

Acton parents may boycott St. Joseph's

A group of parents may boycott Acton's only separate school if the ministry of education fails to provide funds for a new building, a spokesman for the parents said.

The idea of a boycott received unanimous support at a meeting attended by parents from about 25 of the 125 families in the St. Joseph's Parents Association.

Vince Whelan, president of the association, said this week the parents may pull their children out of the 100-year-old school if no funding has been allocated to a new building by September 2.

The Halton separate school board had given St. Joseph's top priority, along with a new school being requested for Oakville. The ministry of education announced earlier this month that \$1.5 million had been allocated to the Oakville school, but Acton received nothing.

Halton Hills trustee Hartley Sherk said the board had assigned top priority to the Oakville and Acton schools, knowing there was a possibility, one, both or neither of the schools would be approved.

The ministry may have considered the situation in Oakville more pressing because there was no school in the Falgout subdivision area and students are being bused across Oakville to other schools, Mr. Sherk said.

Mr. Sherk, board chairman Robert O'Brien and the director of education met with ministry officials last Friday to discuss the need for a new school building in Acton, but officials said there is "just not enough money to go around". The board's next move if it fails to convince the ministry of the need for a new school building in Acton is to talk with Minister of Education Bette Stephenson.

The parents were to attend the meeting of the board last night (Tuesday) to present some alternatives for dealing with the Acton situation.

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A revised health education program featuring sections on drug abuse will be tested in selected Halton elementary schools this fall.

The program will be introduced in Grades 7 and 8, Halton physical and health education co-ordinator Jack Richardson said. The new curriculum was prompted by a survey by the Addiction Research Foundation which showed many youngsters begin experimenting with drugs and alcohol while still in elementary school.

Where previously only 75 to 80 per cent of high school students were taking health courses and receiving information on drugs, now all students will receive this information in elementary school.

OAKVILLE SCHOOL

The survey, which was last year conducted in a high school in Oakville, showed that 15 per cent of students had their first drink in Grade 4 or earlier, and 17 per cent first smoked marijuana in Grade 7 or 8.

The survey also showed that the Grade 9 to 13 students surveyed, 88 per cent had used alcohol in the previous year and 46 per cent had smoked marijuana.

The executive committee of the Halton board of education has taken a number of measures as a result of the survey, including a complete revision of the drug, alcohol and tobacco information section of the health curriculum being used in Grades 4 to 12.

The new curriculum will be tested in selected elementary and secondary schools in Halton this year, evaluated next summer and implemented throughout Halton in the fall of 1991.

The new program will continue to be part of the over-all health and physical education curriculum, but more time will be spent on the drug and alcohol information sections.

Drug course set for some public schools

Weapons charge follows disturbance

A Georgetown man has been charged with possession of a weapon dangerous to public safety following a disturbance at Mr. Donut in the Georgetown Market Plaza on the weekend.

The victim received only minor injuries in the dispute, in which a man was armed with a baseball bat.

Cameras, jewelry, and radios with a total value of \$3,000 were stolen during a burglary in Norval. The burglars got into the house through a rear window. Vandals rolled a Honda car over on to its roof at Capital Ford and damaged the roof hood and two front fenders. Total damage is estimated at \$3,000.

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