

Dear Jo-Ann and TCDSB Board,

Re: Reconsideration of the Admissions Policy

First I would like to thank the board for reconsidering the admissions policy for the TCDSB.

I currently have 2 children enrolled in OLPH, and a third that will be on his way in another year. When I heard of the news that the admissions policy had changed, I immediately panicked at the thought that my third child may not get into the school his siblings go to.

This year my second child was admitted into OLPH as a JK student, and she was so proud to be going to the same school as her big sister who is in first grade. But when it came around to actually starting, she was terrified. Still, after a few months she is upset when I drop her off. But the one thing that made me feel better as a parent, my first grade daughter said "Mom, you don't need to worry about Hannah, she is okay. Mrs. Redmond lets me check on her every day." I think about how that made me feel as a parent, knowing that even though my daughter was having a rough time adjusting, she had her sister there to comfort her and make her feel better.

I sincerely hope that the admissions policy will change to reflect siblings as a priority. I would never want to break apart my family. Family is our strongest support system, and I felt so proud of my daughter that she realized that too. The family unit should be priority above all.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Sincerely,

Chris Henstock and Carrie Gamache
OLPH Parents