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THE TERRACE BAY NEWS - Cont'd from page 8 ...

who voted for amalgamation are from Marathon or Manitowadge. Therefore, it is obvious that the weight of the votes from Marathon and Manitowadge decided what type of school system we should have in Terrace Bay and Schreiber.

This vote for the motion was made in spite of the fact that three of the four trustees on the Board's special fact finding committee voted against the motion. Obviously, after a three week crash study of the subject the majority of the committee was opposed to it.

There are several disturbing features about the way this subject was handled. What disturbs me is that in spite of receiving at least 14 briefs from Terrace Bay representing practically 100% of the people, the Board pressed for this amalgamation and literally "rammed it down our throats". And I repeat, the briefs submitted simply asked for more time for study and communication with all parties concerned.

One of the many concerns over such an abrupt action was the possibility of the Terrace Bay and Schreiber High Schools losing good teachers. At this writing we have lost an excellent principal over the matter in the name of Mr. William Rowsome. It is possible we will lose more teachers, if not this year, probably next.

This has been a long letter, however, since the whole subject has never been covered in the press I have tried to cover it as thoroughly but briefly as possible.

I am disturbed over the way this subject was handled by the Administration and the Board as I am sure are many other people. If such an important matter to the people of Terrace Bay and Schreiber can be rushed through in less than two months anything is liable to happen; in spite of the opinions of the people who are paying a big share of the cost to operate the system.

I believe the creation of the large Lake Superior Board of Education along with its Administrators has resulted in each town losing autonomy over the important matter of education. Internal political manoeuvring within the Board, to me, is obvious and has no place in our educational system. The administration of education between points approximately 135 miles apart, from Rossport in the West to Manitowadge in the East, in my opinion, is just not practical. What is required is to disband the present Lake Superior Board of Education, and re-structure the administration of education in the various areas.

If there are enough people in the Towns of Schreiber, Terrace Bay, Marathon and Manitowadge who share this opinion and wish to do something about it, I believe we can if we can get organized, and collectively work towards control over our educational system.

Signed: J. Bedard.

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