

Supports teachers

Administrators after fame, glory as innovators Hinton charges

Acton-Esqueing Trustee Bert Hinton thinks board administrators are pushing ahead with the switch in nine Halton high schools from the department head system to chairmanship in a bid for "fame and glory as innovators."

Thursday Hinton broke away from the board's united front favoring chairmanships. In a prepared statement for the press he said the re-organization "disturbs" him.

Six Halton high schools have voluntarily dropped the department head system in favor of chairmanships and now the board is ordering the nine high schools which haven't reorganized to switch to chairmanships next fall.

The Halton branch of Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation opposes mandatory reorganization. The OSSTF claims chairmanships aren't educationally sound.

Local federation officials enlisted the support of provincial federation officials last month and the OSSTF placed an embargo on the Halton board preventing its members from applying for chairmanship positions in Halton.

The board, in turn, has filed a grievance because it believes the embargo is a violation of its management rights and the whole question

will be the subject of an arbitration board hearing.

In his statement Hinton noted chairmanships had been a major campaign issue with him and said he has gained further insight into the dispute between the board and its teachers following behind closed doors board meetings this month.

"This disturbs me as I'm sure it will disturb other trustees, especially those who voted against this change in 1973," Hinton stated.

He says many parents don't agree with the change especially since they have become aware that the chairmanship system is experimental.

Noting the teachers are strongly opposed to reorganization, Hinton said teachers know the schools and the direction education should take.

He said parents are concerned about the change since it will hurt the quality of education in Halton.

Naming former Director of Education Jim Singleton and ex-Superintendent of Instruction Ori Gilmore as the architects of chairmanships, Hinton observed "the people who originally conceived this concept and those who have followed have not taught in the classroom for years."

"The thought which constantly runs through my mind at the staff's persistence and

anxiety to rush through and foist this concept on our education system is are they fighting for fame and glory as innovators."

Hinton suggested the quest for "fame and glory as innovators" is the reason the administration and trustees "cannot heed reason and take the time for evaluation" of reorganization at the six schools which have switched over.

He said he is trying his best to see both sides of the question and constantly "looking for a way which is reasonable, safe and responsible" to solve the mess.

The whole subject came up

when Hinton tried to make a comment in response to a question to the board from an Oakville resident but was told unless the question was directed to an individual trustee the chairman responds for the board.

Hinton noted the views Chairman Garry Morton expressed were those of the old board. Since there was a new board it was a whole new ball game.

Morton responded that until the trustees have a chance to debate the question as chairman he will provide what has to be still considered the board's view.

Morton said reorganization

would provide better program co-ordination for the students and improve the quality of leadership in Halton high schools.

He stated the board believes with fewer leaders in each school planning will be easier and there will be more money available at each school since not as much will be spent on responsibility pay. He said this extra money could be spent in a number of different, highly beneficial ways at each school.

Morton said the board feels the change is in accordance with the Education Act since the board is simply changing the title from head to chairman and substituting area of study for department.

Morrow urges

Four new councillors on Bill 151 committee

Regional chairman Ric Morrow thinks the views of some of Halton Region's new councillors should be reflected in the report which the Bill 151 review committee will present to council this year.

He is recommending to administration committee and regional council that Councillors Roy Booth, Halton Hills; Laurie Mannell,

Oakville; Walter Mulewich, Burlington; and Milton Mayor Don Gordon be added to the committee.

Morrow has also suggested newly-elected Burlington Mayor Mary Munro replace former mayor George Harrington on the committee.

Councillors Pat McKenzie, Halton Hills; Jim Watson, Milton; and Oakville Mayor Harry Barrett are expected

to return to the committee.

By suggesting membership be expanded from four to eight councillors, Morrow says he is hoping to get a blend of veterans and rookies.

The Bill 151 review committee was set up last year to examine legislation which set up regional government in Halton to see if there are ways to improve it, including elimination of duplication.

Manor history

Halton Centennial Manor Director Stan Allen traced the history of the development of the home in Halton and touched on the trend towards more demand for full nursing care.

Planning Director Ed Cumming reviewed frustrations in starting a whole new department. He said current plans would see the official plan ready for presentation in draft form during the summer. He said the use and preservation of prime agricultural land is one of the most thorny issues his department faces.

He acknowledged there seemed to be much support

Morrow strives for fuller understanding

In an effort to provide regional councillors with a fuller understanding of the whole region, newly elected chairman Ric Morrow will invite representatives of related agencies to speak on a rotating basis at council meetings.

He said representatives of the Children's Aid Society, Halton Police Commission, Land Division Committee and the Conservation Authorities would be invited.

Morrow acknowledged that council neither controlled or was immediately concerned with those bodies, but he felt council could operate better as a unit if it had a fuller understanding in those areas.

Speaking at a staff council seminar, the new chairman said he would be sending out forms on which councillors could identify the priorities as they see them for the next two years.

barely finished setting an amiable tone for the meeting when Councillor Archie Donaghey rose on a point of personal privilege.

He used his point of privilege to ask Morrow if he could provide written assurance that the physical and mental pressures of his job of chairman wouldn't jeopardize the safety of any of his passengers. (Morrow is a commercial pilot.)

Silliest ever

Before Morrow could answer, Councillor Mac Anderson jumped to his feet to say it was the silliest point of personal privilege he'd ever heard.

Morrow smiled and agreed to provide the letter Donaghey had requested. Donaghey had been a diehard Al Masson supporter and his challenge passed without any other comment.

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At high schools

Health services trimmed staff to provide first aid

Despite concern among Halton high school principals, Halton Board of Education went ahead Thursday night and approved a plan which will see Halton Health Unit nurses working in the 14 regular schools on a part-time basis.

High school principals presented a brief recently asking the board to put nurses back in the schools full time.

The board also approved plans which will see the health services arrangement with the Health Unit reviewed in June, 1978, and at least two staff members of each high school will have first aid training the trustees decided.

Trustee Bill Lawson said the Health Unit bears the full cost of health services provided to schools and Director of Education Em Lavender stated that when the board hired its own nurses it cost \$80,000 a year. Lavender warned a factor in the evaluation slated for June, 1978, will be what financial restrictions are plaguing the Health Unit at that time.

It is surprising more teachers, especially those involved in physical education, don't have first aid training, Trustee Ivan Armstrong stated.

Trustee Florence Mears said she thought with half-time service from the Health Unit Halton schools were pretty well off, noting many Ontario schools don't have any kind of health services.

Trustee Elsie Hilson said she has talked to many teachers, students, parents and nurses and almost everyone agrees health services in high schools are inadequate.

She said she couldn't believe the board could spend so much time talking about the possible purchase of a \$300,000 computer which could very well be obsolete before it is paid for, and at the same time consider cutting back on health services and forcing teachers to provide first aid.

"I don't like the idea at all. Teachers shouldn't be responsible for first aid," she declared.

Trustee Len Crosier suggested the board consider spending \$68,000 a year so the Health Unit can provide full time service to the schools but was talked out of it by trustee Bert Hinton who said Health Unit services are a

regional budget concern.

Hinton stated the region is in charge of the Health Unit and should be supporting it financially.

"If we pay for half our health services now it won't be long before the region will give it all to us to pay for," Hinton declared.

He expressed concern about "Rumors of a ghastly \$80 million" budget and suggested if parents feel there isn't adequate health service in the schools they should go complain to the region.

"The board can't motherhood every issue that comes along," Hinton complained.

Trustee Bill Priestner said the board didn't have a lot of options. It either accepted the Health Unit proposal or else get back to hiring its own nurses, which would be costly.

Staff members who are trained in first aid shouldn't both be in the physical education department since they might both be away from the school at the time with teams and then there wouldn't be anyone around to handle an emergency, Trustee Cameron Jackson cautioned.

Noting principals and teachers are opposed to schools being required to have staff trained in first aid, Trustee Bill Herd wondered how anyone could expect the plan to work.

Lawson said the board expects its principals, as managers of the schools, to handle any emergency and comply with the board's directives.

Hinton said he thought as managers of the schools the principals could handle the

situation. Common sense should tell the board to simply leave the problems in the principal's hands.

"We have confidence in the principals and things like this take care of themselves. It is ridiculous to legislate a solution because it will just create other problems," Hinton stated.

Lawson said the Health Unit would appreciate any support the board could provide in persuading the province and region to loosen the purse strings.

Hinton said any petitions from the board should be to the regional health services.



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