

Growth mostly at elementary level

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"It's the stranded debt issue that allows us the ability to build new schools or not build new schools," he said, noting that otherwise, the board will need to funnel capital grants to cover the cost of paying for existing debt.

If the issue is resolved, the board expects to be in a position to build up

Fund supports local athletes

Almost \$12,000 in grants for local athletes were approved by town council Tuesday night.

The money is going to 10 Miltonians to assist with the costs of travelling to sports championships. It comes from the Milton Community Fund, which was created so residents or groups can apply for money the Town receives from Slots at Mohawk.

Grants were approved for:

- Milton Dynamo Wrestlers — Bobby Fillman, \$820, Kevin Iwasamadge, \$2,620, and Alan Moffat, \$2,620

- Milton Storm Volleyball — \$577 each for Sarah Tosh, Jenna Bray, Dayna Noltie, Emily Johnston and Meg Rector
- Hockey players Bonny Chan, \$1,500, and John Harland, \$1,500.

Applications for the funding are reviewed by the Community Services Advisory Committee and staff.

The Community Fund now has a balance of \$500,726.

to six new elementary schools in the next five years.

However, those schools may have to be pared down versions of the types of elementary schools that have been built in the board recently.

Provincial funding doesn't include the cost of added features like multi-purpose rooms, auditoriums, science and technology laboratories and air-conditioning — features the board has been including in its design of new schools.

"We build an excellent elementary school," said Parfeniuk, who admitted the board would have to find a way to

pare back about \$1 million in costs from each new school, in order to finance the construction of six schools.

The two new elementary schools that the board will open in September each cost about \$9.5 million.

In the near future, Parfeniuk doesn't see the board receiving adequate funding to build a new secondary school despite demand from some expanding areas in Halton.

"We are growing in a substantial way at the elementary level, but we are not yet seeing growth in a substantive way at the secondary level," Parfeniuk said.

Teachers make deal

Members of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF) District 20 Halton, Occasional Teacher bargaining unit, have voted 80 per cent in favour of ratifying a four-year agreement reached with the Halton District School Board.

The agreement covers the period from September 1, 2004 to August 31, 2008.

The tentative deal was reached April 20. Public board trustees had voted in favour of it shortly afterward. The union membership held its ratification vote May 11.

The Halton Secondary Occasional Teachers represent more than 300 substitute classroom instructors.

"The secondary occasional teachers were behind their counterparts in the province. The Halton District School Board recognized this and provided a substantial salary increase over the four-year deal," said Sandra Sahli, executive officer of OSSTF and chair of the negotiating team.

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