School board reps ask:

## Who will run school system?

By HERB GARBUTT

Special to The Champion

Local board administrators say Education Minister John Snobelen will have a difficult time eliminating

> school boards from the education system.

Mr. Snobelen said recently that he would like the provincial government to take over funding of the education system and setting school curricula. The move would strip school boards of two of their primary functions, drastically decreasing their power or eliminating them altogether.

Fred Sweeney "I think he is looking at doing away with school trustees or at least reducing the number," said Fred Sweeney, director of education for the Halton Roman Catholic School Board. "If he does away with (school boards) completely, what fills the void?"

Mr. Sweeney said the government's only alternative would be to hand the board's remaining responsibilities to municipalities or school councils. He said municipalities don't have the staff to handle those duties and he doubts school council members, who are volunteers, would be able to commit the time necessary.

Linda Glover, Chair of the Halton Board of Education, said Mr. Snobelen's plan would eliminate a vital link between the communities and the schools.

"Who would (Mr. Snobelen) like parents to call?"
Ms Glover asked "Would he like them to call him
directly if they have problem?"

Ms Glover said the government would have to hire more people to take over the school boards' duties.

Mr. Sweeney said there would be one positive in having the government take over funding.

"One thing it would do is bring about equality. The cost per student ranges anywhere from \$7,800 to \$5,000. There's a real gap there."

Mr. Sweeney said his board spends \$1,200 less per student than the public school board, simply because funds are not available.

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