

Continued from page 4

one — that's the issue," said Lourenco, a Burlington resident.

To replace the exams, staff with the board point out that many of the culminating performance tasks for classes do contain exam-style questions that are timed. Critics of that strategy claim that's not enough.

For students going into university, many will be facing situations in their first year where a large percentage of their overall grade will come from a traditional final exam. It's not unheard of for final exams to be worth as much as 50 per cent of a total grade.

Lourenco said she believes many of the students at the board have not received adequate preparation for the kind of consequential testing they will be experiencing at the post-secondary level.

"I still don't think they're accustomed to the

university experience. It's something these kids are going to be going into having experienced nothing even close to this high, high stakes piece of their university education," said Lourenco.

School board representatives have expressed sympathy about the issue. They also say that teachers are working with students around the board on exam-related skills like studying techniques and multiple-choice answering strategies.

Trustee Marvin Duarte understands the concerns of parents and students.

"I do understand the challenges of going to university having kids who just went to university and, yes, the exams are going to be tough and, yes, the universities are making the effort to accommodate our students. Our students are resilient too and are doing a good job, but we will try to do our best," said Duarte. "I don't know what



Maria Lourenco is among many parents who feel the Halton Catholic District School Board must bring back traditional final exams.

Graham Paine/Metroland

else our staff can do to make it better, but we will look at continuous improvement."

Superintendent Jeff Crowell said at the Nov. 16 board meeting that they are currently developing a webinar, which will be available in early 2022.

"This webinar will allow students to learn about how exams are typically structured and what strategies can be used to prepare and study for exams. This webinar will be shared through schools with parents as well as students and posted on our

board website," said Crowell.

Critics argue that it's hard to replace the practical effect of actually taking a traditional exam. By removing the formal exam, it has unfairly put local students in the position of heading off to university

significantly less prepared for the challenges they will face.

"I feel like school boards focus on things like graduation rates. Well, that's great if you graduate high school. That's great. But it doesn't stop there, right? If you go off to university and you fail your first year that's not success, and these exams are just worth too much," said Lourenco.

STORY BEHIND THE STORY: The COVID-19 pandemic has caused enormous disruption all across society. We wanted to look at one smaller change the pandemic has caused and examine what that could mean for the region's youth.

MORE ONLINE

SIGN UP FOR OUR WEEKLY NEWSLETTER AT THEIFP.CA

Our 22nd Annual

Super WINTER Special

HASSELL AUTOMOTIVE

- Oil & Filter (Includes up to 6 litres regular oil.)
- Complete top to bottom check over.
- Installation of winter tires (already on rims) included.

EXTRAS

- \$5.00 Tim's Card
- Windshield Washer Fluid
- 12 Pack of Pop

NOW ON!

only

\$7995*

Prices are +HST

Call for an Appointment

*Most Vehicles.

\$9995*

Synthetic oil (up to 6 litres)



AUTOPRO

HASSELL AUTOMOTIVE

SALES & SERVICE

45 Mountainview Road North, Georgetown, Ontario

905.877.7958

e-mail: hassellsauto@bellnet.ca • www.hassellautomotive.com