

Board explores return of JK

The Halton District School Board has taken the next step on the road to reinstatement of Junior Kindergarten.

Trustees at Wednesday's board meeting gave the go-ahead to senior administration to more thoroughly investigate the logistical and financial implications of bringing JK back to the public board.

A Nov. 15 deadline has been given to education superintendent Paul Anthony to prepare a report outlining the steps necessary to begin a phased-in implementation of JK beginning in September 2000.

Halton is one of only three school boards of 72 in Ontario that does not offer classroom instruction to four-year-olds. Halton's Catholic board does offer JK.

The public board had introduced a JK program in 1994 but cancelled it two years later when funding was reduced and the legislated requirement to provide the program was rescinded.

Anthony told trustees the \$6.43 million in Ministry of Education early learning grants — which funds the primary grades JK-3 — remains fixed whether JK is offered or not. Therefore, there would not be an infusion of new money by simply adding the grade.

"What we would be doing is shifting resources from other areas. It's a balancing act," Anthony said of funding implications. He acknowledged, generally, that early learning classes in Grades 1-3 would be affected to some degree, possibly via altered class sizes.

A preliminary report prepared in June esti-

mated gross costs of \$12.98 million to accommodate the 126 JK classes that would be needed based on a projected enrolment of 2,500 half-day students (20:1 student:staff ratio).

About \$5 million of the total cost is devoted to 70 teaching staff and 16 early learning teachers. Portables and existing classroom conversions to JK specifications would gobble up another estimated \$4.4 million.

After factoring in the Ministry's \$6.43 million early learning grant, the board would be left with a shortfall of \$6.55 million if it hopes to introduce JK next September.

Trustees directed Anthony to come up with a plan that would see JK brought back initially based on school/community need and the availability of appropriate physical space.

Burlington trustee Michael Ellis asked the superintendent if he had tried to look at ways to reduce the financial obligation. Anthony said he had no suggestions at this point but would be working on different scenarios.

"We should lobby the new Minister (Janet Ecker) to see if there are new funds we can get for the implementation of JK," Ellis told his colleagues, with no response.

The next day Ellis said he didn't see the harm in asking Ecker to consider Halton's situation. Since it is only one of three boards not offering JK, and in light of the recent McCain/Mustard report on early learning that praised JK programs, Ellis believes lobbying the government is worth a try.

—By Tim Whitnell, special



CANADIAN TIRE

Garden Centre

Fall Specials

GARDEN MUMS Assorted Colours 2 Gal. 4⁹⁹ Reg. 5.99 337801	GARDEN MUMS In Terra Cotta Pots 3 Gal. 9⁹⁹ Reg. 12.99 337802	FALL ASTERS 3⁹⁹ 337804
PANSY BOWLS OR DUTCH KETTLES Your Choice 12⁹⁹ Filled with beautiful fall flowers. 337807		
<h2 style="margin: 0;">CLEARANCE!</h2>		
10" ASSORTED TROPICALS 9⁹⁹ Reg. 14.99 332413	9 CM PERENNIALS 1⁵⁹ Reg. 1.99 333900	11 CM PERENNIALS 2⁹⁹ Reg. 4.99 334300
15 CM PERENNIALS 4⁹⁹ Reg. 7.99 334400	3 GALLON HOSTA'S 9⁹⁹ Reg. 14.99 334905	DWARF ALBERTA SPRUCE 2 Gal. 16⁹⁹ Reg. 24.99 337006
NEST SPRUCE 13⁹⁹ Reg. 19.99 336621	BLUE CHIP JUNIPER 12⁹⁹ Reg. 17.99 336611	EVONYMUS 2 Gal. 9⁹⁹ Reg. 16.99 337407
<h2 style="margin: 0;">JUST ARRIVED!</h2>		
MINI STRAW BALES 5⁹⁹ 337808	CORN STALK BUNDLES 6⁹⁹ 337810	FALL WEED & FEED 9 kg bag 8⁹⁹ 592316
<h2 style="margin: 0;">315 GUELPH STREET, GEORGETOWN</h2>		



TOWN OF HALTON HILLS

Working Together Working for You!

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

RECREATION & PARKS DEPARTMENT requires a **FACILITY OPERATOR - FULL TIME / ARENAS**

Under the direction of an Arena Facility Supervisor, the Facility Operator will perform maintenance and other facility operational duties as required in the safe operation of an arena, community centres, and pools.

GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS

- * possess a valid Ontario Driver's licence and able to operate ice resurfacing equipment
- * able to work with minimal supervision
- * able to converse effectively and cordially with the public
- * willingness to work shifts, including some weekends
- * mechanically inclined
- * possess skills and knowledge in carpentry, mechanical and electrical disciplines
- * building cleaning and general maintenance experience

EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

- * High School Diploma
- * refrigeration training course(s) as offered by the O.R.F.A. or equivalent preferred
- * Class B refrigeration certification or Stationary Engineers 4th Class certification required
- * Current first aid, C.P.R. and W.H.M.I.S. training
- * Pool Operator training and experience

WAGE

- * 3 months probationary period
- * facility operator rate as specified in the Collective Agreement between the Town of Halton Hills and C.U.P.E. Local 73.

Interested applicants should submit a complete resumé with references, together with a letter of application in their own handwriting, to be received no later than **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1999** at 4:30 p.m. Please direct all applications to:

Town of Halton Hills
Mr. M. Cohen, Personnel Officer
P.O. Box #128,
1 Halton Hills Drive
Halton Hills (Georgetown), Ontario L7G 5G2

Personal information is collected under the authority of the Municipal Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter M.45, and will be used to select a candidate. Questions regarding this collection should be directed to the Personnel Officer. Only those persons being interviewed will be contacted. 167

TENDER

Sealed Tenders clearly marked as to contents, will be received by the Purchasing Agent until 2:00 p.m., local time on **September 30, 1999**, for **Snow Clearing Services** reference number T-072-968-99. This tender will include services for the Town of Halton Hills, Halton Hills Hydro, and the Halton Police Services, Georgetown location.

Tender documents can be obtained at the Town of Halton Hills, Finance Department. Inquiries relating to the tender should be directed to Sharon Collie, ext. 272.

Facsimile bids will not be accepted. Lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted. 165

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

RE:
MAJOR INDOOR RECREATION FACILITY STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS

Date: Monday, September 20, 1999
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Location: Civic Centre
1 Halton Hills Drive
Halton Hills (Georgetown)
Purpose: To consider the Major Indoor Recreation Facility Study Recommendations

Copies of the staff report are available from the Clerk's Department, Civic Centre, 1 Halton Hills Drive, Halton Hills (Georgetown).

If you wish to appear as a delegation at this meeting, please register with Barbara McEwan, Town Clerk (905) 873-2601, ext. 337, by noon, **Thursday, September 16, 1999.**

PUBLIC WELCOME

166

Skeletons

in your closet?



Research confirms that regular "weight bearing activity" (walking, dancing) will help build and preserve healthy bones.

Bone up on the facts!

Sharing a Healthier Future™