expected to continue to work towards specialized degrees or specialist certificates;
- that the board provide support for intensive in-service training for special education

secondary teachers of special learning disabled labs and resource rooms;

- that the board support workshops to familiarize teachers with the needs of exceptional children;

- that a satisfactory listing of the board's special education program, services and personnel, and the community support agencies be prepared and distributed;

- that an exceptional student training program be started with Halton secondary teachers;

that support be given for inter-school teacher exchanges between the staffs of vocational schools and other Halton schools, and between special education teachers in elementary and secondary levels;

- that seven additional psychometrists, a fourth registered psychologist, and a part-time supervisor or consultant in social work be employed;

- that a limited number of vocationally-oriented students taking general level courses be

admitted to the special vocational schools;

- that special educational students coming to vocational schools be given precedence over general students in admissions;

- that vocational schools and regular secondary schools establish close working relationships to the advantage of some students in each school;

- that a life skills program be offered in each special vocational high school;

- that parental involvement be promoted.

Halton policemen receive medals

The Ontario Medal for Police Bravery has been awarded to two Halton Regional Police officers, the first time the award has been presented to a member of the Halton force.

Constables Les Graham and Wayne Olmstead were awarded the medal last week for risking their lives to capture a sniper in Burlington. The two officers appeared at the meeting of the Halton Regional Police Commission Thursday with their medals to receive the congratulations of the commissioners and to pose for photographs with the commission.

Constables Graham and Olmstead responded to a call on March 8 in which a man was firing a gun at people near an apartment. The suspect had already been involved in a stabbing incident in Hamilton.

After trying to calm the gunman verbally, the officers put down their guns and began to approach him. Once they were close enough, they grabbed the man and subdued him.

The medals were presented by Lieutenant-Governor Pauline McGibbon November 19 in her Queen's Park suite. Premier William Davis also presented the officers with a citation.

Oakville Mayor Harry Barrett, chairman of the commission, pointed out that only three medals for police bravery were awarded this year, the third going to a police officer working with a force in the Ottawa area who saved a five-year-old girl from drowning. The medal has been awarded only eight times in the three or four years since it was created, Mayor Barrett said.

Director resigns

Executive director of the Georgetown Y.M.-Y.W.C.A., Sheila Finn, has resigned her position, effective December 21.

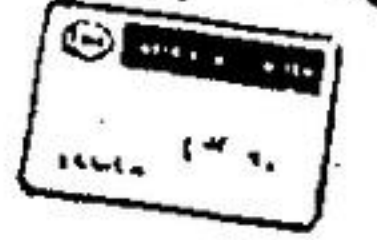
Mrs. Finn joined the Y staff as part-time program director in February and became executive director in July.

The increased workload necessitated by a great expansion in programming during the fall means that a full-time director is needed. Mrs. Finn feels, and she just doesn't have sufficient time to divide between her job and her family.

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