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15 Mayor talks about political friends lost and won as town council is sworn into office.

ARTS & CULTURE CALENDAR

EVENT: A Light Still Shines' Christmas production
WHEN: 7 p.m., Dec. 15, 16 and 17
WHERE: Springvale Baptist Church (887-5651)



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High school teachers set to approve new deal?

'Hard to judge mood,' union boss says

BY GIANNI COLAVECCHIA
Staff Writer

After months of talks, York Region public school trustees are set to approve a collective agreement for high school teachers next Wednesday.

But a union official says the real stamp of approval rests in the hands of teachers.

Negotiators have reached a tentative two-year agreement for nearly 2,000 instructors in the board's 23 high schools.

Teachers have gradually stepped up job action over the lack of a deal, refusing to cover for sick colleagues or supervise hallways and cafeterias. A deal would put an end to months of uncertainty for 32,000 students.

Board chairperson Bill Grothers said he's confident trustees will ratify the agreement.

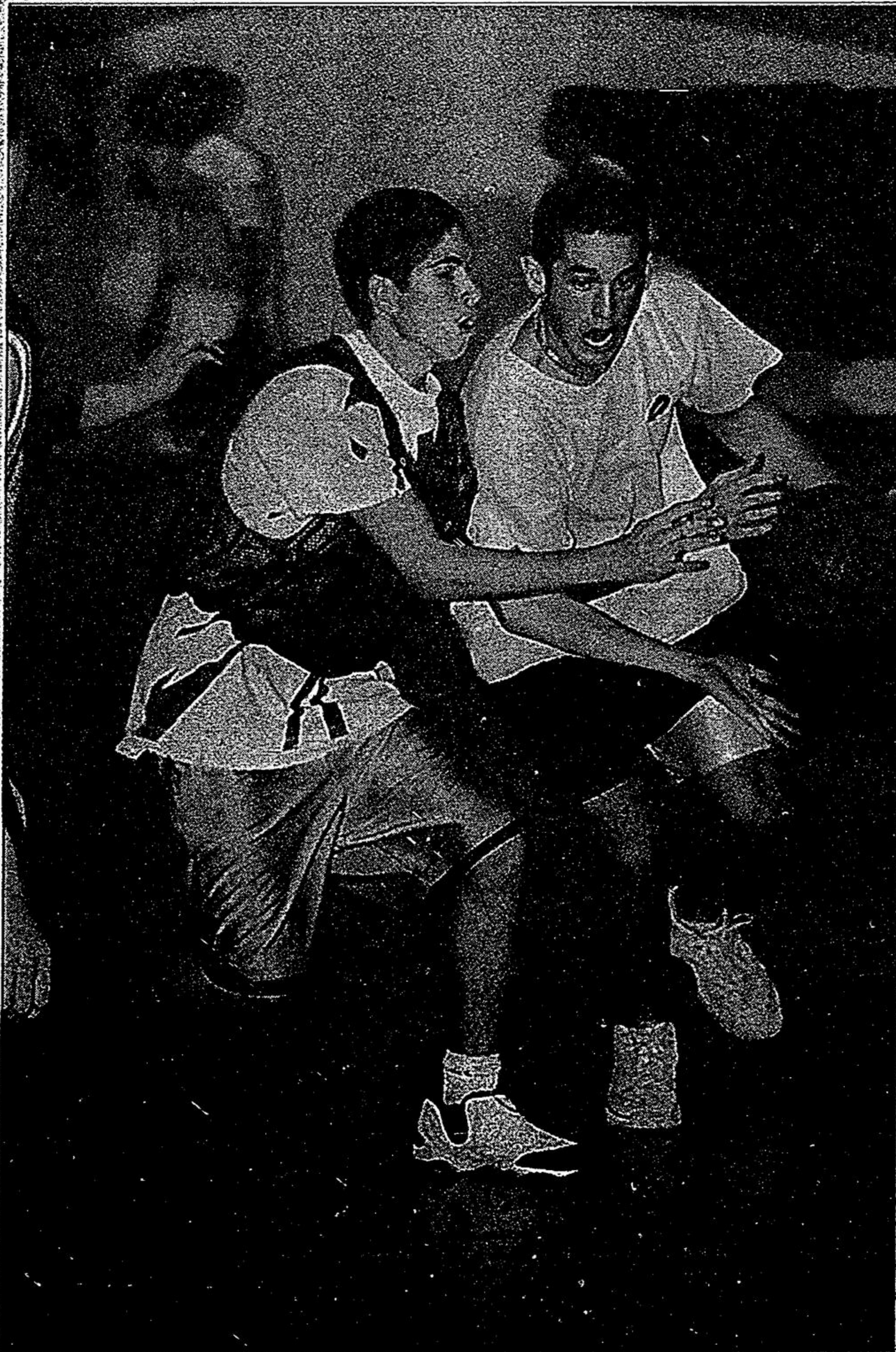
"We are very happy with it," he said. "It's something the board can live with."

Monday's regular meeting was deferred to Wednesday in the hope teachers will ratify the deal.

But Gerry Harrison, president of the York Region branch of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation, would not speculate on whether his members will approve it Tuesday.

"It's hard to judge the mood of the membership," he said. "I leave that in the members'

Headed for the after-school hoop



PHOTO/CELIA BRONKHORST

A Youth Drop-in is being held this fall at Stouffville District Secondary School. The after school program, run by the student council and the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville, is being held in the absence of extra-curricular activities due to teachers work-to-rule. Above, some wannabe NBAers play basketball. The sport activities change each day.

See BOTH, page 9

Ousted trustee confronts board

School board maintains he lives outside of York Region

BY PATRICK MANGION
Staff Writer

Outcast trustee Bob Burrows, who was acclaimed in East Gwillimbury-Whitchurch-Stouffville, attended the inaugural meeting of York Region's public school board Monday night, even though fellow trustees expelled him during a closed-door meeting last Thursday.

The board declared Burrows' acclamation void, arguing he is not a resident of York Region.

After the board refused to swear him in along with his would-be colleagues, Burrows waited in the lobby until the meeting was finished, confronting any trustees who crossed his path.

According to the retired elementary school teacher, education director Bill Hogarth refused to allow him to take part in the meeting.

"I requested permission to enter the room to be sworn in. . . I was prevented from doing that by Bill Hogarth," Burrows said.

Burrows could have sat in on the meeting as a spectator, but chose not to add any credibility to the meeting.

"I decided it was not appropriate to go and stand in the back row when I should have been sworn in as a trustee."

The board passed a resolution so he (Burrows) could have come into the audience, but he could not take a seat at the board because at this particular time he's not

See OUSTED, page 12.

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