

Halton board responds to proposal on mandatory, full-day kindergartens

The Halton Board of Education responded to the provincial government's recent proposal to make four-year-old Kindergarten mandatory for all public school boards in the province and the extension of five-year-old Kindergarten from half to full days, at its last meeting, May 11.

A two part motion was passed in which the first section requires the board to relay their "immediate concerns" with regards to the government's proposal to the Premier and the Minister of Education. Copies of this report will also be sent to the Ontario Public School Boards Association to be distributed to the other boards in the province.

The second part of the motion outlines the board to undertake a

detailed study of the potential effects of the provincial government's proposed legislation.

Halton Hills trustee, Arlene Bruce, who introduced the second part of the motion, initially intended the order of the motion to be reversed. However this idea met resistance from a number of the other trustees.

Burlington trustee, Don Cassidy, said the government might get the impression the board was against the proposal without first properly studying the proposal if the order of the motion was passed as Ms. Bruce had intended.

Bob Clarke, trustee for Milton, introduced the first section of the motion's final version.

Ms. Bruce seemed to have no problem with the motion as it was

passed, but she stressed immediate action must be taken.

As proof of the need to address the government's proposal, Ms. Bruce said there were significant accommodation and cost issues that had to be dealt with if the expansion of Kindergarten education would ever be feasible.

According to Ms. Bruce's submission school boards in high growth areas cannot meet the needs of increased enrolments. Many primary and junior school children are currently housed in portable classrooms without washroom facilities, and the provincial government has been incapable of providing sufficient funds for the construction of new schools.

She also wrote the already high cost of public school education shouldered by municipal taxpayers, the provincial government's past record of transferring money from existing programs to pay for new programs by taking money from existing programs rather than providing new money, were some of the cost problems that first had to be solved before the board should accept the government's proposal.

The board was uncommittal as to when the detailed study portion of the motion would be committed.



Pen pals

Winners of the BIA's Mother's Day essay contest stand along side their mothers at the corner of Main and Mill Streets after each had presented their mothers with a Mother's Day gift, May 13. In the photo are BIA Manager Margaret Vint (left), Dianne Slofstra and daughter Jennifer, Gail Rutherford and son Trevor, Kathy McEachern and daughter Sarah, and the Mother's Day committee chairman, Trudy Thomas. (Herald photo)

New review process passed by Halton board

The performance of the Halton Board of Education's Director, Bob Williams, will be judged in a new way from now on.

The board passed the new review process and approved the review committee, trustees Bob Clarke, Don Cassidy, Linda Glover, Cheryl Reid and Bill Harrison, during the board's May 11 meeting.

The process was introduced so as to give the trustees a chance to be more anecdotal in their evaluation of the director's performance and pull together more closely the director's objectives with those of the board's long range ones.

The previous review process required the trustees to judge the director's performance to assign a number value to a series of categories defining his performance.

The categories included communication, leadership and management abilities, committee member Pat Hillhouse said.

As part of the new review process trustees will be writing com-

ments on the director's ability to fulfil his objectives, areas of concern and suggestions for next year's objectives.

Ms. Hillhouse said this process is subjective whereas the previous was more objective.

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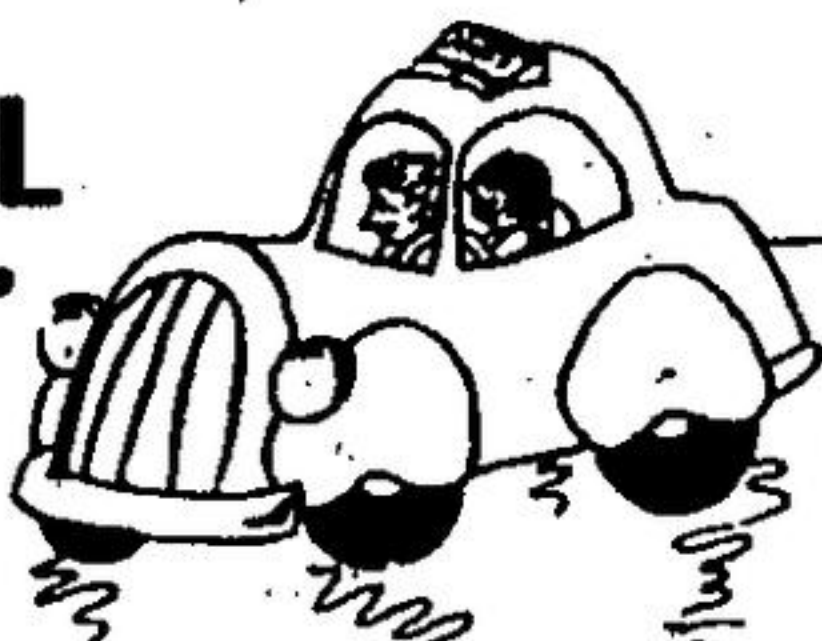
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