

School News

Halton Roman Catholic board approves balanced 1991 budget

Following months of intensive deliberations and presentations, the Halton Roman Catholic School Board approved a balanced 1991 operating budget of \$95.7 million at the April 30, 1991 Regular Meeting of the Board. The budget will result in an education tax increase of just over 5 per cent - the same as its coterminous board - the Halton Public Board of Education.

The mill rates are identical for both Boards. This budget means that the average Catholic ratepayer in Halton (with an assessed value of \$7,000) will pay \$59.57 more than last year on the education portion of the property tax bill. Actual increases will vary according to municipality. The \$95.7 million operating budget (as outlined in the attached) was approved for programs

that serve over 16,000 in 34 regional schools in Halton. This budget represents a \$2.4 million reduction from the initial estimates of \$98.1 million. Such reductions were applied to the Board's instruction, administration, transportation and plant operation budgets. This has resulted in a deletion of field trips and three Enrichment centres, an increase in the occurrence of

split classes, a reduction in the use of temporary staffing in some areas and no allowance for major maintenance projects for 1991. The Board's operating expenses are estimated to increase by \$8.7 million or 10 per cent. However, almost half of this increase is due to increased enrolments. The actual increase per pupil is 5.5 per cent for an elementary student and only 4.7 per cent for a secondary student. Provincial funding has increased by 8.8 per cent or \$4.6 million from the 1990 levels. The provincial share of education costs continues to decline relative to the costs experienced by the Board. Local tax revenues absorb an increasing share of the expenses. Board Chair, Don Schrenk, commended the Budget Committee and senior staff for their diligence and creativity in presenting a balanced budget this year, which is sensitive to local ratepayers in these tough economic times. He reiterated that he believes that the impact of this budget on the delivery of service to students will be minimal. Mr. Schrenk stressed that the challenge that the Board faces is to more efficiently utilize the limited resources which it has to work with given the prevailing economic situation.



Experiencing Japanese Culture

Learning the Japanese art of 'Oragami' (paper folding), were Joseph-Gibbons Public School students Collen Cater (front) and Melissa Krause (back when Tomoka Fujita and her daughter Asami visited the school last Monday. Tomoka is a

teacher in Japan and has been in Halton experiencing Canadian education in Burlington. Joseph-Gibbons invited her down for the day to share her knowledge of Japanese culture with students. (Herald photo)

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