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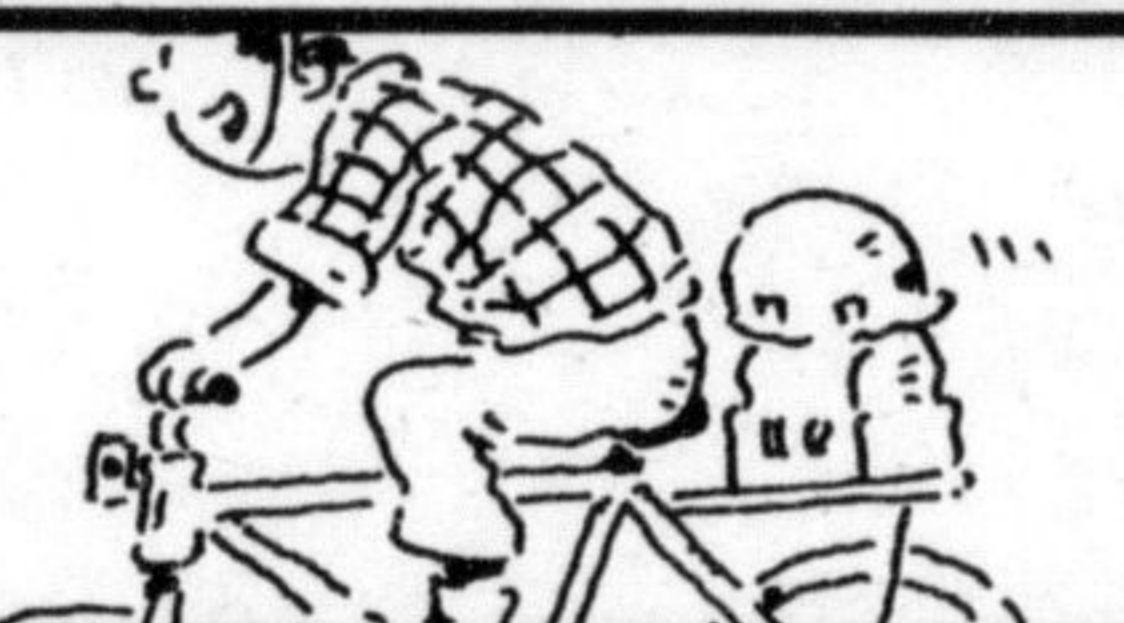
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MPP and school board official differ on cuts

• from YOUNG on page 1

programs, let them open up their books and I'd be happy to assemble a team of individuals here in the community with management expertise to review their spending and find the money for them by saving money outside the classroom," Mr. Young said.

"We've been given figures from the government for our 1997 expenditures that don't match ours," Dr. Papke said.

"But the government has taken over some responsibility so the numbers don't add up. We've been given the message over and over that we must become more efficient and that's what we're trying to do."

Mr. Young also said the government has added roughly \$3 million more in the public board's classrooms in 1998-99 and \$100 million was committed for new books and supplies in the 1998 budget.

As for the programs in question, Dr. Papke says Halton is not alone, and there should be guidelines in place by the fall to ease the impact of the cancellations.

"There is nothing in the formula to cause the cancellation of any program or activity," the statement continues.

"Most boards have already made these cuts and we're one of the last," Dr. Papke said.

But Dr. Papke said he doesn't feel the matter is quite that simple and says there are certain areas where the board's hands are tied.

"I don't want to imply that these programs are not beneficial, but some difficult decisions had to be made around the funding model and staffing requirements."

"The funding comes in envelopes and some are sealed, while others have some flexibility," Dr. Papke explained.

"In the new Ontario curriculum many of the learning outcomes for design and technology are dealt with in the science program, and although the document has not been released, I've been told by the Education Improvement Commission office that family studies will be part of the social studies program," he explained.

"But new rules for class size, for example, do not allow the flexibility purported to be there."

"It will still be delivered, but we have to do it differently."

Elementary classes will be restricted to 25 students each beginning in the fall, while secondary schools will be limited to a student/teacher ratio of 22 to 1.

Mr. Young said that's fine if it works, but he feels that the cuts, along with layoff notices given to 273 permanent and contract instructional assistants in late April, weren't the only options available to the board.

It's this type of change, along with outstanding funding questions that have forced the board to make some unpopular choices according to Dr. Papke.

"This is a board that currently has four mothballed schools, and the last figures I saw show they spend \$2 million a year on retirement gratuities which is a totally outmoded idea. There need to be benchmarks set."

"About \$8 million of our funding for special education, for example, is based on successfully applying for it," Dr. Papke explained. "If we get everything we can apply for, we'll get \$24 million for special education, but last year we spent \$33 million."

"They also don't have to provide final figures on the number of identified special needs students until the end of June, and that is when funding will be determined. The notices to the instructional assistants were premature."

The Halton board had a total of \$280 million in expenditures last year, and is slated to receive \$242 million this year.

Mr. Young said he welcomes the opportunity to discuss the matter further, and he will be responding to Dr. Papke's letter with the suggestion that others be included in the meeting as well.

Dr. Papke admitted that doesn't necessarily mean there will be a funding shortfall, but the board is still waiting for more information from government on what their role is.

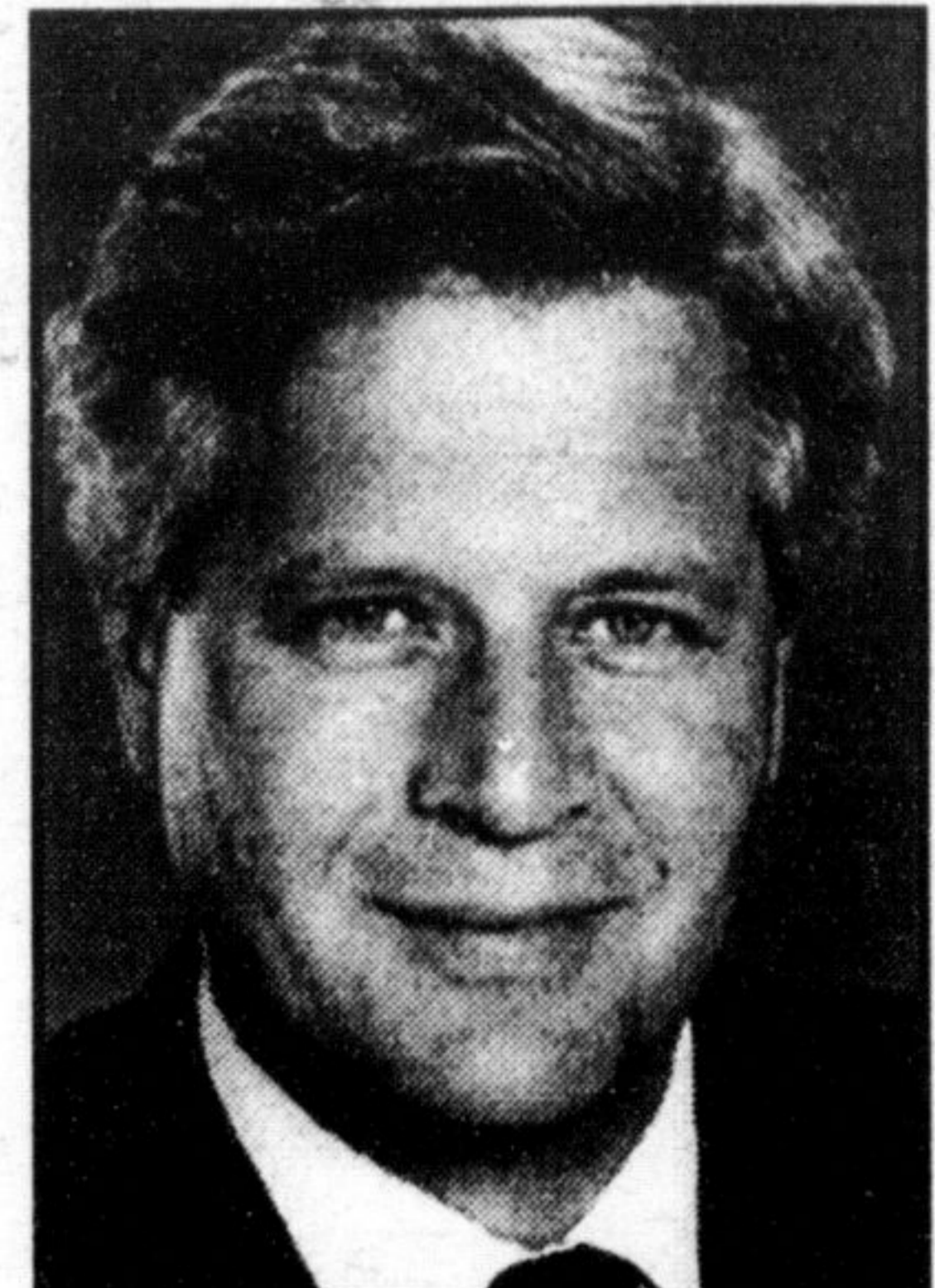
"I think it would be a good idea if all the Halton MPPs were involved," he explained. "We could meet with the board, administration or both, but that would be the normal route to take."

And he said that millions of funding dollars have already been spent on restructuring and the implementation of new French language boards.


As for the actual financial operations of the board, Dr. Papke said Mr. Young is not the only one invited to take a look for themselves.

"We have an open budget process and our books are always open to the public."

Dr. Papke also said that the new guidelines only allow for five guidance teachers for the 68 elementary schools in the system, and although all secondary schools will have the equivalent of one full-time teacher/librarian, that would be the maximum allotment for an elementary school, depending on its size.



Terence Young




Milton District Hospital

"QUALITY CARE FOR A HEALTHIER COMMUNITY"

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING
MILTON DISTRICT HOSPITAL CORPORATION

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17TH, 1998
8:00 P.M.

CAFETORIUM, BISHOP REDING HIGH SCHOOL
MAIN STREET EAST, MILTON, ONTARIO.



A cordial invitation is extended to all. This year's Annual Meeting will be the final one for the Milton District Hospital Corporation. Our planned amalgamation with the Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital is expected to be finalized by August 1, 1998.

In addition to reviewing Hospital operations for the 1997/98 fiscal year, and honouring our long service employees and members of the medical staff, this year's annual meeting provides an opportunity to focus on our future and the opportunities that present themselves relating to our amalgamation.

Dated at Milton this 4th day June, 1998 by order of the Board of Directors Norm Flemington, Chair.