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NFWS ALLEGATIONS 'POLITICALLY MOTIVATED,' SAYS TRUSTEE

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scribed as dysfunctional by the media many times. If I am sanctioned tonight, that would make two-out-of-the nine trustees suspended in the same week over non emergencies. Moreover, I believe these special meetings are being used as political punishment, using these powers to cancel trustees that other members of the board wish to silence is tyranny. This is not a court," said Karabela.

HCDSB meetings this term have regularly been contentious. Trustees being called to order, agendas left incomplete, repeated points of order and interruptions between trustees have been common for the last few years.

The situation led to an

investigation by a conflict resolutions agency into trustee conduct that resulted in a report released last year. Among a number of findings, that report found the board contained dysfunction and factionalism and that trustees regularly voted as a bloc regardless of the issues.

"The allegations against me are clearly politically motivated in an attempt to smear my good name, sanction me before the elections and try to intimidate me from communicating with my many supporters and ratepayers," said Karabela during the July 28 meeting.

Burlington Trustee Tim O'Brien was the only trustee to vote against the sanction. He said he felt that Karabela's actions were all her working to hold the board accountable to its strategic plan which includes keeping it 'distinctly Catholic'.

"I know that every trustee in our board is doing their best effort to be as Catholic as they can be. But as far as the allegation goes, what we're talking about today, I do think that trustee Karabela is attempting to do that in these actions. It may not be the way we want it to be. I certainly don't agree with all her motives, or way of doing it. But I do think that's what she's trying to do. So, I can't see it being a breach of the code of conduct," said O'Brien.

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



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