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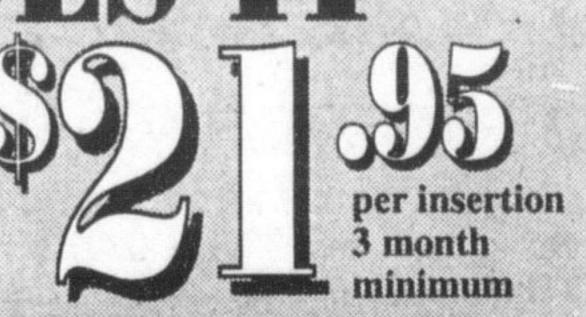
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# School board is set to hammer out new policies

The next stage of developing policy governance is just around the bend for the Halton District School Board.

The model outlines governance policies, executive limitations and board-director relationship policies in one document.

The aim is to make board processes more effective and the required policies will come to the board for approval early this month.

"This is a powerful way for the board to do business," said chair Ethel Gardiner. "Halton's governance model will see trustees truly acting as educational stewards for the people of Halton."

She said the process is straightforward.

"The board is responsible for said Ms Gardiner. "Those policies establish parameters for the director to manage the day-today operations of the board."

The board plans to unveil the new governance model to all education stakeholders before the end of 2001. There will be communication to all staff during the next few months.

The policy governance document was developed after lengthy discussions involving trustees and senior administrative staff. It was then fine-tuned by trustees on the board's bylaw and governance committee. The process has resulted in board goals which focus on a defined shared vision and common sense of purpose. These are considered essential in partnerships to improve the standard of education and student performance in Halton.

"I believe this is the first time the board has had such measurable goals," said Ms Gardiner.

This fall, trustees will host community meetings throughout Halton.

# Domestic violence court coming here

Milton will soon be home to a new domestic violence court, Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh announced this week.

At the Steeles Avenue courthouse, teams of specialized personnel will work together to ensure priority is given to the safety and needs of victims of domestic violence and their children.

Among those at the court will be police, Crown attorneys, victim/witness assistance program staff, probation officers, and partner assault response service workers.

Milton is one of eight new domestic violence court sites throughout the province.

Several of the programs offered through the court already exist in Milton, with the others expected onboard by March 2002.

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