

January 5, 2015

Dear TCDSB Leadership,

We are writing to request a reconsideration of the sibling policy. We are parents of three children. Our daughter started at OLPH in JK over four years ago. She is now in grade three. Her brother has joined her at OLPH and is in grade one. They have a younger brother who is looking forward to joining his older sister and brother in September 2015. The OLPH community is home for us; the principal, the teachers, and fellow parents in the school are the people who are raising our children with us.

When we joined the OLPH family in 2010, the boundary for the school catchment area was not yet firm. We were assured that a policy existed that if we chose to send our daughter to OLPH, her siblings would be also be able to attend OLPH regardless of the catchment area. This policy played a significant role in our decision to join the OLPH community.

As families who live outside the newly determined school boundaries are no longer admitted to the school, out-of-catchment siblings will become a non-issue. In the interim, we request that siblings of out-of-catchment area students in the school are given the same priority as in-catchment siblings.

Practical issues are also a consideration - getting three children to different schools at the same time (and pickup).

Sibling support at school is obviously very important to the integration, support, and academic success of our children within the school community and therefore should be a key consideration.

We respectfully request that you vote to give siblings, in-catchment and out-of-catchment, highest priority ahead of other students.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter and for keeping families together.

Regards,

Dr. Amy Finch

John O'Dwyer