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Shortage of lunch supervisors draws grievance

lack of funding for lunchroom supervision is creating indi-A gestion at the Halton District School Board.

The current situation has drawn a union grievance and had the board searching for a more permanent solution to the problem.

"Our dilemma is conflicting legislation," school superintendent Paul Anthony said at last week's board meeting. "Elementary teachers require 40 consecutive minutes for their own lunch, but the provincial funding formula does not provide for lunch supervision."

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Some teachers were not getting 40 consecutive minutes, so the situation was grieved by the union and is going to arbitration, he said.

Anthony suggested the board write a letter expressing concerns about the lack of lunchroom supervision funding.

The board approved the recommendation and the correspondence will be sent to provincial government officials and MPPs.

In the interim, Halton schools are covering lunch hours through a variety of means.

Administrators and parent council representatives and some teachers are among those supervising lunches.

"A little bit of everything is being used and it's done on a school-byschool basis," Anthony said after the meeting.

Supervision is required both inside and outside of schools. The number of supervisors depends on the shape and sightlines of each schoolyard, said Anthony.

He said the board is required legally to properly supervise elementary school children during lunch periods, which average about one hour.

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