

New school officials to arrive soon

By DENNIS SMITH
Special to The Champion

Replacements for three public school superintendents could be selected by mid-January.

Education Director Dusty Papke said an effort is being made to recommend top candidates by the January 17 Halton District School Board meeting.



Dusty Papke

Within the past several weeks, two superintendents announced they'd be leaving the board and a third has been loaned to the ministry of education for a year.

The three superintendents were recruited for the jobs, as opposed to seeking them out, said Mr. Papke.

"That's the danger of having good people," he said. "We have outstanding senior staff and the ministry knows where to look for them."

Postings for the superintendent vacancies closed last week. Mr. Papke said the tentative hiring timetable was to start interviewing yesterday and make recommendations to trustees January 17.

The education director said the board has a fairly extensive leadership program to prepare other staff for more senior roles.

"We're constantly training people for the vice-principal and principal levels and we have ongoing leadership programs," said Mr. Papke.

He said the assistant superintendent position serves the dual role of providing further support to schools and helping the succession process.

"It's much like a vice-principal position," he said. "It involves working as part of a senior team and hopefully assuming the leadership portal."

Mr. Papke said change is a constant factor nowadays for educators. "It's a reality, especially when you have people who are extremely talented and gifted leaders," he said. "People move on to different challenges."

The education director doesn't feel the superintendent departures are the result of morale problems.

"It's the exact opposite," said Mr. Papke. "The reason it has happened is we have the best people for the job."

He cited the example of board program superintendent Kit Rankin, who's becoming director of the ministry of education's curriculum and assessment branch.

"I'm disappointed that she's moving on to the ministry, but I'm delighted that Kit Rankin will be driving Ontario's curriculum," said Mr. Papke.

He noted she had planned to retire when the school year ended, but now will do so December 31.

Paul Anthony, who headed human resources, left the board December 11, while business services superintendent Wayne McNally will be departing in the near future.

Mr. Papke said Mr. Anthony is on loan to the ministry and will return to the board. He will serve as director, Standards — Ontario Teacher Testing Project.

Mr. McNally is resigning to accept a new posting with the Peel District School Board.

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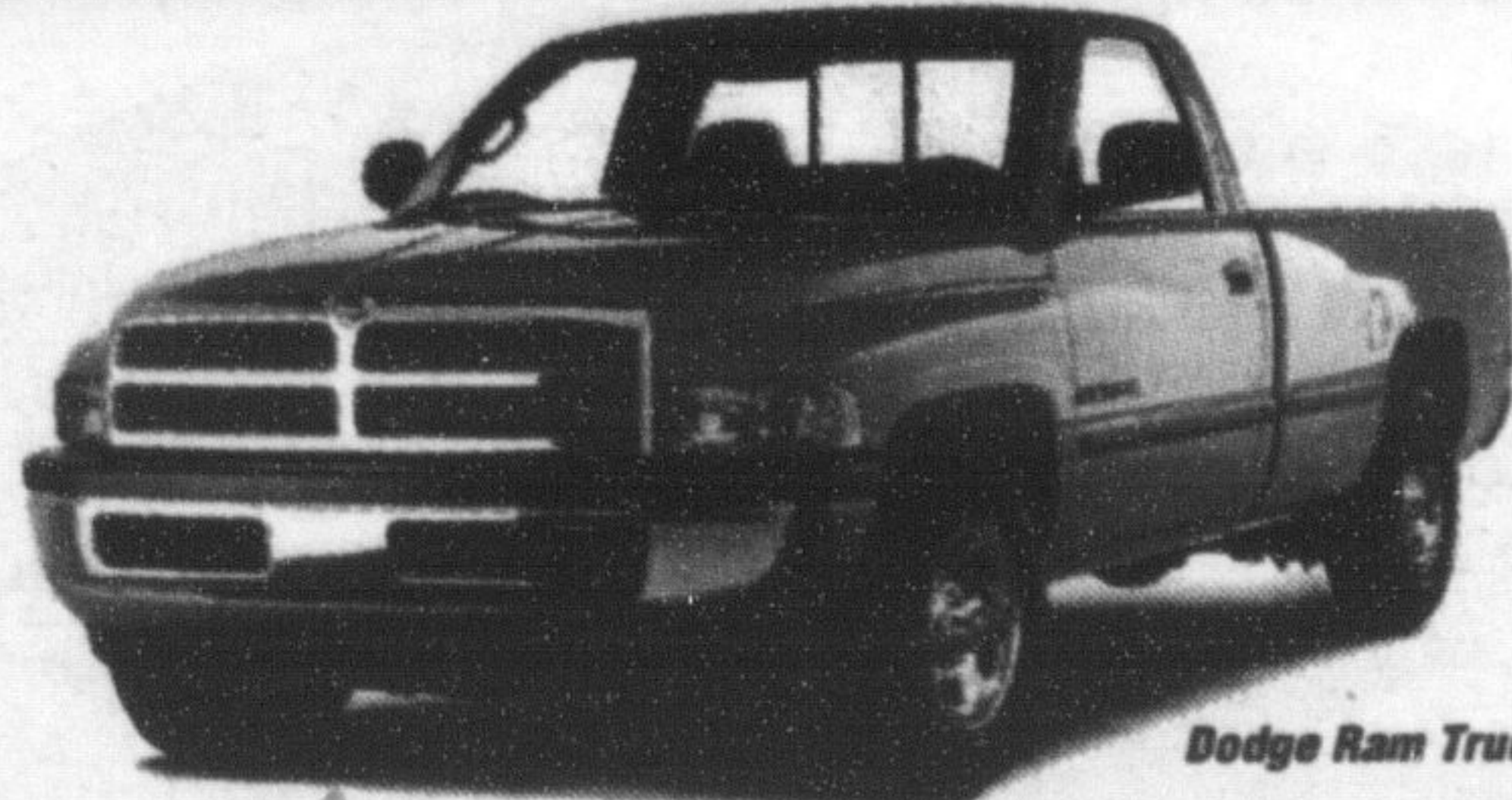
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