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## NEWS

# HCDSB supports bell time review with aim to finding cash savings

By **Kathy Yanchus**  
Metroland Media

School bell times at both Halton public and Halton Catholic schools will be reviewed in a joint attempt to find cost efficiencies.

At its most recent meeting, the Halton Catholic board agreed to join the Halton public board in support of Halton Student Transportation Services' hiring a third-party consultant to undertake a bell time review.

The issue was brought forward by HDSB chair Kelly Amos at the annual HSTS planning and consultation meeting in March. HSTS — a consortium comprised of the two Halton school boards — transports more than 28,000 students on 453 routes daily at a cost of more than \$18 million a year.

Prior to the bell time analysis being un-

dertaken for both elementary and secondary schools, study parameters and a cost analysis will be brought before the board, said Paul McMahon, HCDSB's treasurer and superintendent of business services.

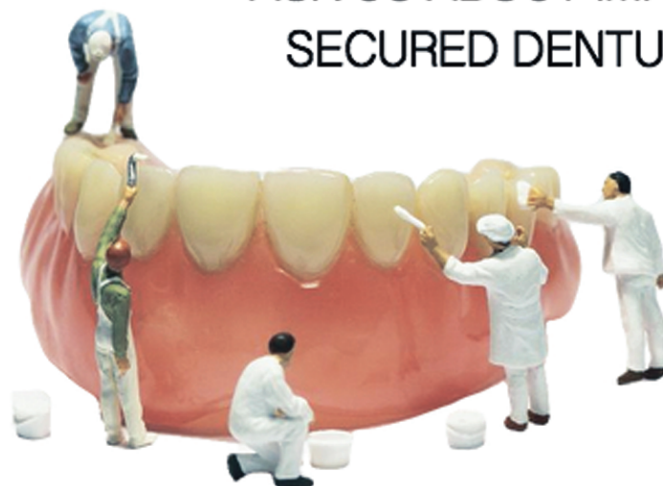
"One of the parameters might be that bell times not change by any more than 15 minutes, as an example. We want to make sure before we undertake the analysis that trustees are comfortable with that. We don't want to upset communities. We want to see if there are bell time efficiencies; we believe there is because we haven't done this in a long time."

With the average cost to run a school bus approximately \$45,000 annually, there are significant potential savings for both boards through bell time and route optimizations, states the Bell Time Efficiencies Review report brought before the boards



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