

April 3, 2003

New ‘balanced day’ timetable popular with elementary students, parents, teachers

Survey results shared with Trustees at Board meeting

At the April 2, 2003 meeting of the Halton District School Board, trustees received updated information about this year’s pilot project known as the *Balanced School Day Timetable*. The presentation included an initial report of the survey results from the eight elementary school communities which have been following this new school timetable since September 2002. The survey polled students (Grade 3-8), parents and teachers from these pilot schools.

The survey was designed to capture the respondents’ perception of the new timetable based on their personal experiences this year. Overall, the majority of respondents agreed that the *Balanced School Day* schedule was an improvement over the traditional school day schedule. Respondents for each of the three groups indicated a preference for the *Balanced School Day* schedule.

Over the next month, school administrators and staff will discuss the benefits, challenges and the implications of the timetable for their school communities. School Councils will be encouraged to discuss the *Balanced School Day Timetable* with pilot school councils, principals, teachers and trustees.

“Based on these positive survey results, elementary principals and vice-principals will speak to parents and teachers to explain what this schedule might look like in their school,” says Dusty Papke, Director of Education for the Halton District School Board.

A staff decision regarding the *Balanced School Day Timetable* will be placed on the agenda for the May 7, 2003 Committee-of-the-Whole meeting.

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