

TRUSTEE BARRED FROM MEETINGS FOR CODE OF CONDUCT BREACH

IANTOMASI UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN BOARD MEETINGS UNTIL NOV. 15

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The Halton Catholic District School Board (HCDSB) has voted to bar one of its trustees from participating in meetings for the rest of the term.

At a special board meeting on July 26, a five-to-three vote resulted in the sanctioning of Burlington trustee Vincent Iantomasi, citing a breach of the trustee code of conduct. The decision prevents Iantomasi from attending and participating in all HCDSB meetings until Nov. 15.

The specific incidences resulting in the sanction were not made public, as the board decided at an earlier meeting that the report detailing those incidences would remain in camera. As per policy I-36 Trustee Code of Con-

duct, the board, which created the report, is not required to make the report public — only the vote and resolution on it.

However, during the meetings Iantomasi has taken part in, he has had multiple disagreements with the board chair, some resulting in calls to order and threats of being removed from the meeting.

"The trustee that (these allegations are against) here has been spoken to several times. You don't have to look at too many meetings where you see that happening. I don't think it's a secret," Burlington trustee Tim O'Brien said during the meeting.

Iantomasi was not present at the meeting. When contacted for comment about the sanction following the meeting, his wife responded, saying, "Trustee Iantomasi is currently recuperating from a medical issue and has not been able to devote himself to board matters due to complications."

"The decision and the sanc-

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- trustee Patrick Murphy

tions, given the fact that he is on medical leave and was unable to defend himself, are unfortunate and disappointing. Had he been able to address the allegations as per his intentions, he would have done so," said Arlene Iantomasi.

She indicated that Trustee Iantomasi has been unable to respond and was unaware the sanction had been passed.

"He has not been attending meetings, has not been on board email, and was unaware of any judgments against him. Further, he has received no correspon-



HCDSB photo

HCDSB TRUSTEE VINCENT IANTOMASI

dence, nor calls, from the Board or the Director's office advising him of proceedings," she continued.

Representatives with the board say Iantomasi was made aware of the motion that was passed in regard to the breach following the May 24 special board meeting. The director's office indicates the information was shared via email.

The ban effectively removes Iantomasi from the board for the rest of the term. The inaugural meeting for the new term of trustees is set for Nov. 15.

Milton trustee Patrick Murphy said during the meeting he felt the penalty was warranted based on his reading of the report.

"Out of 25 events, there were 13 that I viewed as a breach of the code of conduct, of which seven really were to me, which would be deemed appropriate to give a warning or censure. But then there was six that were more egregious," said Murphy. "So, this is not one incident. This is 25 incidences that were recorded just this year."

Trustees Brenda Agnew, Nancy Guzzo, Patrick Murphy, Marvin Duarte and Janet O'Hearn-Czarnota voted in support of the sanction. Trustees Helena Karabela, Peter DeRosa and Tim O'Brien voted against.

Two student trustees also voted in support of the sanction.

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