NEWS

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order during discussion on a motion to forward HCDSB's procedural bylaws for review to Atul Kapur, the board's sanctioned parliamentarian.

The convoluted discussion that followed was interrupted by more turmoil and a second and final warning to Oakville trustee Peter DeRosa. In the end, the motion was approved.

Oakville trustee Helena Karabela's attempt to add the option, Prefer Not to Disclose, to the staff attestation form regarding vaccine disclosure, was defeated.

Karabela said she felt this fourth option would be effective in helping all personnel to fill out the attestation form in good conscience and to feel respected.

Director of Education Pat Daly's Schools Report elicited discussions about exams and the board's response to unvaccinated personnel who refuse to undergo COVID-10 testing and loosening restrictions for students to socialize at lunch.

"The reality is students who cannot sit together in our cafeterias.... can easily leave the cafeteria, walk up to McDonald's and sit together there," commented Agnew.

Students are allowed to play sports indoors without masks, but six kids are unable to sit together in close proximity at lunch, leaving parents upset and students struggling, added Agnew.

Much advocacy has been undertaken to get sports and extracurriculars up and running, but for kids who are not into those activities lunch presents a limited opportunity to meet or make new friends, she said.

Exams are being permitted; however, it will be at the discretion of department heads as to whether an exam is substituted with a culminating activity.

O'Brien said he couldn't accept this and asked if Daly would mandate exams for all secondary math and science programs, to which the chair replied he would not and that the end-of-semester choice was a longstanding formula.

Both Karabela and Iantomasi said under Canada's Bill S201 - known as the Genetic Non-Discrimination Act - neither CO-VID-19 testing or vaccination disclosure were enforceable.

"How will we address that because failure to do so we would be opening ourselves up to legal challenges," said Iantomasi.

Since March of 2020 HCDSB had complied with the guidance of the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health and the region's medical officer of health, replied Daly.



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