

Good afternoon,

The principal at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic school brought to my attention just prior to the holidays and approximately 3 weeks before kindergarden registration that siblings of children already attending the school (and are in district) will not get priority over students applying who do not have siblings attending already. I'm writing to contribute my voice to the many parents in our community who are very upset that their younger children will potentially not be attending school with their older siblings. Our family lives right next to the school and McGrath's have been attending OLPH for generations - it would be such a shame if, despite the money and time we have contributed to the school and the community, our youngest of 3 son's could not attend the school. I have no idea where we would put him either as this was our plan since he was born and we have had so little warning to prepare to potentially send him somewhere else.

I was reading the draft policy package that was put together and (please correct me if I'm reading this wrong) it clearly states that in order to adopt the new admissions policies there will be ample warning and communications sent out to families so that they can prepare. It acknowledges that the first few years will be difficult as the school community implements the new policies:

G. IMPLEMENTATION, STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN

1. The greater majority of individuals involved in the consultation felt that the goals of the identified policies were worth pursuing and were in support of the policies as presented. Many acknowledged that the first year or two of implementation might be more challenging than subsequent years and advocated strongly for proactive communication.
2. The communications plan must be comprehensive and pervasive, particularly during the first few years after adoption and would have to encompass the following elements:
 - a. Letter home to every parent in the system
 - b. Newsletter inserts
 - c. Website updates
 - d. Admission Policy Pamphlet for distribution in June report cards and August mailing.

I know that "the Board recognizes the importance of the family unit and will undertake its best efforts, within the context of this Policy, to place siblings at the same school"

(<http://www.tcdsb.org/Board/Policies/Documents/Elementary%20Admission%20and%20Placement%20Policy%20-%20FINAL.pdf>). So please reconsider the decision to take away sibling priority!! I will do my best to attend the meeting tomorrow evening to show support for keeping the original policy - with my kids if I have to!

Thank you for your time and reconsideration of this important matter.

Kind regards,

Jaime McGrath