## St. Joe's parents reject boycott

By MAGGIE HANNAH Herald Special

Parents of pupils in Acton's St. Joseph's separate school won't remove them in September in protest over not getting funds to build a new school.

Such a move would do "more harm than good" members of St. Joseph's Parents Association were told at a meeting Thursday.

If the pupils were kept out of class or sent to a different school there would be no need for the new St. Joseph's school. Mike McMahon, a member of the association executive stressed that the parents need

to "forget the past and start a plan of action for 1980-81."

He outlined a plan to carry the group through to the end of September by which time it is hoped that education minister Dr. Bette Stephenson and her staff will have taken another look at province-wide funding requests denied in the ministry's June allocations.

The three-prong attack includes a letter-writing campaign to the ministry in which parents will voice their concerns over the present St. Joseph's facility.

They will also enlist the aid of Bishop Reding, of Hamilton -in gaining ministry approval for a new school and holding a day of prayer at the school's first Friday mass, Sept. 5.

Mr. McMahon said in order to be effective a letter writing campaign must produce a significant number of letters and therefore he urged parents present at the meeting as well as those not present to begin writing. He said contact had been made with Georgetown parents associations and attempts were being made to contact Milton Parents Associations to enlist their aid for Acton students.

If more money is found to meet education needs. Vince Whelan, association president, said concerns from parents might be able to convince Dr. Stephenson to change her mind and give some to Acton.

Mr. McMahon said in investigating matters the association has learned that Bishop Redling does have a certain amount of influence with the board. As yet no contact has been made with Bishop Reding but a delegation of parents should discuss their concerns with him, Mr. McMahon said.

The association executive also suggested that trustees be invited to attend the school's annual first Friday mass.

Mr. McMahon said he felt parents needed all the morale booster they could get and if the Day of Prayer idea could help morale it was a worthy suggestion.

One of the parents gave the association secretary a pamphlet on the services available through the Ombudsman's office. The pamphlet suggests that office as a source for last-ditch efforts and it was felt it might be worth looking into in future.

Parents were told a third portable would be arriving at the school soon and the board would endeavour to have it nooked into services in time for school opening.

Parents questioned the arrival of one portable. The school already has enough new pupils to fill another classroom, they said, but there is still no place for a French class. They requested two portables.

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