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36 PAGES "Using Communication to Build Better Communities"

Happy birthday!

Alex Milton, 10, like many other Miltonians will celebrate Canada's birthday at the fairgrounds today.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE



Board director gets \$600,000 package

Five trustees seek intervention from Province

By JASON MISNER

Special to The Champion

Dusty Papke, who just ended eight years as the Halton District School Board's director of education, has received a \$601,376.20 severance package through a negotiated settlement.

The Burlington Post — The Champion's sister newspaper — has learned from a board source that Mr. Papke received the hefty severance through an arrangement between private counsel, Mr. Papke and board Chair Paul Tate.

The source told The Post Mr. Papke's contract stipulated six months notice for termination without just cause or he would be entitled to monies totalling around \$500,000.

When asked whether he's receiving a \$600,000 severance package, Mr. Papke said: "I will acknowledge I'll be receiving a severance package and you can get the total from the trustees."

Mr. Papke earned \$195,694 plus benefits last year, making him the highest paid employee at the board.

The highly-placed source said Mr. Papke learned that a lawyer had been hired by two trustees to look into removing the director of education. Afterward, said the source, Mr. Papke and a lawyer met with Mr. Tate and counsel to negotiate a deal that would allow the education director to "resign to retire."

The process under which Mr. Papke left has left some trustees upset and demanding the Province step in.

The Post has obtained a letter in which five trustees — those who voted against Mr. Papke's departure and changes to policy governance — wrote to Education Minister Gerard Kennedy asking that the Province take control of the board.



Dusty Papke

"This board urgently needs your intervention," said the two-page letter dated May 18.

The letter also stated that the trustees "find the situation quite remarkable considering the director of education's last performance appraisal (September 23, 2004) and signed by the current chair stated, "It is the consensus of the committee members present that the director of education has performed his duties in an exemplary manner, demonstrating competence, professionalism and commitment to the Halton District School Board and the successful accomplishment of its mandate."

The trustees who signed the letter included Oakville's Mary Chapin and Kelly Amos, Halton Hills' Ethel Gardiner and Burlington's Debbie Downs and Janie Hames.

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