

# School board won't challenge Burrows' ruling

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MacDougall asked board lawyer Robert Keel numerous times why board chair Bill Crothers did not ask a court to determine whether Burrows was a York Region resident before he hired investigators and convinced trustees to vote him out based on that report — a report Crothers never let trustees see — Nov. 30.

Keel replied the board is obligated to swear new trustees in within 60 days of the election and that Crothers was concerned about his integrity and that of the board if they accepted a false declaration.

Burrows' lawyer, Ken Hill, told the court Whitchurch-Stouffville town clerk Michele Kennedy had accepted his nomination papers with full knowledge of the change of address and the reasons why and the board had no right to overturn that decision.

"It was less a matter of evidence concerning residency than a matter of suspicion," Hill said. "The assumption was Mr. Burrows swore a false declaration to the clerk."

In his judgment, MacDougall pointed out lawyers on both sides had agreed the issue of residency was based on fact and intent.

"They conceded one could change residency from one day to the next and one could change residency for the purposes of becoming a candidate," MacDougall said.

"There appears to be obvious intent to be a candidate."

He called the report from investigation firm Clear International and Associates "alarming" and said the goal wasn't to determine where Burrows lived, but to prove Burrows didn't live at the Jackson Point home.

"The embellishment from their

notes to the executive summary confirms the lack of objectivity in my view and the several obvious errors in their report (means) the weight of the report is significantly diminished," MacDougall said.

Burrows said he too has deep concerns about Clear International, which court heard has been used by the board on several other occasions, and he intends to do a little sleuthing himself once sworn in.

"I want to find out who was investigated, why they were investigated, who gave the authority and obviously what it cost," Burrows said.

Crothers refused comment on details of the case, instead said he accepts the ruling and will not challenge it.

Burrows will be sworn in later this month, but the date has not been set.



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# Results 'satisfy' board

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male and female breakdown expected March 19.

"Obviously there's some satisfaction in having done as well as we did, but we clearly need to improve and that's what we're going to focus on," said public board spokesman Ross Virgo.

Seven per cent of public school students failed both reading and writing, eight per cent failed writing and passed reading, while four per cent failed reading and passed writing. That board had an 88 per cent participation rate.

In Catholic schools, 12 per cent failed both reading and writing, 10 per cent failed writing and passed reading, and six per cent failed reading and passed writing. Ninety-seven per cent of Catholic students wrote it.

"We are proud of our participation rate. We exempted only three per cent of our students and still achieved a remarkable success rate," said Catholic board chair Elizabeth Crowe. "We're pleased, though we were hoping the results would be better."

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