

# Public school trustees attend 'respect each other' workshop

By TIM WHITNELL  
Special

All but one of the Halton Board of Education trustees participated in a spring workshop on how to get along better.

Out of the one-day think-tank came a list of dos and don'ts in the areas of obligations and expectations of trustees, the chair of the board, and the director of education to each other.

The catchphrases in the

## Director won't meet with trustee alone

Halton Board of Education director Bob Williams said he won't meet with a specific trustee for legal reasons.

"I won't attend a meeting (alone) with trustee (Diane) Leblovic, and that's on the advice of my lawyer," said Williams, who refused to elaborate on the reasons.

Burlington trustee Diane Leblovic had requested a private meeting with Williams prior to a July 10 board meeting. But, the director would not meet with her one-on-one, noting he had asked board chair Linda Glover to

consultant's report include suggestions like be open to new ideas, show respect, give the benefit of the doubt, listen and trust.

Burlington trustee Cheryl Craig did not attend because she said, "I refuse to have an outside consultant tell me how to do my job."

Craig said she was equally angered a consultant was used to do a performance review of the director of education, Bob Williams.

Halton board chair Linda Glover acknowledged it was unusual for the board to seek

be present.

The board chair, Linda Glover, defended Williams' actions saying, "In my opinion, it's in my interest and in the board's interest to have a third party there. A lot has gone on over the past couple of years, but I won't go over individual issues through the press."

When asked if her relationship with the director has been an acrimonious one, Leblovic said, "In a professional relationship you may not always agree but you agree to disagree and you do move on."

an outside opinion of the director's performance, but she said there were extenuating circumstances.

"In the past, the Halton board had done its own review, but there seemed to be some difficulty with the new board and the chair (Burlington trustee Diane Leblovic) at the time," Glover, the current chair.

Glover said the consultant's review of the job done by Williams during the 1994-95 school year, as well as the rules of conduct list produced, was recently approved by the board and the director was given a satisfactory appraisal.

Glover said the cost of the consultant was around \$10,000. She said the majority of school boards in this part of Ontario now utilize outside consultants for performance reviews and, while they often only cost about \$2,000, it took a lot longer, nine days, for the consultant to complete his review of the Halton board.

Glover said the '95-'96 job review of Williams will be completed by this fall and it should cost significantly less. The chair said use of a consultant for the next review has already been recommended.

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