

Hi Lalita,

I am submitting a written delegation regarding the reconsideration of the admission policy that is on the public agenda for January 6. If you require any additional information or if it is necessary for me to complete an additional form, please let me know right away.

Thank you for allowing us time to respond to your proposed changes.

When we moved to Toronto in 2007, we selected where to live based on several criteria. Key among the criteria was a community and faith based school with academic excellence. This was OLPH. So we purchased our home on Garfield Ave, so that our daughter Kate and future children would be able to walk to school and be part of the community we lived in. We never regretted our choice and our daughter has flourished in her learning and her faith at OLPH.

Since moving into the OLPH community we have been blessed with a second daughter, Brooke. And we looked forward to her continuing along with Kate at OLPH to achieve the same learning and faith experience and for them to be together as they bond as sisters. We had always been told that siblings were prioritized for entry and so felt we would always be safe with OLPH.

We were extremely disheartened to hear that the policy was going to be changed now and that it could impact Brooke and Kate going to OLPH together. We really think that one needs to consider the impact on siblings to split them up during their early school years and the impact this would have on their faith.

Should Brooke not be accepted into OLPH we would be faced with sending her to the other community based school, which is not part of the separate school board, so we would have to make a trade off of our faith for community.

We are also concerned of the impact it would have on splitting our children up and having to take them to two separate schools that would be on two separate curriculums. We would be forced to trade off events and activities between multiple schools and even our charitable giving. There is also a great legacy of common teachers and common school experiences that we think is important for siblings to be able to share over their life's journey and this will be pulled apart if we have to split up our children.

We really believe there is an important sibling development aspect to having our children at the same school and we are hoping you will reconsider your decision. We had based our decisions to go to OLPH on the old policy and it doesn't seem fair that it was changed and implemented so suddenly. We hope you will reconsider.

Sincerely,

Christine & Robert Paterson
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