

Board's new money manager to start Nov. 1

One of the first crucial assignments for the Halton District School Board's new top money manager will be to figure out the Ontario Ministry of Education's plan to fund new school construction, according to board chair Paul Tate.

The board recently announced the hiring of Steven Parfeniuk as the superintendent of business, effective Nov. 1.



STEVEN PARFENIUK

Parfeniuk is currently employed by the Lakehead District School Board as superintendent of corporate services, a post he has held since 2000.

"I'm very excited about coming here," he said. "I'm looking forward to getting my hands dirty and feet wet, so to speak."

The position as head of business—which last year paid \$128,000 plus benefits—has sat vacant in Halton since June when Carla Kisko announced she was leaving for the Toronto public school board.

Filling the position has been particularly vital to a regional board that has been waiting for the provincial government to spell out specifically how it will receive funding to build desperately-needed elementary schools.

Funding formula changes announced in February no longer require boards to close schools to free up pupil spaces to qualify for new-school funding.

Since Halton is among the fastest growing school boards in Ontario, it needs to urgently build elementary schools, including four by the end of 2007—one in each of Halton's four municipalities.

Tate said the hiring of Parfeniuk, who has worked with the province's ministries of education and finance, will put the board in a better position to understand the government's long-term plan to fund the building of new schools.

Parfeniuk said he realizes there are accommodation pressures facing the board and he will be making clear to the provincial government that these issues need to be "resolved in the near future."

—By Jason Misner, special

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