

Social Change Challenge To Teachers - Bacsalmasi

The old-time school inspector will soon be extinct in York County.

At a special meeting of York County School Board April 7, Stephen Bacsalmasi, superintendent of planning and development, explained to the board that more effective organization could be achieved in the system if the inspectorial system was eliminated and replaced by master teachers who would operate within the schools as teacher-consultants and advisors to the classroom teacher.

In a lengthy report, Mr. Bacsalmasi said better teaching does not occur spontaneously, but results from continuous stimulation to change, to meet the environment created by social, political and economic forces.

For these reasons, his report stated, the master teachers and associate master teachers should have a developmental responsibility as distinct from an operational responsibility, but there should be co-operation between the two so that teachers are able to grow effectively.

At an earlier meeting, the board approved appointment of 14 master teachers, and nine have already been appointed. The board had also approved appointment of 27 associate master teachers. Mr. Bacsalmasi reported 25 of these also have been appointed. These people, he said, would spend 40 percent of their time teaching.

The master teachers and associate master teachers, he said, should be directly responsible to the superintendent of planning and development. Their responsibility will range from the kindergarten to grade 13, but they will work in specific areas or divisions such as language arts, social sciences, mathematics and science, cultural and physical development, commercial, technology, and resource services (libraries, audio-visual, etc.).

The report, which will be considered again at the regular board meeting Monday, also dealt with curriculum and professional development.

A resource centre should be available to assist in curriculum development, providing special services such as a professional library, central library services and an audio-visual centre.

To provide the best possible vehicle for students to reach their goals, said Mr. Bacsalmasi, curriculum development should make use of the abilities of all personnel connected with school curriculum. The organization, therefore would have to be an integral part of the school.

Professional development, he continued, is essential because the basic responsibility of teach-

ers is to help each student "to become" and teachers can do that only by using their own "self" as an instrument. Therefore a continued stimulation and inspiration must be given to them.

Real education is in danger from many things — the vast amount of rapidly increasing knowledge, the growing tendency of dehumanization of social living, insufficient preparation for the complex task and range of responsibility for teaching, and the fact that teaching is a lonely profession. There is insufficient opportunity for personal development and for relationship with adults during the teacher's working day.

"To assist in developing a consistent and appropriate concept of education for York County, it is imperative that a program of continuous teacher training be included," said the report.

"Rapid advances in technology, explosive growth in student population and a dynamic, often disruptive social climate are realities on the educational scene."

The modern teacher, Mr. Bacsalmasi continued, is faced not only with the challenge of coping with all of these, but must accept some basic changes in his own role as teacher, and at the same time ensure that education will be a meaningful and productive experience for the students.

Referring to the taxpayers' resistance to the increasing cost of education, he added, it is necessary to try to increase efficiency in education.

"It is obvious that the teacher is the starting point for any large scale re-evaluation of the educational processes."

He predicted that the elimination of the inspectorial system and the introduction of the master-teacher program would result in a saving of several thousand dollars.



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PROCLAMATION DAYLIGHT SAVING RICHMOND HILL APRIL 27th

Whereas the Town Council, by resolution has authorized me to issue a proclamation requesting the citizens to observe a period of Daylight Saving for the current year, commencing at 2 o'clock a.m. on Sunday, April 27.

To carry out this request of the Town Council it will be necessary that all

clocks and watches be advanced one hour at 2 o'clock a.m. on Sunday, April 27

The Town Council most respectfully asks the hearty co-operation of all citizens in making a success of this movement for the public benefit.

Proclaimed pursuant to the instructions of the Town Council.

Russell Lynett, Clerk Thomas Broadhurst, Mayor.

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- * It's little wonder many women are reluctant to tell their age. It keeps changing all the time.
- * A lot of girls used to look like Twiggy. The only trouble was they were only 10 years old at the time.
- * Let no man hide behind a woman's skirt these days. There's hardly enough there to hide a woman.
- * A May-September marriage used to mean a young woman and an elderly man. Now it can mean that the marriage lasted five months.
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