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Board plans to spend \$93 million

Halton Board of Education proposes to spend \$93,782,938 this year, or slightly more than eight per cent over last year's budget.

The board's finance committee presented its proposals during a special meeting Thursday at Burlington. If a dollar could be stretched a mile, the budget would reach the sun from earth. Put another way, the school board would spend \$256,938 each day.

Last year Halton board spent \$86,703,562. The 8.16 per cent hike in this year's possible expenses could represent a \$35 increase in public school taxes. That figure is based on a five mill on the average Halton home assessment of \$7,000.

The revenue side of the school board budget is scheduled to be presented next week.

Plant operation and instruction, mainly teacher wages, eat up slightly more than 83 per cent of proposed expenses. Other large items are debt charges at \$6-million and transportation at \$2,197,251. The least costly items are attendance, health and food services which total \$65,370.

The cost of one pupil in elementary school this year is estimated to be 11.43 per cent more than last year or \$1,663.98. The high school student is slightly lower on the percentage, 8.07, but still will cost \$2,314.05.

For the first time Halton's high school budget exceeded provincial ceilings on expenditures per student. Finance committee chairman Gary Morton said the group was disappointed it could not keep the cost under the limit—which was surpassed by \$28. Expenditures per pupil at the elementary school level are \$58 below the ceiling, said Mr. Morton.

In preparing the budget Mr. Morton said the committee kept in mind inflation, rising cost of services and the decrease in provincial grants.

Trustees and committee honorariums are the only items to remain at the same cost as last year—\$137,820—Mr. Morton pointed out.

Retirement gratuities which Burlington trustee William Priestner described as becoming fairly significant will grow by about \$60,000 to \$266,000 this year. The gratuities are offered to plant staff and teachers.

On a question from Milton separate school trustee John Bradley, Superintendent of Instruction John Boich said the staff does not see, on cost, an advantage in encouraging early retirements, though the board has examined the idea and may take it up again.

For about two years the board has hired mainly newer teachers,

teachers have \$100,000 for professional development.

The \$37,000 is for "professional development" of principals, vice-principals, and generally non-classroom staff, according to Mr. Boich. The cost of this form of professional development goes up and down, said the superintendent, Friday.

About \$33,000 was to be the saving incurred by the board when it persuaded high school teachers to take a \$100,000 lump sum payment rather than a formula to determine professional development fund.

Spied in the elementary school budget was a proposed \$7,000 study on the value of middle schools. Acton-Esqueing trustee Betty Fisher asked why. Program superintendent Robert Dixon said the staff would like to look at the "pay-off" of the present middle schools. The study is marked subject to board approval.

"So you're looking at it under the assumption middle schools are beneficial—just how beneficial," said Mrs. Fisher.

The combined elementary-high school cost of psychological services this year is up by more than \$100,000. Most of the money, \$52,026 is earmarked for the elementary schools.

Insurance of the public schools and contests is estimated to be \$101,540 and for high schools \$113,370. Last year's price tag for insurance was \$93,883 and \$104,955 respectively.

While Oakville trustee Jackie Cutmore informed trustees there is complete surveillance equipment in the schools there is a total of about \$43,000 set aside for it this year.

Milton trustee Bradley also questioned the staff concerning W.I. Dick School and Sixteen-Mile Creek. There is some money pending, according to the trustee.

Superintendent of Finance Bruce Lindley said that in 1977 an appraisal indicated the conservation authority would straighten out the creek. A figure was established, but nothing more has been heard from the matter from the conservation authority, said Mr. Lindley.

Why have some homeowners settled, and the school board not, asked Mr. Bradley.

Mr. Lindley indicated he heard a rumor to the effect the conservation authority might want to get the land for \$1.

"They certainly didn't get it for a buck from the homeowners," replied the trustee.

Scout fun

There was plenty of activity in the pool at Ernest C. Drury School Saturday afternoon as members of the Milton Scout movement turned out in force for an afternoon fun swim.

Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Venturers, Rovers and leaders were out for some friendly competition and fun, explained Isobel Hickson, assistant district commissioner for the Beavers.

"It gives the boys a chance to realize they belong to a larger organization than just their own group," she said.

In past years, the popular local movement held "swimathons" but due to lack of participation, the leaders decided a fun event would enjoy better success.

Annual "fling" enjoys success

Modern square dancing is alive and well, reports Thelma Bousfield, president of Milton's Scotch Block Square Dancing Club.

Over 20 couples attended the group's sixth annual "Fling" at Martin St. School Saturday evening.

Square dance fans attended from Toronto, Oakville, Elora, Hamilton, Oshawa and the surrounding district.

Calling for the dances was Don Sherlock, member of the Arrowhead Squares in Mississauga and instructor for the Milton group.

The evening included special demonstrations such as the Double Tea Cup Chain performed by two squares from Arrowhead Squares.

The Milton group holds weekly lessons for both "mainstream" level and the novice class.

The club hopes to hold an open house in May for interested individuals.

Classes run from September to May.

Those interested in joining are asked to phone one of the following numbers for more information: 878-9207, 878-9394, 877-2332 or 854-2407.

'Sweatbox' correction

Last week's story on the acquittal of two Milton police officers incorrectly stated Judge William Colter blamed the officers for shutting a cab window between themselves and the inmates. The judge's report stated he did not blame the officers for shutting the window.

—Tridents are playing Paris 29'ers in the Intermediate playoffs.

THE PRESIDENT AND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF

THE CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY OF THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF HALTON

cordially invite you and your friends to attend the

ANNUAL MEETING
on Monday, March 12, 1979 at 8:00 p.m.
in the AUDITORIUM — Halton Centennial Manor
185 Ontario Street (Hwy. 25), Milton, Ontario

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS:
Bruce Heath, M.S.W.
Associate Director of Child Welfare
Ministry of Community & Social Services, Province of Ontario

— and —
His Honour A. James Fuller
Judge
Juvenile and Family Division, Provincial Court of Halton

TOPIC: NEW LAWS ABOUT KIDS
IMPLICATIONS OF THE CHILD WELFARE ACT
Rationale, Impact, Service, Cost

Mr. Bryan Clarke
President

★ ★ EVERYONE WELCOME ★ ★

Treasurer,
The Children's Aid Society of the Regional Municipality of Halton,
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Health and Welfare Canada
Monique Begin Minister

Santé et Bien-être social Canada