

NEWS

Halton board trustees attending education symposium in Toronto

By Tim Whitnell
METROLAND WEST MEDIA GROUP

Halton District School Board trustees have voted to use a portion of a reserve fund to pay for their attendance at an upcoming education symposium in Toronto. At the December 17 school board meeting, all 11 trustees voted in favour of spending up to a maximum of \$9,500 from the Reserve Account for Trustee Professional Development to cover the registration costs for the trustees, and registration and accommodation costs for two student trustees, to attend the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) Public Education Symposium (including the pre-symposium). The Public Education Symposium (PES) will be held from January 29 to 31 at the Sheraton Centre.

The OPSBA symposium provides an opportunity for trustees to learn about the role of a school board trustee as well as new and proposed provincial legislation and current issues in education.

The Halton public school board's all-female board of trustees is comprised of six new faces to the board from the October 27 municipal election.

"The first PES in a term is specifically designed as an introduction to the role and provides many opportunities to learn and also meet other trustees from across the province. The pre-symposium workshop is being planned to be specifically ministry training," stated a motion from the five re-elected trustees in giving reasons why the symposium is important.

"... in a trustee's first year there are many important conferences, specifically PES in January and the OPSBA Labour Relations Conference in March, that are important to learn about the role of trustee," stated the trustees' report.

The cost to attend the Toronto conference is \$649.75 per person for Thursday night to Saturday noon.

If all 13 trustees attended the pre- and main symposium, the maximum cost for the symposium would be \$7,700 with an additional \$1,500 estimated cost for three nights' accommodation in separate rooms for the two student trustees.

The Thursday pre-symposium is being sponsored by the Ministry of Education at no cost to trustees.

The balance in the Halton board's Reserve Account for Trustee Professional Development as of August 31, 2014 was \$25,354.

The \$25,354 was eligible to be spent by the 2010-14 board of trustees as the amount came from the 2006-10 end-of-term rollover of available funds.

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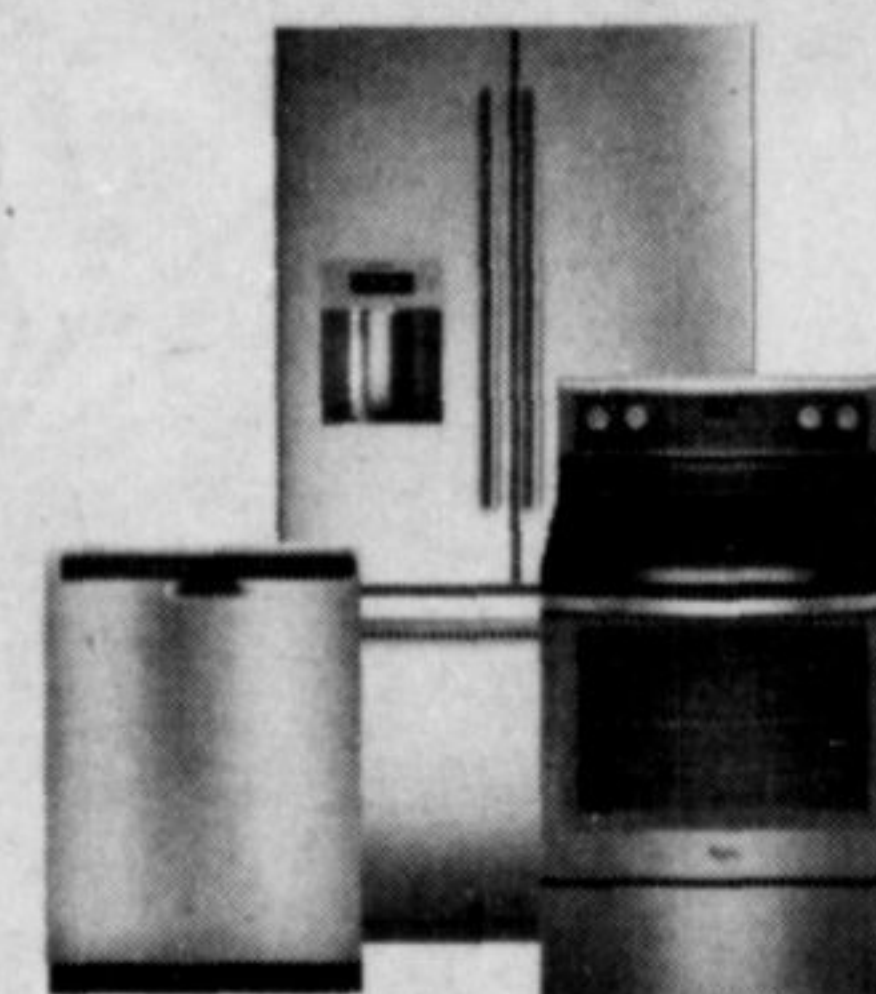
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