

# It's Education At Any Cost Where Public School Board Concerned

It's education at any cost, so far as members of Richmond Hill Public School Board are concerned.

In its most spirited meeting of the year, members looked into the report of the consultative committee, to York County Council which recommended the formation of three boards of education, including one to cover the Southern Six area of Richmond Hill, Woodbridge, Markham Village, Markham and Vaughan Townships, and

and Trustee Charles Wortman, who sat at opposite ends of the table, both literally and figuratively in trying to assess the Richmond Hill board's main responsibility in the matter.

In Mr. Hutchinson's view, although it was important to get "good value" for the taxpayers' money, he didn't see any hope of keeping educational costs down, or any hope that a new board of education would cost no more than the present.



TRUSTEE C. WORTMAN Questions Regional Costs

"That's why I think time spent on the financial end is not too valuable," the chairman said.

"I think we should study more the effects on education."

Any real look on the effect on local tax rates was difficult, as some things just couldn't be nailed down, Mr. Hutchinson said.

Mr. Wortman said that costs had been "pretty well worked out" beforehand, and it was on that basis that the idea had been suggested.

The board should "add its voice" to those seeking a study of costs; there had been no specification in the report of retaining some of the costs in each municipality.

Mr. Hutchinson said costs had been worked out to within two mills.

Vice-Chairman Deena Simpson said she thought the board should start noting the areas it agreed on first. At the present there was a division between two sides, one wanting the financial figures worked out first and the educational benefits second, and the other wanting the reverse.

"We must put something down, regardless," said Mrs. Simpson. "Everybody knows there are financial considerations... that we are responsible to the electorate."

Mr. Hutchinson said the board should "rip the consultative committee's efforts apart on this question (finance)."

"We have only to look at our own budgets of the last two years and see what's happening to educational costs," Mr. Hutchinson said.

Mr. Wortman said the main thing was to see whether there would be an equitable distribution of costs across the boards.

Trustee Phyllis Hawkes said she was "perfectly in accord" with the plan to set up the three boards, but wanted to "take one step at a time."

Trustee Jack Knott said costs were going to go up, regardless, and assessment figures wouldn't match them. However, if everybody asked if it would cost more, the plan would never be implemented.

Reading from a report of a recent seminar on education at Bramalea, Mr. Hutchinson said it pointed out that

the boards offered a larger educational opportunity than could be had otherwise, and that increased services should be made with the knowledge of rising costs.

"The thing is, are we in favor of better education if equivalent costs for equal services are maintained," Mr. Hutchinson said.

"I believe a board of education is essential and am prepared to pay any price to get it."

Said Mr. Wortman: "You're the chairman of the board; it's natural you'd have that view. But I think the taxpayer will have a different view."

The board then passed the following motion drawn up by the chairman, with only Mr. Wortman dissenting:

That the board request Richmond Hill Town Council to "exercise through its representatives on York County Council, every effort to achieve a board of education for the Southern Six municipalities, or as large a portion of that area, including the Town of Richmond Hill, as possible."

The board also wanted it known that it considered that larger units of educational administration were in the best interests of the county in general and Southern Six in particular, and "should be created as soon as possible with the emphasis on improved educational opportunity rather than the immediate effect on the educational costs of the member municipalities of each board, provided that the principle of equal costs for equivalent services is maintained."

A later amendment asked that formation of a regional county board be deferred until the regional boards were firmly established and the need for the former was "clearly demonstrated."

Mr. Wortman said the board had come up with an alternative motion instead of a compromise one, based on its discussion of the report the week before.

Mr. Hutchinson said he "couldn't see" a compromise. The board also voted to commend the consultative committee for its report.

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part of Stouffville. A total of 18,765 students would be included in this area.

In debating the high costs involved in setting up such a board, as opposed to the overall benefits in education, the members Thursday night of last week decided that having the latter was more important than worrying about the former.

Leading the battle were Chairman Walter Hutchinson

Mr. Wortman said he felt an adequate study of the financial end of the picture was needed first. The members were all agreed that three boards should be established, with formation of a county board being deferred until they were.

However, should the formation of these boards just be accepted in faith and "the devil take the taxpayer?" Mr. Wortman asked.

Mr. Hutchinson said the consultative committee had "obviously made an attempt" to assess comparative conditions in York County. But



(Photo by Stuart's Studio)

## Elson Memorial Library Opened

Shown in a corner of the attractive A. S. Elson Memorial Library which was officially opened at Thornhill Secondary School December 5 are, (left to right), Mr. Elson, the school's first principal after whom the library is named, Mrs. Audrey Taylor the school librarian, York Central District High School Board Chairman John Honsberger and the school's present principal, John Kippen.

"Some people say it with flowers, but we have said it with books, a whole roomful of books," said Mr. Honsberger in paying tribute to Mr. Elson for all he had contributed to the school in his many years there. Admitting he felt a bit odd in such an unusual situation, and with his name now turned into an adjective, Mr. Elson expressed his appreciation of the honor done him and hoped the library would be a source of energy to the students and help them leave the school well prepared to take their part in life and right some of the wrongs they encounter.

Principal John Kippen thanked the high school board for its courage in building such a beautiful library and thanked them for the tangible expression of interest in the education of youth.

Following the very brief official ceremonies, staff members and other York Central teachers and board members enjoyed afternoon tea.

### Langstaff H & S

## Raise \$930 For Festival Choir

Determined that the children of Langstaff Public School who are members of the Festival Choir of Vaughan Township will get to Expo '67 next May to present three programs, members of the home and school association at that school decided to conduct a canvass of their area.

Twenty-three canvassers volunteered their services, so the area was divided into 23 districts, which were given thorough coverage. Every canvasser did his or her part.

To date \$930 has been realized, with a few donations promised which have yet to come in, so it is expected that the grand total will be in the neighborhood of \$950.

The home and school association prepared the way for the canvass with a letter sent to every home, explaining the need for funds in detail. This was followed by a letter from Hugh Martin, the choir's director and music supervisor for Vaughan Township's schools. This all helped to bring about the very gratifying response to the canvass.

### County To Discuss New Education Plan

A bylaw embodying the far-reaching recommendations of the York County Consultative Committee respecting the future of education in the county will be discussed at the December 20 sitting of York County Council at the county building in Newmarket.

The bylaw would establish three boards of education in the county, one for the Southern Six municipalities (Vaughan and Markham Townships, Richmond Hill, Woodbridge and Markham Villages); one for the Middle Five group (King, Whitechurch and East Gwillimbury Townships, Aurora and Newmarket) and one for the Northern Three (North Gwillimbury and Georgina Townships and the Village of Sutton).

If the bylaw is given its first reading on Tuesday, it will come up again for discussion at the January sitting of the county council for second reading and if this is passed, it would be discussed again at the county level before final reading next June.

The York County building is on Bayview Avenue, north of Davis Drive, just east of York County Hospital in Newmarket. Sitings of the council are open to the public and start at 2 p.m.

### Etobicoke Asks Markham Assist

(Continued from Page 1)

approval for the underground storage first. He said it would eventually cover a service centre of a truck dealership, pumps and showroom.

Councillor Anthony Roman said he would like to take a "closer look at it."

Approved reduction of \$103,532 and \$312,789 in the original bond of \$718,000 for Costain Estates for phases 1 and 2 of Thornhill Green Subdivision.

Agreed to give further study to the first draft of a proposed air pollution control bylaw.

Turned down a request from Village Taxi, Thornhill, to park vehicles on the north side of Steeles Avenue, near Bayview Avenue.

Agreed to hold one more meeting in the year at the call of the chair.

## Vaughan Board Must Oppose Suggested County Board — Goodwin

Members of Vaughan Township, the Villages of Woodbridge, Markham and Richmond Hill forming one of these regional boards, contained the sentence: "Mutually with Reeve Albert Rutherford Stouffville and the Town of Richmond Hill forming one of these regional boards, report to the boards concerned."

Members of the Vaughan Board has already discussed the proposal with a neighboring report proposed the setting up board, which Trustee Terry Goodwin declined to name at a meeting with Vaughan and Mark-

ham Townships, the Villages of Woodbridge, Markham and Richmond Hill forming one of these regional boards, contained the sentence: "Mutually with Reeve Albert Rutherford Stouffville and the Town of Richmond Hill forming one of these regional boards, report to the boards concerned."

Vice-Chairman Warren Baile reported he had been talking to Jesse Bryson, a member of the consultative committee, who had told him that it was that

committee's intent to circulate the report after it had received first reading by county council.

Mr. Goodwin's report also recommended that a meeting be arranged early in 1967 between all boards or representatives from each in the Southern Six municipalities proposed to be administered by one board of education.

At a pre-election meeting in Kleinburg December 7 Mr. Goodwin said the 1966-67 Vaughan Board must oppose any move towards a county board in the form that has been suggested by the county's consultative committee.

If the amalgamation of boards occurred, Goodwin said, the increase in Vaughan taxes could keep new industry from moving into the area and, in the end, force taxes even higher for the average homeowner.

"We need all the industrial development we can get," he said, "so we can afford the high teachers' salaries we must pay to compete with Metro."

NO BINGO — Thursday Dec. 22nd & 29th, next Bingo Thursday Jan. 5th, Our Lady Queen of the World Hall, East side of Bayview at Crosby Ave. Richmond Hill. c2w24

DECEMBER 15, THURSDAY. Top O' the Hill Nursery School Christmas party. Draw for Sno-Cruiser to be made by William Lazenby. clw24

DECEMBER 31, SATURDAY. Gala New Year's Eve dance party, 9.30 pm to 3.30 a.m. Novelties, Harry Syrratt Orchestra, giant buffet. Cousins Fiesta Room, 727-4073 Aurora. c3w23

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