

# Censorship concerns raised over Catholic board trustee ruling

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Halton Hills trustee Rosanna Palmieri voted in favour of the motion.

"I felt that staff should be directed to write a policy so that we could look at sensitive surveys before they go out to children in the schools," said Palmieri.

But many trustees immediately voiced concerns with the practical implications of such a motion.

"Who is going to decide what surveys (are examined) and what surveys are of a morally contentious nature," said Oakville trustee Alice Anne LeMay.

"What is a controversial survey?" asked Burlington student trustee Ryan Durran.

Matters did not provide a specific example or any indication of the type of surveys the board was hoping to guard against with this policy noting that these questions would be dealt with at a later date.

"That's something that can be addressed in the policy that will be developed by our staff," she said. "It's a good question and we have to grapple with that. On one hand it's quite complicated and on the other it's quite simple and obvious."

Oakville Trustee Anthony Danko also noted that these kinds of questions were premature.

"The intent of this motion is really to be a starting point to draft a policy," he said. "If passed we would begin developing these guidelines."

Durran expressed fear over where he believes this policy is going and how it will effect students.

"I have problems with a policy which says that surveys and pilot projects emanating from



**ROSANNA PALMIERI**

the board have to be vetted for controversial or morally sensitive material. I think the staff of the board is sensitive to morally sensitive issues," he said. "I think this opens the door to arbitrary moral judgements."

This call for required trustee approval of surveys and pilot projects comes in the wake of the Halton Youth Survey created by the 'Our Kids Network.'

Asking questions like, 'in the last 12 months, have you seriously considered suicide or taking your own life,' the survey was issued to schools throughout the Halton region in an effort to determine what places children were thriving and what places they were not.

The survey was not well received by some parents who brought their concerns to local trustees.

Palmieri said she saw the Halton Youth Survey and had some concerns with the questions asked.

She said some of the questions should not have been asked of students and others were not appropriate for children in elementary school.

Despite the fact that alterations to the questions in future Halton Youth Surveys have been agreed upon the motion went forward and passed.

All student trustees voted against it, but because their votes are not legally binding they were not counted.

—With files from Lisa Tallyn, staff writer

# Young artist credits Georgetown experience

Local artist Kailey Bryan will be holding her inaugural exhibition at the Evoked Emotions Gallery in Norval until May 26.

The recipient of the GDHS Millennium Award for fine art in 2005, Bryan is now studying visual art at York University. Painting since she was a young girl, her original works are already hanging in homes and offices across Canada, with some pieces purchased by people in the United States as well.

Inspired by music, travel, people and life in general, Bryan says she paints in a large variety of styles with her primary medium being oil or acrylic on canvas.

She lists her GDHS teachers and the opportunity to volunteer with the Georgetown Little Theatre as being influential in her decision to follow her current path.

The exhibition's opening reception will be held tomorrow (May 12), 7-10 p.m. and the closing reception will follow on



**KAILEY BRYAN'S THE NATURAL ARCHITECT II**

Saturday, May 26, 7-10 p.m.

The Evoked Emotions Gallery (also known as Garden Gate Florist), 511 Guelph St. in Norval, is open Tuesdays to Fridays, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Bryan will be present at the Gallery from noon to 7 p.m., May 16 to May 26. For more details, visit [www.bryanart.ca](http://www.bryanart.ca) or [www.evoked-emotions.com](http://www.evoked-emotions.com) or call 905-873-6067.

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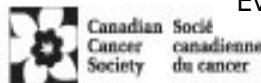


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