

Resigns part-time Peel job

Teacher Culham to move to Catholic school system

By JOHN STEWART
Staff Reporter

Ward 6 councillor David Culham has resigned his part-time teaching job with the Peel Board of Education and will take up a similar one-third teaching schedule with the Dufferin-Peel Separate School Board.

Culham confirmed Monday that he has resigned from the public board for which he has taught for many years, the last few years as a part-time instructor.

But as a teacher with only a third of a schedule, Culham was not entitled to full seniority with the board. As a result, he was moved from school to school in the past few years. Leaving The Woodlands School, which is his local school and was close to City Hall, "was like being shot," says Culham.

He subsequently taught at Glenforest Secondary School, then moved to Central Peel in Brampton. In order to maintain his seniority, Culham took on a half-time teaching schedule this year.

But he says driving back and forth to Brampton while maintaining his work as a councillor has been "exhausting."



DAVID CULHAM

Culham says he has nothing but good memories of his teaching career and the many thousands of young people he taught in public schools. "I want to thank the (public) board for giving me leave for so many years.

We had a difference of opinion over seniority and I have to accept the judgment of the board."

Seniority is not nearly as important an issue with the separate board which is expanding much more rapidly. Culham says he is happy he will be teaching in his community again, although he would not say which city school he will be at.

An elder at St. Peter's Anglican Church, the councillor said he doesn't expect any difficulties being a Protestant teacher in a Catholic system.

"It's not just Roman Catholic, it's Christian," says Culham. "It puts a test to what anyone says and what they do. There's an accountability, a motivation that's within the system as opposed to just the system," he said.

"I'm looking forward to the challenge. It has a certain philosophic direction," he added. Part of the attraction of the Catholic system is its "value structure."

Culham said he was also concerned that if he stayed with the public board and maintained his seniority, he could be bumping younger teachers out of jobs.

Asked how the switch of boards occurred, Culham said the separate board "was aware of my difficulties, and my concerns."

Despite the periodic criticism of his part-time teaching job by his political opponents and by the press, Culham says, "My ratepayers have always been supportive of my teaching."

Although he has a part-time job, the councillor maintains that he puts more hours into his job at City Hall than any other councillor.