

# Trustees will admit students to school board

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plus selection and approval procedures, were among the concerns expressed at Wednesday's meeting.

Education Director Dusty Papke suggested there be two student representatives so they could commiserate and support each other.

#### Two better than one

He was backed by Burlington Trustee David Abbott, who recalled his experience as the sole student representative on Sheridan College's Board of Governors.

"You'll get a pat on the back and have your opinion and they say they'll decide later on," he said. "But there's a tendency to take two more seriously. When they have the same voice, representatives of students have to be taken seriously."

But there was concern dealing with two student representatives would be timeconsuming for trustees.

### Some hesitation

"We have seven new trustees out of 10 and major issues left, right and centre. We need to concentrate on the issues," said Burlington Trustee Sheila Flook. "I believe two students at times could be double the work."

She suggested starting with one student trustee and perhaps going to two after a year. Eventually the committee recommended having a minimum of one and a maximum of two student representatives.

Trustees also debated whether student applicants should need reference letters from their principal or vice-principal.

It was argued this could help ensure the nominee balance all their responsibilities.

"Some people have a tendency to take on more than they can handle," said Burlington Trustee Michael Ellis. "We don't want the student's marks to drop."

But trustees eventually voted the endorsement letter should come from the student council.

"They should truly be representative of students and not someone supported or promoted by staff," said Oakville Trustee Marianne Hawthorne.

Trustees recommended all student nominees should come to committee-of-thewhole and make a brief presentation. Then trustees would choose the student representative or representatives in a private vote.



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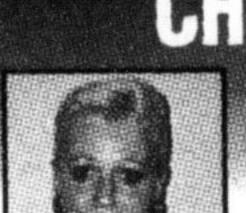


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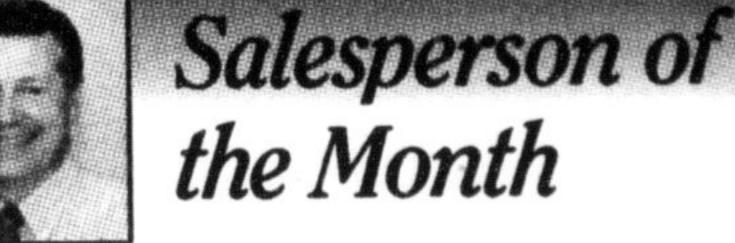
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