

Parents urged to 'be vocal'

The fate of a new public school for Georgetown South will be decided Wednesday and the prospects don't look good.

The Halton District School Board will make its final decision on the accommodation process at Wednesday's board meeting. The decision boils down to this: in order to meet provincial requirements for funding for a new school, the board must close Fairfield Public School in Burlington and Oakwood Public School in Oakville.

That motion barely squeaked through committee by a 5-4 margin, but Oakville Trustee Lynn Roberts was absent for the vote. A tie on Wednesday would defeat the motion, leaving the board short of the criteria for provincial grants.

Halton Hills Trustee and board chair Ethel Gardiner said she understands why trustees voted the way they did.

"They advocating for those peo-

ple they represent and that's understandable," she said. "But, I think we have to have a regional perspective and we know we can't build until we close (schools)."

Gardiner said all but one Georgetown school is at or above capacity and without a new school the board will need about 50 portables— at a cost of \$60,000 each— to accommodate students in the next few years.

Gardiner and Valerie Pakkala, the school council chair for Centennial Middle School, are encouraging parents to attend the meeting.

"We need a show of support for getting a new school up here," Pakkala said. "We need people to be vocal and make sure the board is working at making a decision for the whole region."

The meeting will be held at the Singleton Centre, 2050 Guelph Line, Burlington. It begins at 8 p.m. but seating will be limited.

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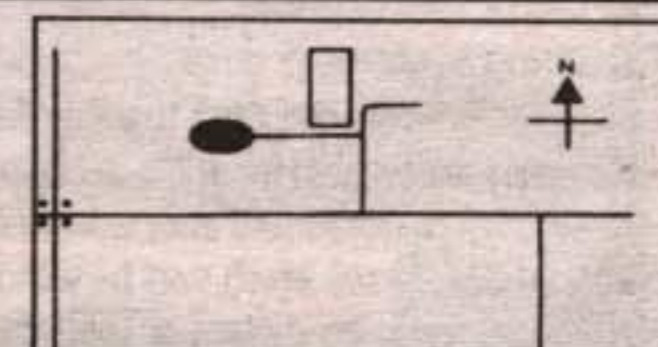
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