



Nikki Wesley/Metroland

Halton school boards are hopeful they can recoup the money lost during the period where there was no education development charge bylaw.

Halton school boards take a hit with approval of new bylaw

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The Ministry of Education has thrown the Halton Public and Catholic school boards the proverbial bone amid the recent absence of an Education Development Charges (EDC) bylaw - but the new bylaw that will come into effect this week does not include the rate increase initially proposed to the Ministry in March.

The bylaw's renewal was put on hold since June 24, as the Ministry awaited the new provincial government to be sworn in. The absence of the bylaw has resulted in an estimated loss of more than \$1.1 million for the two boards combined.

Last week, both boards voted in favour of the new bylaw, which will come into effect for the Catholic board on June 3 and the public board on June 4.

Halton District School Board consultant Jack Ammendolia, of Watson & Associates Economists Ltd., says he acknowledges that approving the bylaw with existing rates is not ideal, but says he believes it is the best option at this point in time.

"It doesn't reflect the increases that the board needs to cover land over the next several years. But as your consultant, the way I look at it is we need revenue coming in," Ammendolia told the board on June 29.

HDSB trustee Amy Collard says, while she supports the new bylaw, she does so reluctantly, as she believes it is a step backward for the board.

"Now we find ourselves stuck between a rock and a hard place, where we either can't collect any bylaw charges or we have to take this reduced rate. So, we are pretty much forced into a position of taking a loss," Collard said.

While the previous bylaw was in place for five years, the new bylaw will last up to one year with existing rates and Halton District School Board trustees have voted in favour of a motion to work with the Catholic board, the Ministry of Education

and new education minister Lisa Thompson in an attempt to move the EDC bylaw rates to those proposed earlier this year.

As part of the motion, the board will expect a report to be returned to them by the end of October 2018 at the latest.

The board has also voted in favour of working with the Catholic board and municipal partners to identify their options in regards to requesting the development community voluntarily remit funds lost during the absence of the bylaw.

"The whole point of having EDCs is so that private developer funds pay for land for public schools and so it would be a shame if the development companies, many who have probably built in these costs already, would be profiting off the backs of the school boards and the taxpayers," HDSB chair Andréa Grebenc said. "I hope we would see a donation or a voluntary contribution of EDCs, as this whole process has been out of the control of the board." With files from Saira Peesker

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Halton
District
School
Board

NOTICE OF PASSING

EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT CHARGES BY-LAW BY THE HALTON DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

TAKE NOTICE that the Halton District School Board passed an Education Development Charges By-law on the 29th day of June, 2018, under Section 257.54 of the Education Act;

AND TAKE NOTICE that any person or organization may appeal the By-law to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (formerly the Ontario Municipal Board) under Section 257.65 of the Act by filing with the Secretary of the Halton District School Board on or before the 8th day of August, 2018, a notice of appeal setting out the objection to the By-law and the reasons supporting the objection.

The By-law came into force on July 4, 2018 and has a term of one year. The education development charges imposed by the By-law are as follows:

- \$4,364.00 per dwelling unit in regard to residential development
- \$1.11 per square foot of gross floor area in regard to non-residential development

The education development charges are imposed on all development of lands in the Region of Halton. Accordingly, a key map showing the location of the lands subject to the By-law is not provided as part of this notice.

A copy of the complete By-law is available for examination in the offices of the Board located at the J.W. Singleton Education Centre, 2050 Guelph Line, Burlington, Ontario, during regular office hours or on the Board website at www.hdsb.ca.

Notice of a proposed by-law amending the education development charge by-law or the passage of such an amending by-law is not required to be given to any person or organization, other than to certain clerks of municipalities or secretaries of school boards, unless the person or organization gives the secretary of the Board a written request for notice or any amendments to the education development charge by-law and has provided a return address.

Dated at the City of Burlington this 12th day of July, 2018

Stuart Miller
Director of Education and Secretary to the Board

Please visit www.hdsb.ca for more information.