

Chapin concerned how Province will respond

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Burlington Trustee Debbie Downs said she couldn't support Mr. Tate's motion.

The funding options that were discussed, such as accessing cash from sold properties, aren't going to be enough to convince a bank to finance the board's construction plans, she said.

"I'm not here to object to building schools," she said. "We've got to be smart about our financing. We can't keep spending money we don't have."

Oakville trustee Mary Chapin said after the meeting she's not against building new schools, either. In fact, she wanted to amend Mr. Tate's motion to move ahead with the building of the Milton school, to open next year, by using the \$4.5 million from the Oakville property sale and the \$2.8 million that currently sits in education

development charges reserves. That would mean delaying the building of the Burlington school by one year.

Ms Chapin said board staff have indicated it can find places for the incoming Burlington students at existing city schools, though it would require additional busing across the city and putting some schools over capacity.

"There are simply no empty seats in Milton to accommodate students," she said.

Ultimately, she's worried about how the Province will respond to Halton's decision to proceed with building two schools without having sufficient cash.

"I'm just concerned that forcing their hand may somehow create problems down the line," she said. "I don't care to speculate what they might be."

Trustee not so optimistic

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cult concept," he said. "I think some discussion isn't bad. I think the open discussion of ideas is what a board is about. I get the sense that from time to time, trustees make personal attacks at this table and that's not appropriate."

Oakville Trustee Mary Chapin — who felt muscled out as the returning board chair last December when Mr. Tate was elected by a 6-5 vote — said she was glad to hear Mr. Joudrie refer to past education directors.

"That spoke highly of him."

As for uniting the board of trustees, Mr. Chapin wasn't optimistic.

"I think he may find he might want to moderate his expectations in that regard... that there is no way this board can ever really work as a unit."

Mr. Joudrie signed a five-year contract; financial details of the contract haven't been released. Last year the director's position \$195,000 plus benefits.

Prior to Mr. Joudrie's speech, Associate Education Director Barry Finlay was given a standing ovation from trustees and staff for taking over for Mr. Papke until a replacement was found.

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