

January 5, 2015

Toronto Catholic District School Board
80 Sheppard Ave East
Toronto, Ontario
M2N 6E8

Dear Members of the Board,

The very recent and unexpected change in policy instituted by the TCDSB relating to sibling priority for registration came as a huge shock to myself and to my family. I am a proud member of the OLPH community, both the church and the school, and reside only a few steps from the school. My husband and I were delighted to have a Catholic school within our community and are proud to raise our children with strong christian beliefs.

My eldest daughter happily attends OLPH School and has forged strong ties within the school. Through our active participation in school activities, fundraisers and events, we, as a family, have made OLPH an important part of our lives and it has, in a sense, become a part of our extended family. It has always been my understanding that my younger daughter would also join OLPH and had I known that my daughters might not be able to attend the same school, I certainly would not have selected this institution in the first place.

The 'family unit' is an important part of Catholic life and this new policy change is threatening our ability to keep our family together. I am saddened and disappointed that this change was even considered, much less applied. While I understand that certain residents in neighbourhoods with oversubscribed schools may be frustrated by the lack of available space at their school, I certainly do not think that separating a family that already attends a school to make space is a valid or viable solution to that problem. I myself was blessed to have my eldest daughter join OLPH since there was room when we applied, however I should not have to be penalized for the current lack of space and have my family separated as a result.

I cannot see how any family would ever consider joining an elementary school which would not make all available efforts to ensure that future siblings will be able to join that same school. This policy does not promote a family-friendly school environment and it is hard to believe that the Catholic School Board would adopt such a policy.

I sincerely hope that you consider the negative impact of this policy change and how it is threatening the family unit. It is a destructive way to fix a problem and will create a lack of family togetherness for families who join schools in the TCDSB and/or discourage new families from joining.

Your attention and consideration regarding this matter are very much appreciated.

Sincerely yours,
Margaret Margossian