

Three schools recommended to close

Briefly

SOS report

At the first of three public meetings about school closures, members of a group called the Save Our School Committee (SOS) presented a report. The Howard Wrigglesworth group was represented by Tom Politi Monday night.

They asked Halton Board of Education Chairman Irene Bruce to distribute their report to the trustees.

Mrs. Bruce said it was necessary to have all written material for delegations submitted to the Board no later than March 11.

The public meeting was not a forum for debate, reminded Consolidation Committee co-chairman Ron Chapman. He said the meeting was set up to explain the consolidation process and to answer questions.

Alternate plan

A group of parents have worked out a formula they feel can keep their school, Howard Wrigglesworth, open.

Their SOS report suggests that Stewarttown Middle School be closed and Joseph Gibbons Public School be converted into a grade 7-8 institution. Park and Pineview Schools would remain as kindergarten to grade 6 schools and a trainable mentally handicapped unit would be moved to Harrison Public School.

Students from Joseph Gibbons from kindergarten to grade 5 could be located to Park and Glen Williams Public Schools, their report indicates.

With Park and Glen Williams Public School at near capacity from the changes, Howard Wrigglesworth could be kept open, the report states.

Unique school

In a detailed plan, members of a group fighting to keep Howard Wrigglesworth from closing gave a number of reasons why they felt their school was unique and should not be closed.

Among the reasons were: the school is debt free and the only capital expenditures for the next five years are for windows, costing \$60,000; senior citizens from Durham Street work as volunteers in the classrooms, providing service to both students and seniors; future development to the south of Georgetown can be accommodated at their school.

The report also mentions that Howard Wrigglesworth has a better location than Stewarttown.

'Hot seat' members defend report

Consolidation members were put on the hot seat by over 100 parents and taxpayers in the Howard Wrigglesworth Public School area.

At a public meeting Tuesday, the authors of the school closure report in Halton Hills were asked to explain how they came to their decisions.

Howard Wrigglesworth is one of three schools in Halton Hills that has been recommended for closure in September.

A committee of parents from Wrigglesworth also presented their own report to the consolidation members. Called SOS (Save Our School) Report, this 15 page document outlines reasons why they feel their school should not be closed.

In a sometimes emotionally-charged question period, parents sought reasons why members came to their conclusions.

One gentleman questioned the validity of the decision to close the school because of new construction off of King and John Streets near the school. Co-chairman Ron Chapman replied that figures were from the school board and regional planners

about development growth.

Some parents were concerned that students bused from Wrigglesworth would still be exposed to the heavy traffic on Guelph and Maple Streets travelling to pick-up points. One lady, a school bus driver, said she felt the areas around Glen Williams, Park and Harrison schools were more dangerous for busing than Howard Wrigglesworth.

"How is the closing of the school in the best interests of my son?" asked one mother. Co-chairman John Kavanagh replied that although classroom sizes won't be affected, a student benefits in other ways.

For example, he said, there would be fewer split grade classrooms, more extra curricular activities, more specialty teachers such as librarians, the availability of more board consultants and rural students would still have a rural school to attend.

One man felt the Committee had been biased in favor of rural schools in the decision-making. "Why keep Stewarttown as a rural school open when a large part (about 50 per



Dick Howitt John Kavanagh

cent) are from the urban area?" he asked.

Stewarttown Public School is centrally located and there was a desire to preserve rural schools, Mr. Chapman said.

Trustee Dick Howitt said many urban parents he had talked to preferred having Stewarttown remain open. There are no shopping malls for students to loiter about and parents know where they are during school hours, he said.

Board Chairman Arlene Bruce challenged one man's statement that the Committee had been easy on rural schools. "People in Speyside (also recommended for closing) says we're biased against the urban schools," she said.

Committee member Ray Denny also defended the attitude of his group towards non-rural schools. Committee members said the same things as have been mentioned at the

public meeting tonight about their schools, Mr. Denny said.

The concerns about the quality of education were all very similar from each of the schools' representatives. But the decision-makers also had to consider differences in the schools such as geography, how students are moved about and cost factors, he said.

Loud applause followed after one man asked why the consolidation report was completed if not to save taxpayers any money.

The sale of the properties will go into capital costs for other schools, Chairman Bruce said.

Committee member Rod Taylor said his first impression was that money could be saved by closing schools, but most of the board's budget goes towards teachers' salaries, he said.

The report came down to doing the best for the greatest number, he said. "We came down with the fairest option. Clearly, you're not going to be happy with that," Mr. Taylor said.

If the Committee recommended no closures, there would be trouble down the road, he said, answering one man who asked why a report had to list any schools at all for closures.

A woman was reassured by Ron Chapman that special education students at Howard Wrigglesworth would not be split up, even though the boundaries will change if the report is accepted.

A board matter

The school closings being proposed by a Halton board of education committee are a board matter, concluded town councillors Monday night.

Coun Pam Johnston said she's had a number of calls about the Halton Hills Consolidation Committee report and wanted to know how to deal with them.

"We have two distinct corporations (the town and the board) and we're all serving the community," Coun Johnston said. "I want to know what our municipality's jurisdiction is, if there is any."

Mayor Russ Miller said the board has elected representatives (trustees) and they're the ones residents should take their concerns up with.

FRC better

The major reason why Harrison Public School was chosen over Howard Wrigglesworth has to do with a term called FRC.

John Kavanagh said Functional Rate of Capacity (FRC) means the amount of students a school can comfortably handle.

Harrison can handle a transfer of Howard Wrigglesworth students, but the reverse isn't true, he said. Harrison is also considered a better structure, he said.

21 alternatives

During the final 9 meetings, there were 21 alternatives discussed concerning school closures, said Ron Chapman.

HOW THE VOTE WENT

Of the 16-member Halton Hills Consolidation Committee, 32 had the right to vote. Voters include 28 ratepayers (two from each school), Halton Hills 1985 trustees Betty Fisher, Arlene Bruce and Dick Howitt and co-chairman John Kavanagh and Ron Chapman, who each had a half vote. The other 13 non-voting members of the committee are principals, used as resource people. The following is a list of how the voting went among the consolidation committee members:

- In Sept., 1986, Howard Wrigglesworth Public School be closed and its students go to Glen Williams Public School, Harrison Public School and Park Public School.
Vote: 25 3 1
- In Sept., 1986, Joseph Gibbons Public School be closed and its students go to Park Public School.
Vote: 22 3 1
- In Sept., 1986, Speyside Public School be closed and its students go to Limehouse Public School, Pineview Public School and Brookville Public School.
Vote: 19 7 1
- In Sept., 1986, Stewarttown Senior Public School become a middle-school, grades 6 to 8, for children from Limehouse, Park and Pineview areas.
Vote: 21 5 0
- In Sept., 1986, Limehouse, Park and Pineview become kindergarten to grade 5 schools.
Vote: 25 1 0
- When necessary, that McKenzie-Smith Middle School and M.Z. Bennett Public School be administratively combined, and if necessary, that McKenzie-Smith be converted to a kindergarten to grade 8 school rather than close Limehouse.
Vote: 21 6 2
- That Stewarttown Middle School be upgraded at an estimated cost of \$1.27 million as soon as possible.
Vote: 25 1 0
- In Sept., 1986, Park Public School be upgraded at a cost of \$14,700.
Vote: 18 8 1
- In Sept., 1986, for safety that busing be provided for students of Harrison Public School north of Guelph Street and west of Maple, and for students of Park Public School north of the CNR tracks.
Vote: 25 1 3

Four principles adopted

The Halton Hills Consolidation Committee ended its vow of secrecy at Thursday's Halton board of education meeting.

Four members of the Committee presented nine recommendations and the 41 page report explaining how the Committee worked. The four were co-chairmen John Kavanagh and Ron Chapman and Committee members Jim Kinnear and Pat Bodig.

The Committee explained they adopted four principles. Those principles reveal why some of the recommendations remain.

- students' well-being is more important than schools;
 - many rural parents want their children educated in rural schools;
 - kindergarten to Grade 5 schools and Grade 6 to 8 schools are preferred;
 - after 1990, development in Georgetown and Acton could have a great effect on Halton Hills schools.
- The Committee's projections of

enrolment do not go past 1990. With charts, the Committee showed the total functional rated capacity (FRC) at Halton Hills schools will decline from 62 per cent in 1986 to 57 per cent in 1990. By closing three schools, the FRC percentage rises. In 1986, it will be 76 per cent and in 1990, it will be 69 per cent.

A Committee member said the report states all votes deciding a school would close had between a 68 per cent and 77 per cent majority. Criteria used to reach recommendations came under the following headings of considerations: community, facilities, financial, human resources, location, program, regional growth and development and transportation.

In their presentation, Committee members commented little on why recommendations were made. Information on why will be sent to trustees after three public meetings have concluded, co-chairman John Kavanagh told The Herald on the weekend.

IT'S A SHINE THAT LASTS A LIFETIME.



PRESERV-A-SHINE NOW \$139.00 Reg. \$159.00

A long-term shine and paint protection system that's guaranteed



21 Mountainview Rd N Georgetown, Ontario 877-6136

FOR MOM FOR DAD FOR THE KIDS } TRULY A FAMILY SHOE STORE

QUALITY BRAND NAME SHOES AT SENSIBLE PRICES!

LADIES' SLIP-ONS by *Pierre Germaine*
Moccasin styled for comfort
New Spring & Summer fashions 3 Styles from which to choose!

White - Pink
Taupe - Navy
Black

ONLY \$29.98 Sizes 5 1/2 to 10

NEW STYLES NOW IN **ROHDE** FITS LIKE A SECOND SKIN

Come in and try them on - You will be delighted at such comfort!

Excellent selection.

Hurry in for your size. Sizes 5 to 12 (Not in all styles)

PRICES START AT \$29.98

LITTLE GIRLS' DRESS SHOES by *CHARMS*
Not only will the girls fall in love with this shoe, Mom & Dad will too!

Come and check them out.

In Pink and White

ONLY \$21.98 Sizes 5 - 10

LITTLE BOYS' OXFORDS by *Butter Brown*

Featuring leather uppers, scuff toe and Kraton soles.

A tough wearing, smart looking shoe.

Colours
Tan - Blue

Sizes 5 - 10

ONLY \$24.98

adidas STINGRAY RUNNING SHOES
The younger kids favorite!

Comfortable and hard wearing!

In Teal Blue

ONLY \$22.98 Sizes 8 - 13

ANOTHER WINNER by *NIKE*

The "BONGO" running shoe for boys and girls.

Comfortable and hard wearing!

Colours
pink - navy

Sizes 10 - 6

ONLY \$26.98

MEN'S Jarman SPRING & SUMMER SHOES
Natural linen. Just right for casual wear

Colours:
Beige and Light Grey

ONLY \$29.98 Sizes 8 - 12

SHOES by *Francini*
New Spring and Summer colours
Smart cutaway vamp and dressy heel

Colours
Blue - Pastel
Yellow - Green and Pink

Sizes 5 - 10 (Not in all styles)

ONLY \$44.98

NATURALIZER DRESS SHOES
Pierre Germaine DRESS SHOES
NIKE ATHLETIC SHOES
adidas ATHLETIC SHOES
CHILDREN'S SANDALS

NEW SPRING AND SUMMER STYLES NOW ARRIVING DAILY. COME IN AND CHECK THEM OUT!

MILLIERE TV SPECIALS **RCA**

SUPERB PERFORMANCE... AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

Infrared Digital Remote Control
Multi-band Tuning of up to 122 Channels
Direct Access or Scan Channel Selection
Complete Volume Control Up, Down and Mute

\$528.00
FLR-468WR

20" RCA COLOR TV WITH REMOTE CONTROL & BUILT-IN CABLE CONVERTER - 3 YEAR WARRANTY -

17-function with channel display
Infrared digital remote. Turns set on and off. Adjusts or mutes volume. Tunes any VHF/UHF channel or as many as 52 cable channels either by direct access or by scanning forward or reverse, stopping only at programmed channels. On-screen channel number display.

— 20" COLOR TV's From \$378.00
— 26" COLOR TV's From \$688.00
— VCR's From \$478.00
— Package Specials - TV & VCR's
— RCA T120 VCR TAPES 6 Hrs. \$6.99

GUARANTEED SERVICE WITH ALL SALES
877-3405
We Service What We Sell
14 Wesleyan Street (Just off Main St.)
NOW IN OUR 32nd YEAR

Before you buy check out low, low prices! WHY PAY MORE?

Milliere TV. SALES and SERVICE

41 MAIN ST. S. DOWNTOWN GEORGETOWN

77-1664

ORTHOPAEDIC PRESCRIPTIONS FILLED

FLETCHERS FAMILY SHOES
"THE FOOT PROFESSIONALS"

HOURS: Monday to Wednesday 9:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Thursday to Saturday 9:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Sunday 10:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.