



In Motion

Highlights from regular meetings of the Halton District School Board

May 2011

Board to review procedure to allow variation in start times

At the May 18, 2011 meeting of the Halton District School Board, Trustees approved the following recommendation:

Be it resolved that the Director recommend a procedure by which any secondary school Principal can request of their Superintendent a change in school start time, to include a process for:

1. parent consultation;
2. student input;
3. school staff input;
4. notification of the School Council and Trustee
5. assessing impact on transportation costs;

And that this recommendation be brought to the Board of Trustees for approval by no later than October 2011.

Be it resolved that the Halton District School Board that at any time prior to approval of the procedure referred to in paragraph 1, any secondary school Principal may direct a request for a change in school start time to the Director of Education, and the Director will bring this request to the attention of the Board of Trustees along with a recommendation in response to the request.

Cashless Schools to be reviewed

Following debate at the May 18 meeting, Trustees voted to see a report brought back to the Board in February 2011 regarding the Cashless Schools program..

The program offers parents a cashless option in payment for school-related items and events, however schools continue to accept cheques and cash as methods of payment.

No change in wireless provision

At the June 1, 2011 Halton District School Board meeting, trustees engaged in extensive discussion regarding the provision of wireless technology in Halton Board schools. This was prompted by a trustee motion suggesting wireless technology be restricted (banned) in schools. Following debate, trustees opted to maintain the status quo which provides wireless technology as an option in schools.

The following is provided as supplemental information for those interested in this topic:

The Halton District School Board supports the use of WiFi in its schools and administrative offices to provide connectivity to resources and improve communication.

In order to ensure safety, equipment must meet standards as outlined by Health Canada, the FCC (Federal Communications Commission), UL (Underwriters Laboratories) or ULC (Underwriters Laboratories of Canada) and CSA (Canadian Standards Association).

Any related health concerns raised by the World Health Organization, or Federal, Provincial or Local authorities will be reviewed and reported to the Board.

On May 31, 2011, the IARC (International Agency for Research on Cancer), a subcommittee of the World Health Organization, made a safety statement regarding cellular telephone use

http://www.iarc.fr/en/media-centre/pr/2011/pdfs/pr208_E.pdf

As exposure to radiofrequency electromagnetic fields from WiFi devices is thousands of times less than from cell phones, the use of WiFi in our schools and administrative offices is not a concern..

Upcoming Meetings

Board meetings are usually held on the first and third Wednesday of each month; however the schedule for June is slightly different.


A Special Board Meeting will be held at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, June 15, 2011 to hear comments regarding the amendments to the Board's Education Development Charge By-law.. Following this special meeting, trustees will meet to decide on the matter. Delegations to the Special Board meeting follow the same practices as delegations to regular Board meetings. Information regarding the Board's delegation by-law can be found on the Halton District School Board website at: www.hdsb.ca under Boardroom & Trustees.

A Special Delegation Night will be held by the Board on Tuesday, June 14 beginning at 7 p.m. The topic of this delegation evening will be to hear comments on the secondary school boundaries in Oakville as per the Board Report on SRA103 (Secondary Review Area 103). The Board Report 11090, and delegation requirements can be found on the Board's website at www.hdsb.ca

The next regular Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 15 with public session beginning at 7 p.m. The Board's 2011-12 budget will be presented to trustees at this meeting, with a decision on this matter coming back to the Board a week later at a special Board meeting.

Wednesday, June 22, the Halton District School Board will hold a Special Board Meeting beginning at 7 p.m. (Public Session).

For more information, check *www.hdsb.ca*

All meetings are open to the public, and are held at the JW Singleton Education Centre, 2050 Guelph Line, Burlington. 

Board agenda information

All copies of the Board agenda, minutes and reports for the Halton District School Board meetings are posted on the Board's website at: www.hdsb.ca under Boardroom and Trustees>Board Agenda and Minutes.

The documents are posted on the Friday prior to the meeting. The agenda package includes minutes from the previous meeting. 