

# Voting on two issues postponed by trustees

By Dominik Kurek  
METROLAND WEST MEDIA GROUP

Halton District School Board trustees learned Wednesday night there's no shortcut method to reducing the length of their regular meetings.

The board was voting on a list of newly-revised bylaws, but trustees decided to postpone the vote on two items for fear that discussion would take up too much of the meeting.

Ironically, one of those bylaws, which will be dealt with at a later date, deals with limiting the number of times and the length of time trustees can speak to any motion; something that, if passed, could reduce the length of time of the meetings.

The meetings run from about 7 to 10 p.m. and sometimes beyond.

The second item on the list of bylaws was whether a two-thirds majority would be required for a vote to pass.

The new bylaws, which trustees voted to accept, are mostly a revision of already existing ones at the board.

The bylaws, prepared by the Policy, Bylaw and Governance Committee of the board, chaired by Halton Hills Trustee Gerry Ockenden, initially called for limiting trustees to speak only twice per motion and for no more than three minutes each time.

At a previous meeting in May, when the bylaws were brought to the board for discus-

sion, trustees went back and forth in discussing the limited time to speak rule.

Halton Hills Trustee Gillian Tuck Kutarna, who was against the new policy, said some issues required more discussion in order for trustees to be able to make proper decisions.

However, Oakville trustee Don Vrooman said items that need lengthy discussions can be spoken to during committee meetings to reduce the length of the regular meetings.

In order not to repeat the lengthy discussion of a week ago, trustees voted to reconvene on the two items for the next Policy, Bylaw and Governance Committee meeting tomorrow.

Though the new bylaws are mostly a revision of previous ones, one was introduced that will change a procedure at the board.

With the new bylaw, when the board has its inaugural meeting of the year or following a municipal election, trustees will vote on their choice of chair through ballot box instead of the formerly counted vote. In a counted vote, it's recorded who each trustee votes for. With a ballot box, votes are made anonymously on paper.

Not all trustees, however, voted to accept the new bylaw, which came as an amendment to the overall package.

Burlington Trustee Peggy Russell disagreed with the amendment.

"We have a legal opinion that says we shouldn't do this and the public has a right to know how we vote."

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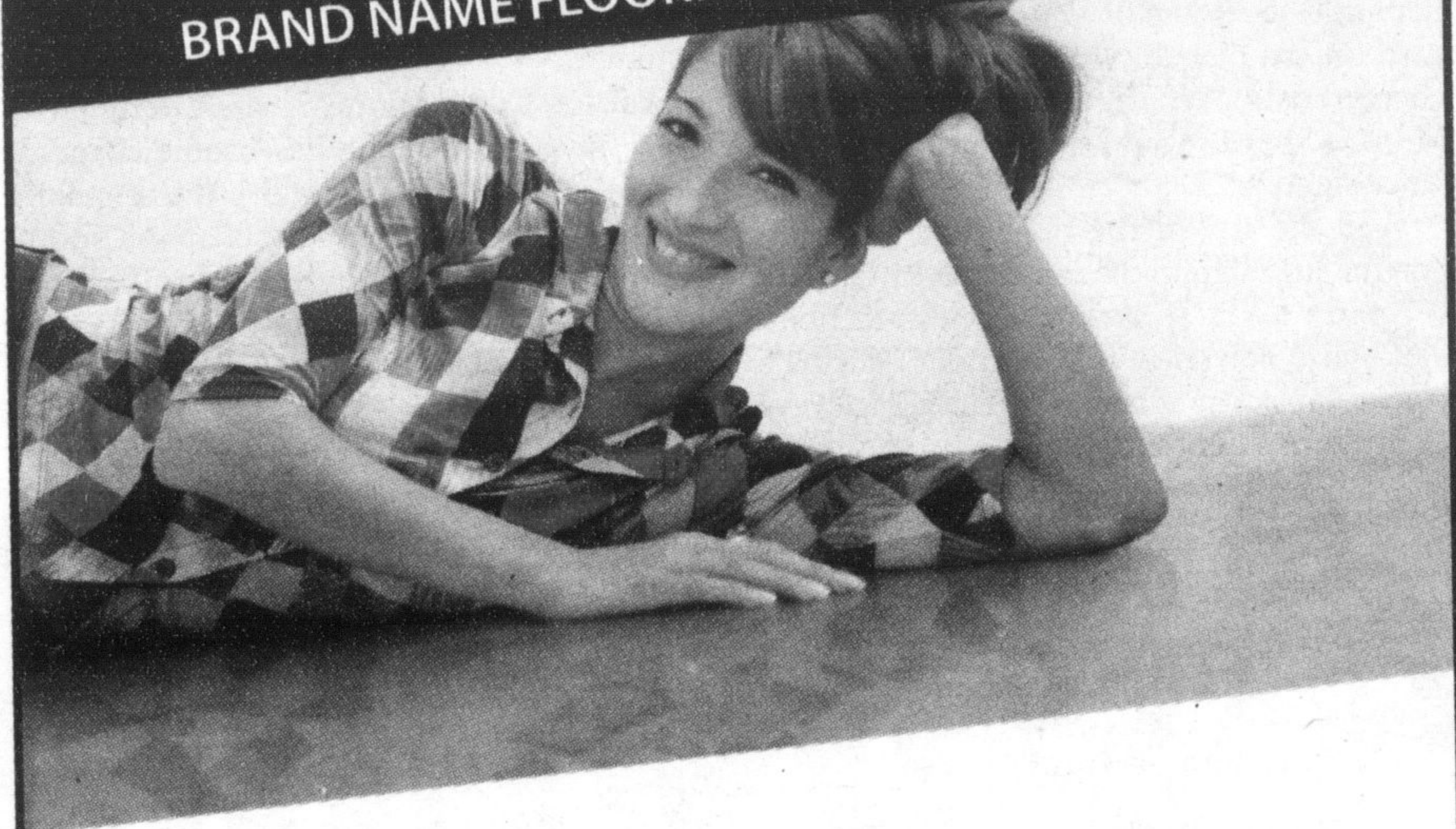
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