Trustees view ideas for new facility

By David Lea SPECIAL TO THE CHAMPION

Halton Catholic District School Board trustees got a glimpse of what their coveted new administrative building could look like during a board presentation Tuesday.

Having faced criticism from some board members that the project was moving too quickly without a real objective being **Facility** Management Services Superintendent Giacomo Corbacio made it clear to the trustees that nothing they saw was set in stone.

"This is just a concept of what it could look like," he said. "This is a broad brushstroke."

Corbacio then called on consultants from Mekinda Snyder Architects Inc. and Mayhew Consulting Services, who explained what they believed the board needed in an administrative building based on such criteria as space requirements and expected growth.

They came to the conclusion that the facility would consist of 61,267 square feet and would require 300 parking spaces.

The facility itself would require between 3.9 and 5.4 acres depending on the final height of the structure, which could range from one to five storeys.

Of all the elegant sketches, diagrams and figures shown during the presentation, it was the price tag of more than \$22 million, delivered by Watson & Associates Economists Ltd., that spurred the most discussion among trustees.

When Corbacio explained that one of the next steps should be to retain a real estate consultant to help find potential properties for the facility, trustees broke their silence.

"I see no point in hiring real estate people until we figure out where the money is coming from," said Oakville Trustee Alice Anne LeMay.

Committee proposed

Burlington Trustee Bob Van de Vrande called for the creation of a committee that would examine options for the facility more closely.

"I would see the committee as looking at what the various alternatives would be for the location, for the nature and type of facility, to look at financing options and how we can integrate that, so that we do it cost effectively in accordance with our budget restrictions," he said.

LeMay opposed the idea, again citing financial concerns.

"We don't have \$20 million," she The ministry doesn't fund administration buildings so it has to come from

internally."

Board staff have already spent \$25,000 on collecting the information that made up the evening's presenta-

Van de Vrande, however, remained adamant that the concept for the facility has to be settled on before looking at financing.

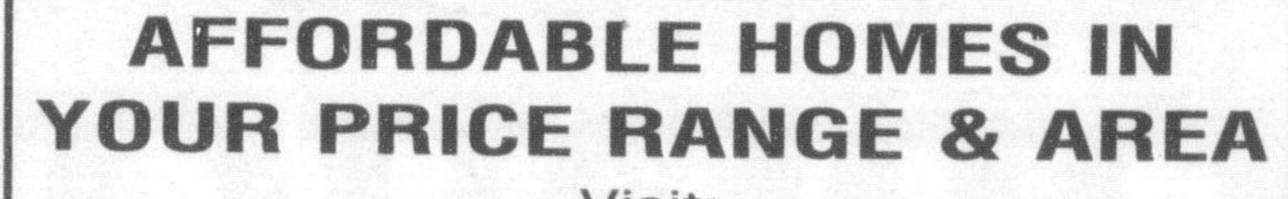
"Until we know what we're doing, we can't really determine how much money we need and where it's coming from," he said.

"The first step is to find out what we are doing, then what the likely cost of that is going to be and then where it's coming from. A number of those things can happen simultaneously because we can identify sources of funding at the same time as we're developing the

Other trustees had concerns that the project would siphon funds away from schools like St. Thomas Aquinas Secondary School, which one trustee described as falling apart.

"I would not support a standalone facility without St. Thomas Aquinas being fully restored," said Oakville Trustee Anthony Danko.

However, in the end the majority of said. "It ain't coming from the ministry. trustees agreed to hold discussion on the proposed committee at their next board meeting April 10.



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