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Parents simply fed up

By KIM ARNOTT

Special to The Champion

Joanne Slomka is mad, and she's not going to take it anymore.

She's prepared to picket, protest and petition to make sure her voice is heard, and the Burlington woman says there are many more like her in Halton.

Ms Slomka is one of a handful of parents who are the force behind the newly-formed Parent Action Group of Halton Catholic Secondary Students (PAG).

Tuesday night she addressed trustees with the

Halton Catholic District School Board, on behalf of the 150 or so angry parents who have attended PAG meetings.

The parents are angry that the labor dispute between the school board and its 375 high school teachers has dragged on for the last five months, disrupting their children's educations and depriving them of extracurricular activities.

"Parents are not choosing sides," Ms Slomka told the board. "The only side parents will take is along-

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Students are frustrated with class make-up plan

By KIM ARNOTT

Special to The Champion

Catholic high school students say a school board plan designed to ensure they receive all of their high school credits is disorganized and chaotic.

At least a dozen students showed up for Tuesday night's meeting of the Halton District Catholic School Board, to complain about the board's make-up plan.

The plan was designed to help students make up the 25 hours of class time they missed early in the school year when their teachers took part in a partial strike.

But students and parents at the

board meeting said they are baffled about how the plan will work and haven't received adequate information from the board or school principals.

Kate Baker, an OAC student at Burlington's Assumption secondary school, told trustees that the first makeup day at her school was chaotic and disorganized.

While students who had missed class time in the fall were scheduled for special five-hour long makeup classes, they were missing lessons in their regularly scheduled classes, said Ms Baker.

"There's also a lot of misinformation, because nothing's being

announced," she added.

Students don't know which classes they should be in, some classes aren't covered because teachers are teaching special make-up classes and some students don't think they're supposed to be at school at all, Ms Baker said.

"At any given time, there were 200 kids wandering around the halls," she said. "It was a total waste of time."

And while board director of education Fred Sweeney promised that teachers have been told to "err on the side of the students" if there is some problem in completion of a

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