

Ministry of Education

Office of the ADM

Capital and Business Support Division
900 Bay Street
20th Floor, Mowat Block
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

Ministère de l'Éducation

Bureau du sous-ministre adjoint

Division du soutien aux immobilisations et
aux affaires
900, rue Bay
20^e étage, Édifice Mowat
Toronto ON M7A 1L2



May 26, 2017

Rawlson King

president@overbrook.ca

Dear Mr. King,

Re. Request for Administrative Review of Eastern Secondary Pupil Accommodation Review

I am writing to respond to your request for an Administrative Review of the Eastern Secondary Pupil Accommodation Review (PAR) process undertaken by the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board, which included Rideau High School.

Due to the importance of accommodation decisions to students, families and communities, we share your desire that accommodation review processes follow the policies developed and approved by local school boards, and that community members have the opportunity to participate in the process.

As noted in the Ministry of Education's *Administrative Review of Accommodation Review Process*, a petition for an administrative review of a school board's accommodation review process must be signed by a number of supporters equal to at least 30% of the affected school's student headcount. The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board advised the ministry in its response to the petition that the number of signatures included in the petition did not represent at least 30% of the Rideau High School's student headcount of 411 students as of October 31, 2016. Furthermore, the school board noted that a list of typed names was submitted for inclusion that was not accompanied by a unique mark that would distinguish them as valid signatures.

In reviewing the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board's claim that the minimum required number of valid signatures had not been met, the ministry requested that the school board undertake an additional review of all names submitted in the petition, including those on the typed list, to ascertain whether these names represented individuals who were parents, guardians or participants in the accommodation review process. The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board agreed to the ministry's request and attempted to validate each name submitted in the petition, including those on the typed list, to ensure that all efforts were made to capture individuals who were parents,

guardians or participants in the accommodation review process. After completing this additional step, the school board verified that the total number of signatures, including those from the typed list, did not meet the 30% threshold required. Given that the minimum number of signatures has not been met, the ministry has decided not to appoint a facilitator in this case.

I encourage all Rideau High School community members to remain involved as the school board develops plans to implement the accommodation review decisions. Your continued involvement can help to ensure that the best outcomes are realized for students of Rideau High School. Similarly, the Ministry will encourage the school board to continue to work with Rideau High School students and families to ensure that the transition plan is fully understood by all participants and is supportive of student achievement.

Should you have any further questions, please feel free to contact Skyler Warren, Policy and Issues Analyst, Capital Programs Branch, Ministry of Education at 416.212.8804.

Sincerely

Original signed by:

Joshua Paul
Assistant Deputy Minister (A)
Capital and Business Support Division

cc: Jennifer Adams, Director of Education, Ottawa-Carleton DSB
Denis Chartrand, Regional Manager, Ottawa Regional Office, Ministry of Education