

First year cost will be almost \$11,000

Trustees to get home fax machines and phones

By TIM WHITNELL
Special

Halton District School Board trustees who want them can now get a separate phone line and fax machine installed in their home for business purposes.

A suggestion by Burlington trustee David Bird to make the communication equipment available to all trustees was passed by an 8-1 vote at Wednesday's full board meeting.

Only Burlington's Mike Ellis was against the idea.

Bird and most other trustees said increasing demands to be available to speak to the public,

and subsequent infringements on personal phone use, makes the added equipment necessary.

"I, like many people, have one phone in my house and it's in constant use. I believe I have missed a number of important calls," said Bird. "We are trustees of a multi-million dollar corporation and we should conduct ourselves as such. It is not an expenditure as much as it is an investment. It's cost-effective."

Bird said access to a fax machine will enable board administrators to send out

"At this point, I don't know where that money is coming from. It definitely won't come from classrooms."

—Education director
Dusty Papke



Oakville trustee Peter Petrusich said he gets so many calls on his family's phone line that he joked, "My wife probably knows some of my constituents on a first-name basis. I think what we are asking for is toward the

vote against the rental of the equipment, asked the board where the money would come from.

Education director Dusty Papke said Thursday he wasn't sure.

"At this point, I don't know where that money is coming from. It definitely won't come from classrooms. We do have a (operating) budget line for trustee expenses," he said, adding school board trustees in general don't exceed their expense budget.

Burlington trustee Sheila Flook's suggestion that trustees have their public service title listed by their name in future phone directories also received approval from the board.

changes to committee or board agendas or other notices quickly and avoid courier costs.

Trustee Sheila Flook gave the board, and the public, an example of her phone use.

"Since last Tuesday, I've received 53 incoming calls, lasting anywhere from five minutes to one hour," she said.

bottom end of the scale," he said.

Bird detailed the rental costs of a business phone line with call display and call answer features and a fax machine plus supplies for all 10 trustees. The first year, including initial installation, would cost \$10,893 with an annual cost thereafter of \$8,224.

Mike Ellis, the only trustee to

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