

# Parent info sessions on uniform pilot set to proceed

*Controversial project clears yet another hurdle at board meeting*

By David Lea  
SPECIAL TO THE CHAMPION

Like an unstoppable juggernaut, the Halton Catholic District School Board's uniform pilot project continues to plow through obstacles leaving controversy and questions of legality in its wake.

The project overcame its latest obstacle at a board meeting Tuesday when Burlington Trustee Bob Van de Vrande introduced a motion calling for parent information sessions on the project to proceed without requiring further approval from the school councils or principals.

"There was a school of thought that the school communities still had to approve the pilot project which had never been our intention and because there is so much confusion

"It doesn't make sense for trustees to say, 'Yes we're going to have a pilot, but now we want someone else to tell us whether that's okay'."

TRUSTEE BOB VAN DE VRANDE

we simply wanted to clarify that that is not a requirement or an expectation," said Van de Vrande.

Van de Vrande argued that because the project is a board initiated pilot project the requirement for community approval does not apply.

"It doesn't make sense for trustees to say, 'Yes we're going to have a pilot, but now we want someone else to tell us whether that's okay.' It's not fair to ask them to make that decision because the trustees legitimately have the authority

to do that."

This logic raised concerns among several trustees that disregarding the policy in this way was not entirely legal.

"They never did get their 75 per cent approval even after two surveys so, what he (Van de Vrande) is saying is that because we've made this a pilot project that the pilot project does not have to follow the board's policy, which is not legally correct," said Oakville Trustee Alice Anne LeMay.

LeMay also stated that the project was not board initiated, but school initiated as a small number of parents from St. Gabriel's School in Burlington had approached trustees to get

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Some of these costs are one-time fixed payments, while others represent an ongoing monthly or yearly commitment. While not all of these costs will apply in every situation, it's better to know about them ahead of time so you can budget properly.

Remember, buying a home is a major milestone, and whether it's your first, second, or tenth, there are many small but important details, not to mention stress and excitement, to deal with during the process. The last thing you need are unbudgeted financial obligations in the hours before you take possession of your new home.

To help homebuyers understand what these extra costs are, and in what situations they may apply, a free industry report has been prepared called "13 Extra Costs to Be Aware of Before Buying a Home".

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