

Dear Mrs. Fernandes,

Due to emerging issues at work I will be unable to attend the public meeting tomorrow. Therefore I am providing a written delegation which I would request to be presented and recorded into the file.

I am a parent of a child at Our Lady of Sorrows and have been following the SARC process for from the beginning of OLS's involvement. A lot of hard work was put in by all the members of the SARC. They put in a lot of late nights, made a lot of difficult decisions while under a lot of scrutiny, but in the end, I feel they made a solid set of recommendations.

I was therefore disappointed to read the staff report and discover how few of them made it through. While the recommendation to close St. Louis is the biggest one, I will leave it to the parents in that community to speak to that decision, and instead focus on the issues of concern to my family and my community.

First, I was disappointed to see that the change in the OLS admission boundary proposed in the SARC was weakened with no explanation. Scenario 3 was considered by the SARC and rejected, so why was it brought back? It leaves OLS tremendously oversubscribed for the foreseeable future, and the report makes no mention as to how this is to be resolved.

Second, the request for a change to the admissions policy - especially for extremely oversubscribed schools - was rejected, pointing to decision made by the board recently at their October 22 meeting. That vote (to leave the admissions policy untouched for two years) was made prematurely with the full knowledge that this SARC intended to request a change. I would request that the board reconsider this decision, as this is the only way that OLS can address its over-subscription in the short term. I feel that amendments specifically covering oversubscribed schools can be written, approved, and implemented quickly if focus is maintained.

Finally, OLS was only included in this SARC group to address the request for a boundary review. However, since OLS is the northernmost school in the grouping, any boundary change could only affect our southern border. Since the school is already near the southern end of its catchment, options for further cutting from the south are limited and undesirable as it will cut off a large portion of the OLS church parish from the associated OLS school, and divide the community. Therefore, I would request that the report be amended to either (1) recommend that OLS be included in any future SARC involving schools to the north and or west of OLS, specifically St. Gregory, or (2) a boundary review be scheduled, specifically for OLS, independent of the SARC process.

Thank you and best regards,

Derek Shemavonian, P.Eng.