

Request turned down (for now) French language junior kindergartens

Meeting in Barrie, Wednesday night, members of the Simcoe County Roman Catholic Separate School turned down a request to have French language junior kindergarten classes set up in the county.

The decision was reached this week after the board reviewed a report on the subject prepared by a special committee of the board that initially looked into the original request.

The committee was appointed at the regular meeting of the board, December 16, 1981, in response to a request presented at the November meeting for the establishment of French Language Junior Kindergartens in the county. The Committee mandate was to study the feasibility of setting up such a programme in each of our five French Language Instructional Units and report its findings and recommendations to the board.

There were three meetings of this committee, during which all aspects of the request and its implications were considered. Two presentations were received directly by the committee - one in written form from the Program Consultant of Francais, Denis Levert, and a brief delivered orally by Mme. Simone Levert and members of her committee of parents. Other briefs presented to the Special Education Planning Committee were considered as well, even though they were not directed primarily to this committee.

All of the input received spoke eloquently and forcefully to the needs of pre-kindergarten-age children in the francophone sectors of the county. The advantages of regular programming conducted by qualified teachers, and the potential social as well as academic gains were pointed out.

Early Identification Program success would be facilitated by detection of strengths and weaknesses in children's learning styles a year earlier than is currently possible. The provision of a stimulating environment where language would be encouraged would enhance the learning opportunities for children. It was recognized that all of the above advantages would accrue to children attending Junior Kindergarten regardless of the language of instruction.

The additional benefits of such a programme for French Language Instructional Units were examined. The situation in at least some of the French Language Units currently is such that for a number of students

French is a second language rather than mother tongue. In all too many instances the home cannot reinforce the efforts of the school

because French is not the language spoken. It was agreed that there would be widespread reaction to such a unilateral

decision particularly in view of the negative response, two years ago, to such a request from the anglophone sector.

The committee eventually recommended that it is not appropriate to comply with the request to establish French

Language Junior Kindergarten programs at this time. The committee will remain in place and that it be given an expanded

mandate to examine the feasibility of establishing Junior Kindergarten programmes across the county in September, 1983.

Roby Reid is fighting recession with a

WALL ^{to} WALL FLOORING SALE

FREE
INSTALLATION
on Jute Back Carpet
\$1.00 sq./meter
INSTALLATION
on Rubberback
Carpet

OVER
100 ROLLS
IN STOCK

to choose from.
Perfect for Home
or Cottage

OUTDOOR
TURF
6'x12'
in a rainbow
of colours

Wide selection of
6'x12'
NO WAX
VINYLS

- Largest in stock selection in Simcoe County

- Courteous, professional sales staff

- Lifetime guarantee on installation

**ROBY'S PERSONALLY GUARANTEED
LOWEST PRICES**

CARPET LAND

MIDLAND
on Hwy. 27, next
to Zellers Plaza

526-4231

BARRIE
on Bayfield St.,
opp. Georgian Mall

737-5662

