

THE SUN TIMES

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Time for trustees to act

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Editor:

Finally, after nine months the Ontario College of Teachers has ruled on plagiarism allegations at the Bluewater District School Board.

The OCT has done their job and as is quoted in the Aug. 13 article in The Sun Times it is now up to the BWDSB trustees to do their job.

I have said from day one that the plagiarism allegations at BWDSB are just the tip of the iceberg.

It is clear that the board has not functioned in a normal or effective way as an elected body should. In conversations with some of the trustees who have contacted me, they have admitted this to be true.

They have been bullied, pushed and intimidated (use whatever word you want) to the point where the fight is out of them.

The real problem at the school board is very clear to the 250-300 teachers and retired teachers who have again "dared" to call their MP on the issue.

It is very clear to the dozen or so board administrative staff who called me.

It is clear to the hundreds of parents and the general public what the problems are and what the solution is.

I also believe the media understand what the problem is.

In a nutshell, I think just about anyone with any knowledge of the issue knows what needs to be done. I believe that probably includes the trustees if they could talk freely.

The trustees are quality people. I've known some of them for many years and consider them good friends. Most of the others I have very high respect for, especially for those who have tried to speak out during this controversy.

Now the question.

Will they step up to the plate and do what they were elected to do? They must take control immediately and do what needs to be done and move on for the betterment of all involved. Teachers, staff, and most importantly our children and grandchildren deserve it.

The time is now to deal with this.

Trustees must not wait until their term expires in 2010, and then decide not to run again and walk away thinking everything is fine.

It clearly is not fine.

You owe it to the people who elected you to do the right thing, no matter how messy a job it is.

Larry Miller, MP Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound

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