

Board rejects suggestion to ban teachers from serving

The Simcoe County Board of Education last week rejected a suggestion to prohibit teachers from serving as trustees on the board.

Trustees were asked to respond to a set of questions circulated by the Ontario School Trustees Council.

Only four trustees were in favour of increasing the

pressure on the Ministry of Education to enact legislation prohibiting teachers from serving as trustees. Thirteen Simcoe trustees said they were not in favour of the recommendation.

Midland trustee John McCullough pointed out that "a teacher's affiliation with a federation could be con-

sidered a conflict of interest." However, he later said he wondered "if it was not an infringement on human rights to say that they could not serve as trustees."

Bruce Cumming, trustee from Thornton, felt that "if the teacher were not good enough to serve on the board, he would not be elected." He

added, "Who am I to refuse them admission?"

"The presence of teachers on the board would surely be of value to the board", Alvin Gravelle told the meeting.

Responding to the second question, the majority of trustees felt that principals should not be allowed to be members of a federation. "If we don't have people in a

management position responsible to the board, then the board is in a weak position," commented McCullough. Because of recent events elsewhere in the province, where teachers have illegally walked out of the classrooms, the council felt the need to have someone in a responsible position, he told the board.

The council therefore felt that principals should not be members in the federations.

hire professional negotiators to act on its behalf in contract talks with teaching staff. However, the trustees did agree that professional assistance and expertise be used as a back-up to the trustees.

McCullough felt that the trustees should have access to legal counsel, "so we don't get into binds, and in order that we produce a document that is legally correct." He added that there was no

intention that the professionals would do the negotiating. They would act solely as "resource people."

The board He said he felt that "we can still have the excellent rapport with the teachers that we have had in the past."

Straughan felt "it would be a sad time if we couldn't sit down with the teachers and reach a fair and reasonable agreement with them."



John McCullough

School bus regulations to change, motorists must always obey flashers

The Simcoe County Board of Education last week revealed that the Highway Traffic Act dealing with the operation of school buses had been amended. According to the board, all vehicles must stop for a school bus whose signals are flashing and is stopped on a highway or is about to stop on a highway,

regardless of the location of the highway or the speed limit, beginning on April 1st.

However, according to information received in this office early this week, the deadline has been extended until September 1st by the Ministry of Transportation and Communication.

The amendments to the Highway Traffic Act were given third and final reading in the Ontario legislature recently.

way Traffic Act dealing with the operation of school buses were given third and final reading in the Ontario legislature recently. The changes and their repercussions were discussed at length at last week's Simcoe Board of Education meeting in Barrie.

of such buses for the purposes of transporting children to and from school. In this way, the amendments permit the use of school buses for charter purposes.

The amendment does however, prohibit the use of chrome yellow on a bus that is not used as a school bus. According to the ministry, this clause is to ensure that motorists are alerted to the possibility of the need to stop should the bus driver actuate the red flashing lights.

Barrie trustee Straughan reacted violently to the suggestion that school principals are managers. A principal "was at one time a teacher, and has obviously proven himself as a teacher and a leader. I don't think he's a manager," he said.

Straughan said he hoped it would never reach the point where the schools need a manager.

Having the principals out of the federation, "would help clarify roles and responsibilities, and would avoid conflicts," said trustee Darrell Mackenzie.

The board also rejected the suggestion that the board

Trustees' allowance increase under fire

The Simcoe County Board of Education's recent decision to increase trustees' basic allowance came under heavy fire at last week's board meeting in Barrie.

Appearing as a delegation, Mr. L. Campagnola strongly criticized the board "for doing injustice to the people", by handing themselves a 40 per cent increase.

even having their expenses paid for them. He told the board he deplored the trend that elected officials everywhere were becoming full-time salaried employees of the governments. He asked the board, "are these jobs becoming full-time jobs because it is necessary, or because elected officials are making it a full-time job by doing the work of hired people?"

Bill 177 gives the definition of a school bus as one painted chrome yellow with black lettering reading, "Do not pass when signals are flashing". On and after April 1st, the school bus stopping rule will not apply to those buses painted other than chrome yellow, although the Act does not prohibit the use

of such buses for the purposes of transporting children to and from school. In this way, the amendments permit the use of school buses for charter purposes.

The amendment does however, prohibit the use of chrome yellow on a bus that is not used as a school bus. According to the ministry, this clause is to ensure that motorists are alerted to the possibility of the need to stop should the bus driver actuate the red flashing lights.

On February 12 the board voted to raise their basic honorarium to \$350 a month, the first increase for trustees since the board's inception in 1969.

Campagnola, public relations director for the Mormon church in Barrie, asked the trustees to think about the thousands of others working on different programs in the municipalities who are not

It is little wonder that the public is becoming increasingly cynical about governments, he added.

Board chairman Frank Prothero, although he said he did not agree, thanked Mr. Campagnola for his interest in the matter, and noted that the trustees had dealt extensively with the question at the February 12 meeting.

Midland trustee John McCullough told the meeting he is "extremely pleased these amendments are becoming reality." For five or six years, the Simcoe board has been petitioning the government to have the regulations simplified, he noted.



Voorzanger receives award

Joell Voorzanger, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Voorzanger of Midland, received the Bell Canada award for scholastic achievement recently. Joell a former MSS student is a third year student in Business Administration and Marketing at Seneca College, King campus, where he is also President of the student council there.

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theatre to hockey, dance groups to libraries, we will be able to keep alive the spark of individual creativity and human excellence that makes a culture worth preserving.

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For more information about the new ministry, you are invited to write to: Ministry of Culture and Recreation Communications Branch Main Parliament Building, Room 347 Queen's Park Toronto, Ontario M7A 1Y7

Ministry of Culture and Recreation Robert Welch, Minister

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