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JK, SK programs to stay same for next five years

By **TIM WHITNELL**

Special to The Champion

The two methods of delivering junior and senior kindergarten programs will continue to be offered at the Halton District School Board for at least another five years.

Internal and external reviews of JK and SK delivery models resulted in no clear cut determination about which is better for a young child's learning.

On the recommendation of Education Superintendent Barry Finlay, school board trustees recently agreed to a five-year study of the effectiveness of the all-day, alternate day delivery in relation to the half-day, every-day program.

A survey of parents who have had or currently have young children in the program will be undertaken this spring.

The board will work with its own teaching staff and the Halton Region Health Department in the development of the survey.

Currently, the Halton public board has 58 elementary schools with kindergarten programs. Eight, representing 469 students, use the half-day, every day attendance model while the other 50, representing 4,442 pupils, utilize the alternate-day, all-day model.

Those using the half-day model (morn-

ing or afternoon) have the option to do so because they have no children eligible for busing under board policy.

In a presentation to the board last week, Mr. Finlay told trustees the Halton Catholic board offers only the half-day, every-day model and provides mid-day bus transportation for all of its eligible kindergarten pupils.

There's a significant cost difference in administering the two JK/SK models.

Mr. Finlay noted a current figure for providing mid-day busing at the public board isn't available, but projected costs in March 2001 for 100 per cent implementation of the half-day, every-day model were \$605,119; projected costs at that time for busing under the all-day, alternate-day model were just \$160,000.

However, Mr. Finlay stressed that program effectiveness should be the determining factor if the board is to settle on one model or the other in the future.

"Given the lack of research in this area and the conflicting results of studies conducted on the effects of kindergarten delivery models on young children, it is extremely difficult to determine which model, if any, holds the greatest benefit for young children," Mr. Finlay said in his board presentation.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Proposed Business Licensing By-Laws For Adult Entertainment Establishments, Body-Rub Parlours And Adult Videotape Stores

The Administration & Planning Committee for the Town of Milton will consider proposed by-laws for the business licensing of Adult Entertainment Establishments, Body-Rub Parlours and Adult Videotape Stores Class "A" and Class "B" at its meeting on **March 17, 2003**. This meeting will take place at 7:30 p.m. at the Town of Milton Council Chambers, 43 Brown Street, 2nd floor.

If you have any questions please call the Town Clerk's Office at 905-878-7252 ext. 2109.

The Town of Milton is now accepting applications for the...

2003 MILTON COMMUNITY FUND

established to distribute a portion of the funds received from the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation.

Plan to attend an Information Session to find out more about this funding opportunity.

Monday, March 17, 7:30 p.m.
Hugh Foster Hall
53 Brown Street (beside Town Hall)

Agenda:

- Criteria for funding
- Changes for this year's program
- Helpful tips for completing your proposal
- Question period

Please RSVP to: Denise Black at 905-875-1681 ext. 300

Application packages will be available at the Information Session.