

Halton Board chooses words carefully

Exploring a 'confederation'

By CAROL BALDWIN

Special to The Independent/Free Press

The trustees of the Halton Board of Education unanimously voted to send a letter to the Roman Catholic School Board asking if it would be willing to amalgamate resources to avoid duplication and save money.

However, the word "amalgamation" in the motion by Milton trustee Tim Kingsbury was changed to "confederation" to avoid any misunderstandings the Roman Catholic board may have

about losing its Catholicity in the process.

"The intent is to benefit both the taxpayer and the children, not to reduce Catholic education as provided under the constitution," said Kingsbury.

Burlington trustee Joe Pavelka said his constituents were "tired of seeing duplication... I'm in full support of this motion."

A letter will be going out to the Roman Catholic Board of Education "for the express purpose of determining whether there is a

willingness to explore, then consider the confederation..."

However, officials for the Halton Roman Catholic School Board have stated they are not interested in merging with the Halton Board of Education.

Kingsbury based his motion on the fact the Ontario School Board Reduction Task Force has recommended a merger between the Halton, Hamilton, and Wentworth Catholic boards of education into one system of about 45,556 students.

Motion withdrawn

The story concerning the censuring of the chair of the Halton Board of Education in the Wednesday, Nov. 29th issue of the *Independent/Free Press*, stated that the motion to censure was defeated 10 to 8.

In fact, the motion was withdrawn; however, five trustees opposed that decision. Voting against the withdrawal of the motion to censure the chair were Halton Hills trustee Dick Howitt, Burlington trustee Linda Glover, Oakville trustee Penny Siebert and Milton trustees Flo Belford and Tim Kingsbury.

The *Independent/Free Press* regrets any misunderstanding or inconvenience this may have created.

No decision on future of Catholic JK program

No decisions about the Halton Roman Catholic School Board's Junior Kindergarten program are likely for another month, says director Fred Sweeney.

There has been concern the board may be forced to drop the Junior Kindergarten program if provincial funding cuts are severe enough.

Sweeney said an informational report on JK was discussed at the board's English

language section meeting Nov. 21.

"Our report outlined the ramifications if Junior Kindergarten is not funded," said Sweeney.

But the board is not planning any action until it finds out just what provincial funding cuts are being made.

Sweeney added the board may be able to deal with the subject at its Dec. 19 meeting.

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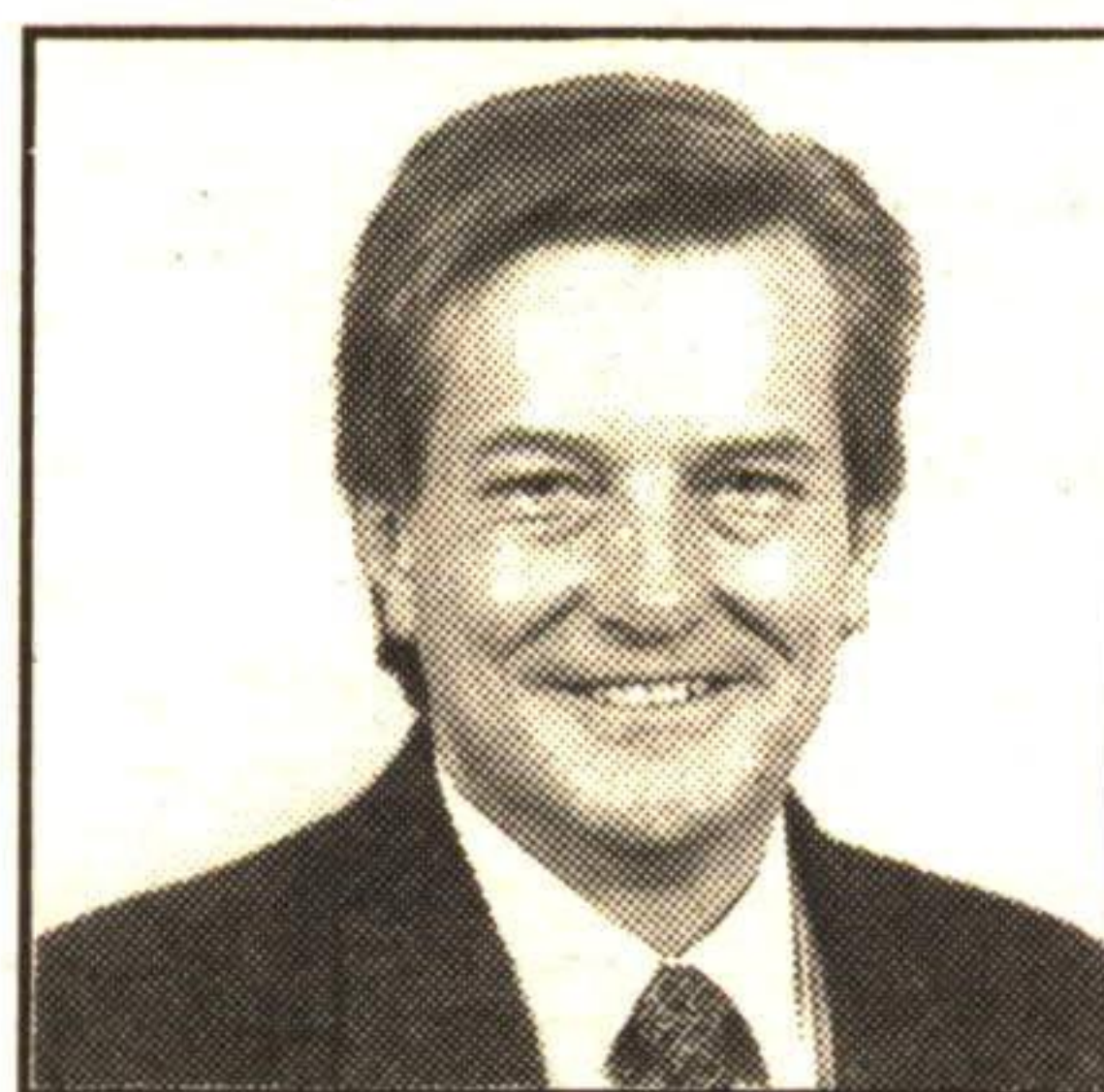
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