

SUPERCHOICE
Country Markets

Prod. of Chile No. 1 Grade
JUICY NECTARINES 88¢ LB.

Prod. of U.S.A.
FRESH BROCCOLI 69¢ BCH.

Prod. of U.S.A. Extra Fancy
GRANNY SMITH APPLES 79¢ LB.

Prod. of U.S.A. No. 1 Grade
HEAD LETTUCE 49¢ EA.

Cut from Canada Grade 'A' Beef
SIRLOIN TIP ROASTS 3²⁹ LB.

Fresh - Never Frozen
ROASTING CHICKENS 1⁴⁹ LB.

From the New York Shoulder
PORK BUTT CHOPS 1⁷⁹ LB.

Post Honeycomb 275 g
 or Pebbles Fruity or Cocoa 375g
CEREAL 1⁹⁹

Sunpac Pure
APPLE JUICE 99¢ 48 oz.

Kraft
PARKAY GOLD SOFT MARGARINE 99¢ 454 g

Mealyne White Sliced,
 60% Whole Wheat
 or Cracked Wheat
BREAD 69¢ 675 g Loaf

COKE CLASSIC 5⁹⁹
 Regular or Diet 24 x 355 ml Cans

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Board wants to freeze education tax rate

By KATHY YANCHUS
 Special to The Champion

Cancelling bus service for all secondary students living south of Hwy. 25 and offering kindergarten as a full-day alternate program are just two of the sweeping changes proposed by the administration of the Halton Board of Education to meet the proposed zero per cent mill rate increase target.

Cutting the bus service for urban high school students in Oakville and Burlington is expected to save \$189,000, while altering kindergarten services would save \$67,400 in the 1994 budget. Both measures would begin in September.

Last year the board approved an operating budget of \$291.3 million. To reach the zero mill rate increase, current projections would put the operating budget at \$282 million.

In his address to the public school board's finance committee last week, Director of Education Bob Williams outlined the game plan to trustees. With social contract reductions totaling \$9.4 million, an additional \$4 million must be cut to achieve a zero increase, while \$2 million would have to be chopped to limit the increase to one per cent.

"To make the kinds of reductions, including our social contract obligations, will mean nothing less than a fundamental restructuring of our programs and services," said Mr. Williams. "I believe this to be the only way to achieve the targets while still preserving the quality of education."

Other proposals include the cancellation of the Bronte Creek program (\$166,252) and a switch to a user fee program for Outdoor Education. The cancellation of further computer purchases in 1994 is expected to save \$300,000.

As far as the implementation of Junior Kindergarten (JK) is concerned, Mr. Williams said he is "not anticipating any budget implications; and if there are, we'll deal with them then."

According to a directive issued by the Ministry of Education and Training, unless a board has just cause JK must be implemented in school boards in some form by September of 1994.

Mr. Williams said the board is currently looking at its JK options, but believes it has had "just cause" along and JK is "not considered in the 1994 budget proposal."

"We are facing an economic downturn. Taxpayers have been hit hard and can't bear anymore," said Mr. Williams. "Funding from the province has plummeted from 196¢ to 1993, from the 60 per cent range to 21.5 per cent of Halton's per pupil expenditure last year. We expect this trend to continue."

The board must chop \$9.4 million in each of three years to meet social contract obligations. Mr. Williams said he is not anticipating any layoffs and a five per cent reduction in staff over three years can be accomplished through attrition.

Forty-two non-teaching staff chose early retirement packages this year through the Ontario Municipal Employee Retirement System as they will not be replaced, said Mr. Williams. Over the next few months there will be a complete reorganization of all non-teaching staff, he said.

The public is invited to provide input on the budget at the Feb. 7 and 14 meetings of the finance committee.