

Halton Board of Education

Says music program here "substandard"

Halton Board of Education will attempt to provide answers for a set of recommendations aimed at improving opportunities for music instruction in Halton schools.

A brief presented by Mrs. C. Gooding on behalf of a group of citizens outlined what they felt was a substandard music program in Halton schools.

The brief outlined what sort of instruction should be made available in the various grades at the elementary school level.

Provide cost estimates

In addition to that the brief outlined equipment available, equipment needed and provided approximate costs.

"The opportunity should be available to all children to learn an instrument at an age when the skill is best acquired. Qualified specialist teachers should be sought by consultants and principals to offer small group instruction in such instruments as piano (as currently available at E. J. James school in Oakville), recorder, violin, guitar, etc. as an elective to supplement and enrich the classroom program at the parents' expense.

"This would enable many more children to learn an instrument at a far cheaper rate than is at present possible through private instruction. Classroom teachers should then encourage the children to use their instruments in the class music program. Scholarships could be sought through service clubs, home and school associations, and foundations to enable children who cannot afford even \$1 or \$2 per week to take part if they are keenly interested.

Develop talent

"The public school cannot attempt to train virtuosos but it should give a chance for the musical child to show his talents and start to develop them. Parents will usually give their support once they know in what direction their child's talents lie.

Mrs. Gooding offered the assistance of her committee and a number of volunteers in setting up the program and in working with the board in any way to provide a better music program.

Board chairman Bill Priestner commended the delegation on the constructive attitudes expressed and for allowing a reasonable amount of time for the board to work on the request and file a report with the group.

Urge common assault to protest Bill 275

Halton Board of Education should meet with both elementary and secondary teachers in the region with a view to launching a common assault against the provincial government as a protest against Bill 275. That statement was made by Bill Priestner, chairman of the Halton Board at Thursday's meeting.

That bill would commit both teachers and trustees to binding arbitration. Chairman Priestner said the legislation, if enacted, would erode the role of the trustee with regard to responsibility and accountability.

Priestner noted that while the bill commits both sides to binding arbitration it doesn't rule out strikes or contain any statement about management rights.

Ratio is sacred cow

Priestner said that under no conditions should the pupil-teacher ratio become a negotiable item. "That is a sort of sacred cow and if we give up that, we give up the right to manage the schools to a certain extent."

The pupil-teacher ratio has a direct bearing on how many teachers are required for a school of children and in turn it has a direct result on the budget.

Some alternative to binding compulsory arbitration should be found, Priestner said. The legislation is expected to be dealt with in the legislature this spring.

Education Minister Thomas Wells introduced legislation in December that would have withdrawn the right to strike or to mass resignation for teachers. That bill was eventually withdrawn.

Consider Nassagaweya industry site

Members of Halton Regional Planning Committee expressed concern about road access, water and sewer supplies last week when they considered an application for a re-zoning and an amendment to the official plan in Nassagaweya Township.

Nassagaweya Council had processed the application from Bertram Day to have the 92 acres re-zoned and the official plan amended. The industrial use for the land. It is now zoned agricultural.

The first time the matter went before the regional planners they passed it over, noting the staff or the committee were not in a position to comment. Regional council sent the report back to committee and asked a report be made.

Several objections were made during the public hearing in Nassagaweya last year.

James and Margaret Allsop told the committee in a letter they objected to the additional traffic that would be generated because of an

industrial mall being located there.

During his presentation solicitor Rick Day told the committee an access road could be built to alleviate most of the traffic that would go near the Allsop home.

The site is situated north of Highway 401 and just west of the Mohawk Inn. The Allsop home is to the north of the property in question and at the corner of the Second Line and the 10th Sideroad.

Rick Day, the solicitor is also a Milton councillor and son of the applicant. He explained he had tried to arrange a different lawyer to take the case and make representation but had been unable to locate one in the time available.

Day said the site would be good industrial land because it was unsuitable for farming or housing and had good transportation connections. He noted the CPR tracks and Highway 401 abutted the property.

He envisioned something similar to the Alliance industrial plaza in Milton. He

noted there was sufficient land to allow screening and berming.

Day pointed out the land was surrounded by a quarry, a four lane highway, future site of the hydro line and an uninhabited farm. He noted the Allsop home was the only property that would be affected in any way.

The committee asked to have a report from the Ministry of the Environment discussing the requirements for water, sewer facilities and an access road.

Councillor Mary Munro suggested holding the project

up until the whole area could be considered. She objected to piecemeal changes in the official plan.

HALTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT

Board under budget

Halton Board of Education will be within budget for the 1973 operation, trustees learned at their meeting Thursday in Burlington.

Superintendent of Business and Finance Bruce Lindley told the Board that spendings in the elementary school panel exceeded budgets by \$108,000 and schools for the trainable retarded exceeded budgets by \$16,000. Lindley noted however, that spendings at the secondary level were under budget estimates by \$338,000.

In the coming weeks the board will develop a budget for 1974. Halton Hills trustee Tom Watson is chairman of the committee working on the budget.

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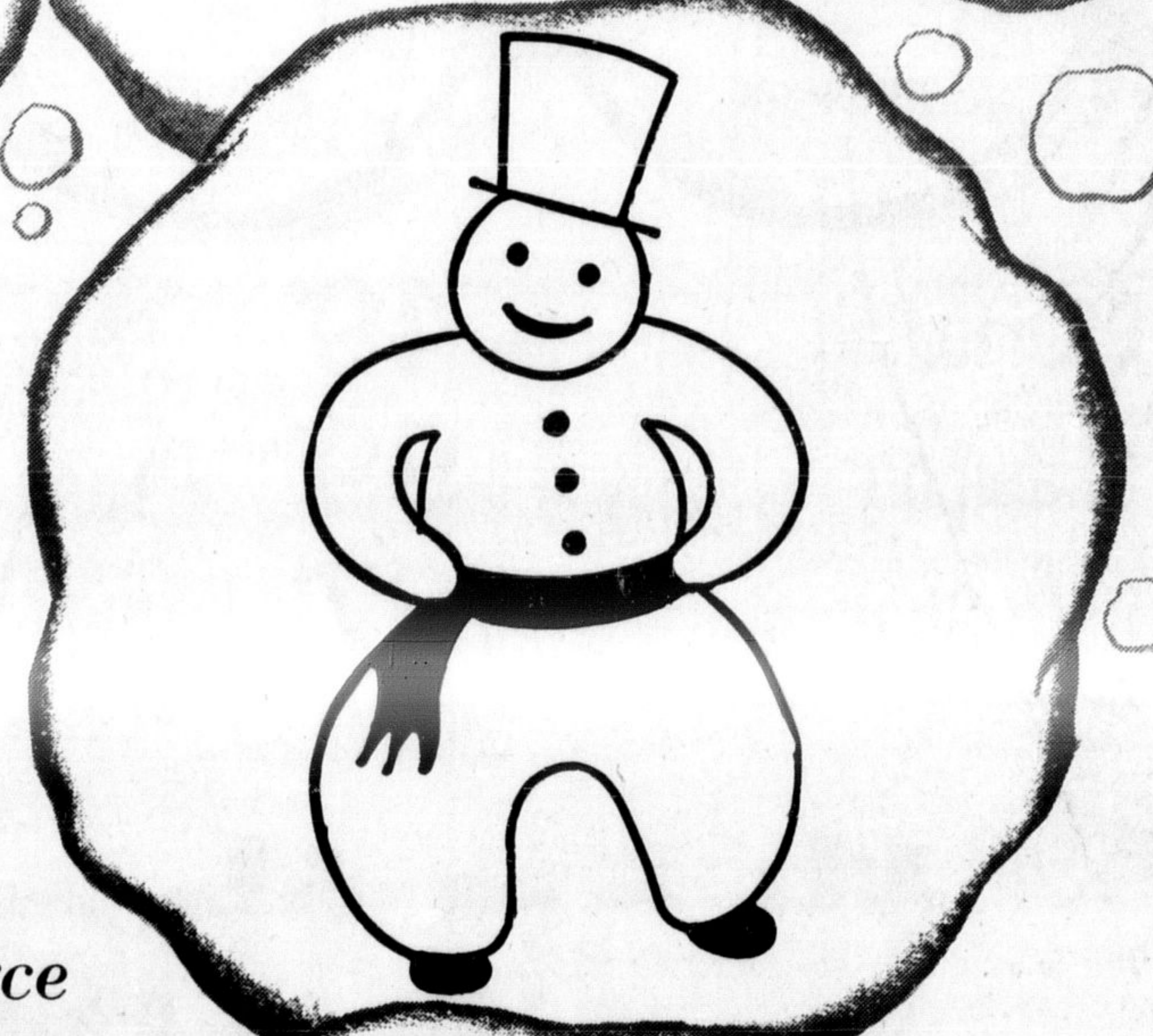
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